

## LTC14D174 / LTC14A004

### Latest news from QAA

#### Latest news

##### [Updates to the Quality Code and changes to our website](#)

As part of our ongoing maintenance of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, we have recently completed a review to ensure that terminology is consistent throughout the Quality Code. This review has resulted in minor revisions to all Parts and Chapters, including changes to Indicators where the terms used are not up to date. None of the Quality Code's Expectations have changed. Revised and redesigned versions of all Parts and Chapters are now live.

Following feedback from the sector, we are pleased, also, to introduce Build Your Own Quality Code: a new service that lets you access the content of the Quality Code to suit the way you work. We have developed this service in response to demand, and we would love to know what you think. To provide feedback, please complete our [short survey](#).

##### [Encouraging cultures of quality in higher education: An international perspective](#)

Expressions of interest are invited from individuals or organisations in respect of a research programme which aims to evaluate the cultures of quality assurance systems in higher education in different countries, in order to provide an international perspective.

Visit the [QAA newsroom](#) to browse the latest updates and access our news, events, press releases, consultations and circular letters.

For information on higher education and quality assurance news from around the world, see our [international news digest](#).

#### Consultations

##### [Consultation on seven revised Subject Benchmark Statements](#)

QAA is inviting comments on the draft revised versions of the Subject Benchmark Statements for seven subjects. The consultation is open until 27 March and includes the following subjects:

Accounting

Dance, Drama and Performance

Economics

Finance

Master's Degrees in Business and Management

Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research

Optometry.

##### [Consultation on four Qualification Characteristics Statements](#)

This consultation invites comments on updated and revised versions of three Qualification Characteristics Statements and on the development of a new Statement. We welcome contributions to this consultation from anyone with an interest in any or all of the areas covered, including staff with responsibilities for any or all of the qualifications described; representatives from all four UK countries; students, student representatives and staff from student representative bodies; sector and representative bodies; professional, statutory or regulatory bodies; and employer groups. The consultation is open until 23 March.

##### [Consultation on the draft revised version of International Students Studying in the UK: Guidance for UK Higher Education Providers](#)

This consultation invites comments on the draft revised version of International Students Studying in the UK: Guidance for UK Higher Education Providers. We welcome contributions to this consultation from anyone with an interest in the experiences of international students studying in the UK, including: higher education staff; sector bodies; prospective, current and past students; and employers of international graduates. The consultation is open until 13 March.

#### Latest publications

##### [The Quality Code: A Brief Guide](#)

This updated version of *The Quality Code: A Brief Guide* explains what the key features of the Quality Code are, why the Quality Code is important, and how it is used.

#### QAA events

QAA runs a series of conferences and workshops throughout the year. For full details, please see our [events page](#). Resources and materials from past events can also be found here.

Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available for a range of QAA events. Please contact [Sara Vielvoye](#), QAA Events and Sponsorship Coordinator, for more information.

#### [QAA Annual Reception 2015](#)

11 March 2015 - Westminster, London

On 11 March 2015, QAA will celebrate 25 years of the Access to Higher Education Diploma, at our Annual Reception in Westminster. Current and former Access students will attend this celebratory event, along with MPs, peers, and representatives from QAA's subscribing institutions and Access Validating Agencies. Attendance at the QAA Annual Reception is by invitation only. For enquiries about the event, contact the [QAA events team](#).

#### [International Quality Assurance Programme](#)

11-15 May 2015 - Carlton House Terrace, London

QAA is pleased to announce the fourth intensive five-day course for Quality Managers from non-UK institutions who would like to learn more about quality assurance in the UK and other countries.

Participants will be able to benefit from expert input as well as sharing experience with other international delegates. To [apply for this event](#), please send us your CV. Should you have any questions regarding the programme please contact [Sara Hashmat](#).

#### [12th Annual Enhancement Themes Conference](#)

9-11 June 2015 - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow

The International Conference on Enhancement and Innovation in Higher Education: Student Transitions will explore a broad range of student transitions and quality enhancement. Two of our keynote speakers for the conference are Professor George Kuh, of the University of Illinois and Indiana University Bloomington, and Professor Sally Kift from James Cook University. [Biographies and photographs](#) of both speakers can be found on the Enhancement Themes website. [Early bird registration](#) is now open.

#### [QAA Annual Conference 2015](#)

10-11 June 2015 - New Dock Hall Conference Centre, Leeds

This year's QAA Annual Conference takes place on 10-11 June 2015. The Conference opens on the afternoon of 10 June with registration and special guest speakers, followed by a Conference dinner in the evening, and a full day's Conference programme on 11 June. To express your interest in attending the Conference and the dinner, please email [QAAevents@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:QAAevents@qaa.ac.uk) and we will let you know when further details are available.

### **Events of interest**

#### [Transnational Education 2015: Widening the UK's Higher Education Market](#)

4 March 2015 - Congress Centre, London

QAA's Dr Stephen Jackson, Associate Director International, will be speaking at Inside Government's event, Transnational Education 2015: Widening the UK's Higher Education Market, on 4 March 2015. Stephen's keynote, Strengthening the Quality Assurance of UK Transnational Education, will look at maintaining quality and standards while respecting the diversity of TNE provision; engaging students in quality assessing TNE provision overseas; and supporting UK universities to enhance their TNE provision. Subscribers to QAA news are eligible for a 15 per cent discount when registering using code M34PPVA. The full agenda and information about registering can be found on the event webpage.

#### [Future of Postgraduate Education Conference 2015](#)

27 March 2015 - University of Salford, Manchester

The Future of Postgraduate Education Conference 2015 will examine the Government's latest strategies for securing a leading, sustainable system postgraduate education in the UK. Delegates will discuss the current and future funding changes to postgraduate education and gain insight into how to widen access to and enhance the quality of postgraduate education, using innovative ways to attract first-class postgraduates. Ask for QAA News subscriber discount when booking.

#### [The Annual HE and FE Marketing Conference 2015](#)

29 April 2015 - QEII Centre, London

QAA Board member, Janet Hull OBE, will be speaking at Inside Government's Annual Higher & Further Education Marketing Conference 2015 on 29 April 2015. Her keynote, Ensuring Quality of Education is at the Heart of Your Marketing Campaign, will look at how quality can be quantified and marketed, supporting the development and promotion of a quality culture and using transparency as a competitive marketing advantage. Subscribers to QAA news are eligible for a 15 per cent discount when registering using code MCGE2HA. The full agenda and information about registering can be found on the event webpage.

### [UK Higher Education Regulation Forum](#)

19-20 May 2015 - Millennium Gloucester Hotel & Conference Centre, London

Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive of QAA, will be delivering a speech on maintaining quality in a commercialised market at the UK Higher Education Regulation Forum, part of the new Routledge Global Higher Education Series, on 20 May 2015. The agenda and information about registering can be found on the event webpage.

### **Vacancies**

#### [Head of International](#)

We are looking to appoint a Head of International to lead on the delivery of our International Development Strategy and related activities, and to promote the work of QAA in Europe and in other countries. Prospective candidates will be familiar with quality assurance arrangements in the UK and internationally and will have a good understanding of the challenges for higher education in the European Higher Education Area and in other regions. The closing date is **6 March**.

#### [QAA seeking researcher to undertake MOOCs literature review](#)

Are you a researcher or research student with an interest in massive open online courses (MOOCs)? QAA is looking for someone to undertake a literature review to bring us up to speed with recent national and international developments, particularly (but not exclusively) as they relate to quality and quality assurance. The review will need to be completed in time for our next MOOCs Network event on 29 April, and ideally the researcher will be available to report back on the review at that event. If you are interested please send a short CV detailing relevant previous experience to [research\\_mooc@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:research_mooc@qaa.ac.uk) by **7 March**.

#### [Project Manager \(x 2\)](#)

We are looking for two PRINCE2 qualified Project Managers to join our Portfolio Management Office on a fixed term contract until December 2016. In this role you will work closely with internal sponsors and stakeholders to shape and steer the delivery of business change initiatives coming from the organisation's project portfolio. Your experience and enthusiasm will also help us grow and strengthen our Portfolio Management Office function to build a culture of sound project and programme management practice across the organisation. The closing date is **9 March**.

#### [Administrator](#)

We are looking for a skilled administrator who is committed to delivering excellent customer service. Your role will focus on offering administrative and personal assistant support to a range of functions and activities with responsibility for coordinating and servicing a busy schedule of meetings including collation and distribution of meeting documentation. You will also take ownership of booking UK and overseas travel and be responsible for processing invoices and expenses claims within defined timescales. The closing date is **11 March**.

#### [Business Development Administrator](#)

We are looking for a Business Development Administrator to join our Business Support Team. Working in a centralised team which provides a full range of administrative services across the business, you will play a key role in delivering support to QAA's business development activities and projects. You will act as personal assistant to our Head of Business Strategy and Development, taking responsibility for coordinating a busy schedule of meetings and events. You will also take ownership of booking UK and overseas travel and be responsible for maintaining a customer database. The closing date is **11 March**.

### **Latest review reports (10 - 23 February 2015)**

#### **Higher Education Review**

[Petroc, November 2014](#)

[Salford City College, November 2014](#)

[ifs University College, November 2014](#)

[Somerset College of Arts and Technology, November 2014](#)

[South Thames College, November 2014](#)

[University Campus Suffolk, November 2014](#)

#### **Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight**

[Middlebury College - Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, November 2014](#)

#### **Embedded College Review for Educational Oversight, monitoring visit**

[CEG UFP Ltd, November 2014](#)

## CIRCULAR

Number	<b>CL 02/15</b>
Subject	<b>Consultation on seven revised Subject Benchmark Statements</b>
Publication date	30 January 2015
Respond by	27 March 2015
Recipients	UK higher education providers; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; academic subject associations; employer representative organisations; the Higher Education Academy; organisations representing higher education's interests and providing academic support; higher education funding councils; Sector Skills Councils; awarding organisations; the National Union of Students
Of interest to	Staff involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes; academic support staff; staff involved in education and accreditation activities of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; employer organisations and their members; students and their representatives
Further information	Dr Tim Burton (Interim Head of Standards, Quality and Enhancement), QAA: <a href="mailto:t.burton@qaa.ac.uk">t.burton@qaa.ac.uk</a>
Related documents	<a href="#">Subject Benchmark Statements: Drafts for consultation</a>

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Dear colleague,

I am writing to provide your organisation with an opportunity to comment on the draft revised Subject Benchmark Statements for the following subjects:

- Accounting
- Dance, drama and performance
- Economics
- Finance
- Master's business and management
- Mathematics, statistics and operational research
- Optometry.

Subject Benchmark Statements set out what graduates in particular subjects are expected to know, do and understand at the end of their programme of study. They describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas and in respect of particular qualifications.

Subject Benchmark Statements sit within Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. They are used as reference points in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes. They do not represent a national curriculum in a subject or prescribe set approaches to teaching, learning or

assessment. Instead, they allow for flexibility and innovation in programme design within a framework agreed by the subject community.

In order to ensure the continuing currency of Subject Benchmark Statements, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) initiates regular reviews of their content. This consultation is taking place as part of a review of all Subject Benchmark Statements which is currently underway. Further details about the review can be found at [www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements). Each Statement is reviewed by a group drawn from and acting on behalf of the subject community, in a process facilitated by QAA. Membership of the group includes higher education providers; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; and employers, as appropriate to the subject area. Feedback is also collected from students. Where the group decides that revisions to the statement are required, the draft revised statement is subject to consultation, so that the views of the wider subject community and others with an interest in higher education may be sought. All feedback received will be considered before the final version is published on QAA's website.

We welcome contributions to this consultation from anyone with an interest in higher education in the UK, including representatives from all four countries; prospective, current and past students; staff from the full range of higher education providers, including academic staff and staff with responsibilities for quality assurance; and from employers, who depend upon the abilities, skills and knowledge of graduates. We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to your colleagues as appropriate, including heads of relevant academic schools/departments at higher education providers and those responsible for the recruitment of graduates.

Please submit feedback through the [online survey](#). The consultation will be open until 27 March 2015.

If you would like further information relating to the Subject Benchmark Statements or the review process, please contact Dr Tim Burton (Interim Head of Standards, Quality and Enhancement) on [t.burton@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:t.burton@qaa.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely



Anthony McClaran  
Chief Executive



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