

Douglas Blackstock
Chief Executive
Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
Southgate House, Southgate Street
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United Kingdom

Bern, 16 July 2018

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of QAA in ENQA

Dear Douglas,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 21 June 2018, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the QAA membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The ENQA Board concluded that QAA is in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015).

Overall, the Board appreciates QAA's firm commitment to quality enhancement and commends specifically its enhancement-led approach in thematic analysis. The review report confirms that QAA's analytical work contributes to a fruitful reflection and further improvement of quality assurance policies and processes and it is appreciated by higher education institutions, and it clearly provides value to the whole higher education sector.

At the same time, QAA is encouraged to keep developing its activities for instance by giving more attention to a wider inclusion of international experts as well as employers/professional practitioners in its procedures - to be fully in line with the spirit of the ESG.

In addition, the Board is of the opinion that the panel's suggestion for further improvement under ESG 3.1 to intensify activity with respect to Reviews of transnational education (TNE) and to strengthen oversight of collaborative provision arrangements is important, thus QAA is expected to follow-up on it together with the panel's recommendations (as outlined in the annex attached).

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e. by June 2020.

The Board also encourages QAA to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – a new enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two years' time from this decision. The ENQA Secretariat will be in touch with you in about a year's time

to discuss this possibility. The costs of this visit have already been included as part of the review fee and are non-refundable except for the travel costs of the experts. More information about the progress visit can be found in the [Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews](#).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of membership of QAA.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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As outlined by the review panel, QAA is recommended to take appropriate action, so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

QAA is recommended to include students in all review methods aligned with the ESG as a standard feature, without reservations and special clauses.

ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

QAA is recommended to intensify its activity with respect to TNE reviews overseas and to strengthen its oversight of collaborative provision arrangements, in order to better protect students' interests to receive quality higher education and at the same time to safeguard the reputation of UK provision overseas. For that purpose, additional resources should be allocated.