



QAA

How will quality be assured?

The role of the Designated Quality Body

Douglas Blackstock, Chief Executive

Will Naylor, Director of Colleges and Alternative Providers

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Higher Education and Research Act 2017

To become the DQB an organisation must:

- Be capable of performing the assessment functions in an effective manner
- Have a governance structure representing a broad range of HE providers
- Command the confidence of HE providers
- Be independent of individual HE providers
- Be independent of government and the Crown.

Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Key DQB functions under HERA

- The assessment of quality and standards
- Advising the OfS on the granting, varying or revocation of Degree Awarding Powers
- Technical note ‘The quality body will be under a duty to perform assessment functions of the OfS, for example to design and operate the quality assessment system’.

Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Assessment of standards and quality

- s23 The OfS may make arrangements for assessment of the quality of, and the standards applied to, HE provided by English HE providers which must include assessment of institutions applying to enter the register and wishing to remain on the register
- s27 Where a body has been designated, the functions under section 23, so far as they relate to the assessment of the standards applied to higher education, cease to be exercisable by the OfS.

Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Schedule 4

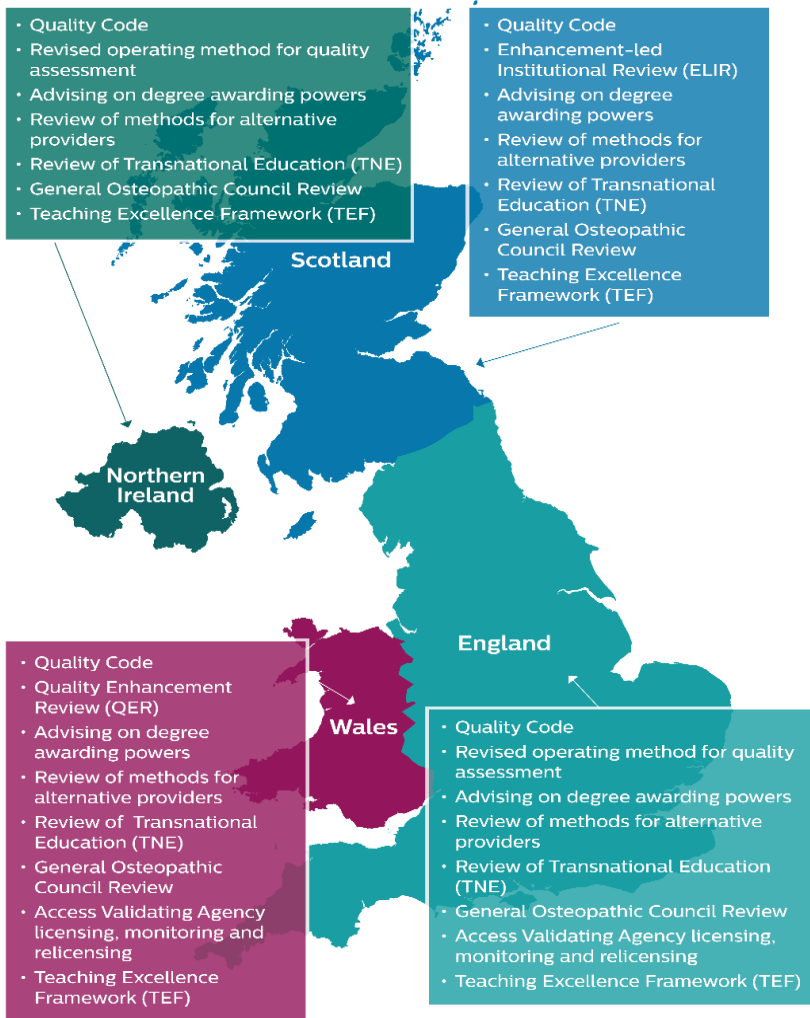
- The OfS may give the designated body general directions about the performance of any of the assessment functions
- The OfS must have regard to:
 - a) the need to protect the expertise of the designated body
 - b) the designated body's ability to make an impartial assessment.

Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Advising the OfS on the granting, varying or revocation of Degree Awarding Powers

- s46 The OfS must request advice from designated body before making an order granting, varying or revoking an order permitting an institution to grant taught or research awards
- The DQB's advice must be informed by specific groups including; institutions, student interest representatives, graduate employers and UKRI (for research awards).

QAA across the UK





Office for
Students 

**Securing student success:
Regulatory framework for
higher education in England**

February 2018
OFS 2018.01



The Register

- OfS portal for registration opens 1 April 2018
- Two categories 'Approved' and 'Approved (Fee Cap)' allowing eligibility to apply for DAPs, Tier 4 licences & public funding (but no grants for Approved)
- 'Registered Basic' dropped
- Registration open to English higher education providers
- Initial and ongoing registration requirements
- Risk assessment at registration and ongoing using lead indicators, reportable events and other intelligence.

The role of the DQB

- Designation in force 1 April 2018. QAA and OfS currently working on a designation agreement
- Ministerial priorities letter: DQB & OfS to design and implement a new Quality Review System to underpin determinations of registration conditions
- Registered providers must pay fees charged by the OfS and designated bodies (registration condition G3)
- Reporting:
 - i) Annual report by the DQB to the OfS
 - ii) Triennial report from OfS to Secretary of State.

Initial and ongoing registration conditions: quality and standards

Condition B1: The provider must deliver well-designed courses that provide a high quality academic experience for all students and enable a student's achievement to be reliably assessed.

Condition B2: The provider must provide all students, from admission through to completion, with the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education.

Condition B3: The provider must deliver successful outcomes for all of its students, which are recognised and valued by employers and/or enable further study.

Condition B4: The provider must ensure that qualifications awarded to students hold their value at the point of qualification and over time, in line with sector recognised standards.

Condition B5: The provider must deliver courses that meet the academic standards as they are described in the Framework for Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) at Level 4 or higher.

Quality assessment system

- Gateway review
- Monitoring by lead indicators, reportable events and other intelligence
- Intensive monitoring and more detailed assessments where necessary
- Random sampling.

Degree Awarding Powers reforms

1

- Eligibility criteria
- Bachelor's DAPs
- Subject-specific DAPs
- DAP criteria

2

- New DAPs

3

- Governance reforms

Activities of the DQB in relation to DAPs

- Undertaking initial assessments for New DAPs, the 'New DAPs test'
- Monitoring and assessment during the probationary period
- Providing quarterly updates to the OfS during the probationary period
- Assessing provider arrangements against full DAP criteria before probation ends.

Revisions to the UK Quality Code

- UK Quality Code will continue to underpin quality assurance across the UK
- Core of the revised Code will be published on 29 March
- Work on further advice and guidance has begun
- Full Code due to be published in November.

The UK Quality Code and initial registration

“The assessment of whether a provider is able to meet [registration] conditions will include a review visit to the provider by the DQB. The method for such review visits will be developed by the DQB to assess the provider against the expectations and core practices in the version of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education published in March 2018”

(Regulatory Framework paragraph 349)

QAA is more than the DQB

- QAA's priorities identified by its Board as:
 - Maintaining the UK-wide framework for quality in Higher Education
 - Protecting quality during a period of transition and change
 - Relationships with key external stakeholders
 - Balancing QAA's regulatory and commercial activities (with a focus on international activities).



qaa.ac.uk



enquiries@qaa.ac.uk



+44 (0) 1452 557000

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