

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Consultation on use of the Transnational Education Guidance

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To: The Governing Bodies of Regulated Institutions
Other interested parties
Response by: 10 April 2017
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This circular provides a consultation on use of the QAA handbook for quality assessing UK transnational education (TNE) for Welsh institutions.

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Introduction

1. This circular provides a consultation on use of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) handbook for quality assessing UK transnational education (TNE) for Welsh institutions.

Background

2. Education from one country that is delivered in full or in part in another country is known as transnational education, or TNE. It is a significant area of provision and of growth for many UK higher education providers. In 2015/16, around 700,000 students around the world were studying offshore towards a UK higher education programme, and over 80 per cent of all UK degree awarding bodies are involved in some form of TNE provision.
3. Under sections 23 and 24 of the [Higher Education \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) (the 2015 Act) HEFCW must consult the governing body of regulated institutions, and any other persons appropriate, before issuing or approving guidance relating to the quality of education, and/or criteria to be used in assessing this.
4. In June 2015 HEFCW published a consultation on Future approaches to quality assessment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland jointly with HEFCE and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland.
5. As a result of this, HEFCE published its [Revised Operating Model for Quality Assessment](#), and HEFCW implemented a [Quality Assessment Framework for Wales](#).
6. As part of the development of UK-wide arrangements, a number of contracts were offered on aspects relating to quality. HEFCW participated in a number of these contracts, one of which related to in-country reviews of UK TNE, which was won by the QAA.

Transnational Education review

7. The QAA consulted on a draft TNE review handbook from 23 November 2016 to 23 December 2016, giving providers an opportunity to comment on proposals for TNE Review. The proposals built on the QAA's experience of protecting the interests of students on UK programmes, wherever in the world they were studying. The proposals were underpinned by the principle that a provider remains fully responsible for degree standards, student outcomes, and for the quality of the student academic experience, wherever its students are based and however they study.

8. Following the consultation, the QAA published the final [handbook for the TNE review](#). The method applies to all UK degree-awarding bodies offering higher education qualifications delivered entirely, or in part, overseas. However, the handbook confirmed that Wales' participation was subject to additional consultation, as required under the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015.
9. HEFCW is required to consult the governing body of regulated institutions, and any other persons appropriate, before issuing or approving guidance relating to the quality of education, and/or criteria to be used in assessing this. We are therefore consulting on the use of this handbook for Welsh institutions, which details the method to be used in quality assuring TNE.

Please confirm that you are content for Wales to participate in the TNE review method, which is being used across all other countries of the UK.

Responses to

10. Please send your response to Dr Cliona O'Neill (tel 029 2085 9731; email cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk) by 10 April 2017.