

# Cylchlythyr | Circular

## Outcomes of the consultation on the use of the QAA's Transnational Education guidance

**Date:** 08 May 2017  
**Reference:** W17/09HE  
**To:** The Governing Bodies of Regulated Institutions  
Other interested parties  
**Response by:** No response required  
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This circular provides the outcomes of the consultation carried out in circular W17/03HE, on the use of the QAA's Transnational Education Guidance.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
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## Introduction

1. This circular provides the outcomes of the consultation carried out in [circular W17/03HE](#), on the use of the QAA's Transnational Education Guidance.

## Background

2. Education from one country that is delivered in full or in part in another country is known as transnational education (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. 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.
4. As a result of this, HEFCE published its Revised Operating Model for Quality Assessment, and HEFCW implemented a Quality Assessment Framework for Wales.
5. 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.
6. Following consultation, the QAA published a [handbook for the TNE review](#). The method applies to all UK degree-awarding bodies offering higher education qualifications delivered entirely, or in part, overseas. The handbook confirmed that Wales' participation was subject to additional consultation.
7. 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. HEFCW did this, in relation to the TNE guidance, through the publication of Circular W17/03HE.

## Outcomes of the consultation

8. We received eight responses to the consultation. Respondents are listed at **Annex A**.

9. All responses confirmed that the respondents were content for Wales to participate in the TNE review method.
10. One respondent also noted the importance of TNE, given its growth in recent years and lack of certainty following the result of the referendum on membership of the European Union.
11. We will therefore confirm to the QAA that Wales will participate in full in the programme of transnational education review.

**Further information**

12. For further information, contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (029 2085 9731; [cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk) ).

## **Annex A: Respondents**

Aberystwyth University  
Bangor University  
Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Colegau Cymru  
Wrexham Glyndŵr University  
Swansea University  
University of South Wales  
University of Wales Trinity Saint David