



中国教育国际交流协会
CHINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**the China Education Association for International Exchange,
People's Republic of China**

and

**the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education,
United Kingdom**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the **China Education Association for International Exchange**, of Yifu Conference Center, No. 160 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Beijing 100031, P.R. China, hereafter referred to as CEAIE.

and

The **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**, of Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB, London, United Kingdom, hereafter referred to as QAA.

Whereas

CEAIE is China's nationwide not-for-profit organisation conducting international educational exchanges. It works with educational and research institutions, academic bodies, exchange organisations, schools, as well as organisations, enterprises, foundations and individuals in other countries and regions who are engaged in the promotion of educational development and quality assurance on the basis of equality and friendship. CEAIE is committed to promoting collaboration between Chinese and foreign institutions, and ensuring and enhancing the quality of cooperative operations. CEAIE's Accreditation Center develops accreditation standards and procedures as per China's laws and regulations as well as internationally recognised best practices, and accredits Chinese-foreign joint institutions and programmes implemented by universities, colleges and high schools in China.

QAA is an independent body funded by subscriptions from universities and colleges, and through contracts with the higher education funding bodies in the UK. QAA's mission is to safeguard standards and improve the quality of UK higher education. QAA carries out external quality assurance by visiting universities and colleges to review how they are fulfilling their responsibilities. To support standards and promote quality enhancement, QAA publishes a range of reference points and guidance including the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which sets out the expectations that all providers of UK higher education are required to meet.

CEAIE and QAA

Having similar objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, both participants wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

CEAIE and QAA agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to:

- cooperate for the benefit of both parties
- work towards establishing an amicable, collaborative partnership to enhance quality assurance in their respective jurisdictions
- support the improvement of the quality of higher education in China and the UK.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, CEAIE and QAA, in accordance with the framework of Chinese and British laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

- a) exchange non-confidential policy documents about their respective approaches to quality assurance
- b) enable dialogue and information sharing about accredited courses and providers
- c) initiate activities that allow the staff of the respective agencies to understand how the other party operates
- d) cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities related to quality assurance, such as observing review/accreditation practices and engaging in capacity building, joint research and joint events, for the benefit of both parties
- e) consider the feasibility of cooperating in quality assurance activities of Sino-UK programmes (or institutions)
- f) develop means through which providers operating in both China and the UK can be made aware of the quality standards set by the relevant authorities, in an effort to protect the rights of students and encourage a sustainable higher education sector
- g) share expertise by recommending UK reviewers for CEAIE's accrediting service, and vice versa
- h) share information on good practice in higher education quality assurance.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for three years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on the mutual agreement of both parties.

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the two parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Secretary-General of CEAIE (at the time of signing Mr Sheng Jianxue) and the Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Anthony McClaran) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on a yearly basis.

Day-to-day liaison on the matters pertaining to this Memorandum will occur between the CEAIE Deputy Director, Department of Quality Assurance in Cross-border Education (at the time of signing Ms He Pei) and QAA's International Adviser (at the time of signing Mr Fabrizio Trifiro). These responsibilities may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to undertake particular activities, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Schedule of projects and activities

Specific details on any projects or other activities, such as joint events and research, and joint accreditation of Sino-UK programmes or providers (procedures and agendas), that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in work plans to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Language of Memorandum

This Memorandum is duly signed in English and Chinese, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed in **London, United Kingdom** and **Kunming, China** on **14 April 2015**.

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Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive, QAA

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