



QAA Collaborative Enhancement Projects: Call for Expressions of Interest

We are inviting QAA Members based in England to participate in the 2024-25 round of Collaborative Enhancement Projects. We are offering funding for groups of providers to work together on areas of mutual interest that will enhance the quality of their own students' learning experiences, while also developing outputs that will benefit the QAA Membership community and potentially the wider higher and tertiary education sectors.

What is a Collaborative Enhancement Project?

Led by one QAA Member institution, each project will comprise a group of providers who will work together over an agreed period on an area of mutual interest. We anticipate the duration of the project could be between six and 18 months, depending on the topic and approach. Each project should aim to deliver benefits for the participating providers and their students, and also demonstrate the potential for the wider QAA Membership to benefit from the work once completed. Projects can involve a range of staff roles and disciplines, depending upon the topic, and should involve students and/or student representatives as part of the project design and delivery. If a project is rooted in a single discipline, preference for QAA support will be given to those where the ability to positively benefit all disciplines can be seen clearly.

Who can participate?

These projects are primarily intended for QAA Members based in England and we can only accept proposals for projects that will be led by members located in England. Broadly equivalent arrangements are in place to support collaborative projects in other parts of the UK.

For this scheme, project partners can be drawn from across the UK, or even outside the UK. Project partners can also include organisations such as a subject association or PSRB. Please indicate in the expression of interest whether such partners are also offering part of the funding or providing support for the project in other forms - this will be particularly important if any partners are commercial concerns.

What themes could the projects address?

For 2024-25 we encourage project proposals which explore:

Theme 1: Imaginative approaches for assessing knowledge and skills

For example:

- inclusive assessment
- authentic assessment
- programme level and integrative assessment
- optionality in assessment
- assessing competence standards in the context of module and/or programme assessment.

Theme 2: Good practice in strategic reform

For example:

- evidencing enhancement and change including using data to underpin decision making
- student engagement in strategic reform such as curriculum review or changes in programme architecture
- revising pedagogy, programme delivery and student support
- impact on quality and standards.

Theme 3: Enhancing student outcomes

For example:

- impactful approaches to narrowing awarding gaps
- imaginative approaches to employability, experiential learning and learning by doing
- evidencing interventions and enhancement: evaluation and use of data
- recognising and reporting on educational gain
- apprenticeships design and delivery.

Theme 4: Postgraduate provision

For example:

- transition into and progression through postgraduate taught provision
- writing with academic integrity in postgraduate research degrees.

Theme 5: Flexible pathways and effective transitions

For example:

- effective approaches (including technologies and programme design) to supporting flexible and lifelong learning
- imaginative use of credit and recognition of prior learning
- supporting work-based and practice-based learning
- supporting students to develop employability skills.

This is not an exhaustive list. If your project covers another topic that is a priority for you and others in the sector, and meets the criteria outlined below, we will be willing to consider your proposal.

If you are submitting a proposal on any topic, please do ensure you have considered how it builds on existing work, including previous Collaborative Enhancement Projects. We have supported a lot of projects on assessment and also on the use of Generative AI – for these areas in particular, please do consult the materials on our website highlighting [previous and current projects](#).

Timeframe

The deadline for submitting expressions of interest to QAA is **Monday 11 November, midday**.

Successful applicants will be notified in early January 2025.

Funding

Funding will be allocated on a project basis, depending on the scope and anticipated outputs. As a guide, it is likely that funding for each project will range between £2,000 and £10,000. This funding will support your work and the proposed outputs, which might include:

- development of new practical resources for the wider QAA Membership
- production of written material or multimedia resource for use by students and staff
- support for the evaluation of an existing initiative
- assistance with developing good practice or quick reference guides for students and staff
- providing a small amount of funding to enable an institutional activity to be extended for the benefit of additional providers.

This is not an exhaustive list - other proposed outputs will be considered.

Eligible costs include:

- recruiting a dedicated research assistant to support project delivery
- incentives for student participation in consultations and focus groups
- funding for student partners and / or interns
- venue, catering, travel and subsistence for project meetings and events
- production costs such as graphic design, printing, video editing and production
- dedicated administrative support
- delivery of dissemination events to QAA Members.

Selection criteria

Each expression of interest will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- the number and range of institutions (and/or student associations) actively engaged in the project (this must be at least two and could involve partners with different perspectives/experience in the delivery of higher education such as college HE, online delivery or those primarily delivering to postgraduate and/or mature students)
- the potential for the wider QAA Membership to benefit from the work once completed
- impact on/benefit to the participating institutions and their students
- the extent of student engagement in the project design and delivery
- the plans for disseminating outcomes across the wider QAA Membership
- value for money.

We are keen to receive expressions of interest from all of our members in England and we aim to support projects that involve a spread of our member types. We will give preference to projects that evidently have the greatest potential to complete on time and target.

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