



# QAA Membership for UK Higher Education Providers in Scotland

## Membership Agreement

### Our commitment to you

QAA Membership confirms our continuing commitment to working with you to provide a tailored, responsive range of services that meet the specific needs of the higher education sector in Scotland. The range of our work is delivered under an outcome agreement between the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Universities Scotland and QAA.

Membership fully reflects the nature of the collaborative partnership working characteristic of the approach in Scotland. Members shape the work we do - through Universities Scotland, sector groups such as the Quality Arrangements for Scottish Higher Education Committee and Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee, and involvement with the SFC's Skills, Enhancement, Access and Learning Committee (SEAL) and Universities Scotland's Learning and Teaching Committee.

As members of QAA, all staff and students at each member institution in Scotland will continue to have access to all our resources. When you register as a user of QAA Membership services, we will contact you by email to keep you updated about QAA news and membership updates, events and activities. This is under our legitimate interest to do so, as outlined in QAA's [Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want to receive these communications, you can inform [membership@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:membership@qaa.ac.uk). You can also use the unsubscribe button to stop receiving any email communications.

There are no restrictions on what members in Scotland can access. It includes all the resources covered by QAA Membership and the International Insights package.

### Our members in Scotland

Members in Scotland are those institutions subject to Scottish Quality Enhancement Arrangements and that participate in sector-wide enhancement activity managed by QAA Scotland. The Open University is a UK-wide member of QAA and also accesses membership activities and resources in the devolved nations. Specifically in Scotland, the Open University in Scotland participates in enhancement activity managed by QAA Scotland.

## Criteria for membership

To access QAA Member benefits, you need to be:

- 1 a legal entity registered or established in the UK; and
  - 2 delivering UK qualifications recognised either:
    - a) at Level 4 and above of *The Framework for Higher Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (FHEQ); or
    - b) at Level 7 and above of the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework* (SCQF).
- and
- 3 subject to one of the following:
    - a) review by QAA; or
    - b) the quality or regulatory arrangements that apply to higher education in one of the UK nations; or
    - c) the oversight (for example, through a formal collaborative partnership) of a provider which itself is subject to the quality or regulatory arrangements that apply to higher education institutions in one of the UK nations.

## Membership fees

The membership year runs from 1 August to 31 July and invoices are issued in June and July. Access to QAA resources may be restricted if invoices are not paid within 30 days.

We will review membership fees annually and communicate any changes before the end of the membership year.

Membership will terminate automatically in the event of non-payment of an invoice within 30 days, or in the event of any change which affects the member's ability to meet the eligibility criteria.

Membership is non-transferable and non-refundable. When two or more QAA Members merge, eligibility for membership of the new, merged provider will be considered and confirmed by QAA.

Membership in Scotland continues to include a designated number of staff and student places at events designed for members in Scotland. UK-wide membership includes places at QAA's Annual Conference, together with a range of UK-wide resources that can be accessed via our online Membership Resources site. Additional webinars addressing UK-wide issues and opportunities to collaborate UK wide are also included.

## Publicly available resources and membership resources

QAA will continue to publish and/or refer to all relevant regulatory materials on the QAA/QAA Scotland websites in line with the regulatory arrangements in each nation. This includes the Qualifications Frameworks and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Current versions of other reference points (Characteristics Statements, Subject Benchmark Statements and Quality Code Advice and Guidance) will continue to be published on the QAA website and publicly available.

Future versions and updates of the reference points developed by QAA in conjunction with its member community may have member-only access. Any restrictions will be decided with our members.

A wide range of QAA's other publications will continue to have only headlines or summaries on our public websites with the full information available exclusively to our members, accessed through our Membership Resources site.

## Membership principles overview

When you purchase QAA Membership, you are investing in the quality of your students' academic experience. The benefits that you get from your QAA Membership can be accessed by everyone at your institution. Some materials will be for the exclusive use of QAA Members, accessed through our [Membership Resources site](#).

All staff and students within a member organisation will have access to Membership Resources.

QAA Membership indicates a commitment to quality and to maintaining public confidence in UK higher education. This commitment is underpinned by an expectation of good conduct and professionalism. Membership may be suspended or terminated if:

- a member acts in a way that brings it or the higher education sector or QAA into disrepute
- a member is found to be in breach of any regulatory condition, standard or requirement
- a member breaches these membership principles.

Full [terms and conditions](#) relating to the provision of membership services can be found on our website.

## Membership includes our partners

Funders and key stakeholders are membership partners including the Scottish Funding Council, Universities Scotland and the Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate within Scottish Government.

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[www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)