Enhancing Student Outcomes and Experience

QAA MEMBERSHIP

Summer 2024 saw the arrival of **The Awarding Map**, a route map designed to make visible various intersecting factors that contribute to awarding gaps across the learner journey and provide practical tools, insights and approaches that can be used to enact positive change for the most affected student groups.

We also convened two **sector roundtables** focused on how institutional data can help us to understand the origins and emergence of awarding gaps, and how we can use evidence to develop and evaluate meaningful actions to achieve equity of experience and award.

In 2024-25, our work on awarding gaps continues as part of a focus on **student outcomes** and supporting the tertiary and higher education sectors to meet and go beyond baseline regulatory requirements. This includes **new resources, events and sector insights** designed to support staff in a wide range of roles, including senior academic managers, academic practitioners, educational developers, quality professionals and professional services staff, as well as students and those who represent them.

Here's what's in store...

Mapping the gap	Summary report highlighting key findings from our awarding gaps sector roundtable, focused on how institutional data can help us to understand the origins and emergence of gaps.	**Autumn 2024**
The Awarding Map: Resources for Colleges	A curation of resources designed to support college-based higher education providers to address awarding gaps in their contexts.	**Autumn 2024**
The Awarding Map: Expanded Edition	Includes **new case studies** from QAA Members, focused on tackling key challenges associated with addressing the awarding gap, and the latest resources and insights collected from across the sector.	**November 2024 May 2025**
Educational gain hackathon	A collaborative activity designed to explore the focus, evaluation and translation of educational gain.	**4 December 2024**

Making sense of the gap	A series of network events designed to address different aspects of awarding gaps and facilitate sector-wide collaboration.	29 January 2025 26 March 2025 28 May 2025
Educational gain resources	A collation of QAA resources, including findings from our educational gain hackathon activity, alongside sector insights and examples of practice.	Spring 2025

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Student Engagement, Representation and Partnership Working

QAA is committed to student engagement and partnership working, through our governance arrangements and as evidenced by the Principles in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education 2024 and the important role that students play in all of our advisory groups and activities. In 2024-25, students will be involved in all the writing groups producing Advice and Guidance for the revised Quality Code, not least Principle 2 - Engaging students as partners, and on groups informing our work on academic integrity, Subject Benchmark Statements and Characteristics Statements (to name a few).

We also run a large number of Collaborative Enhancement Projects related to the student experience including projects aimed at improving student retention and attainment, student representation and student voice, inclusive and effective student engagement, and considering how student engagement and programme delivery can be enhanced with collaborative partners.

In 2024-25, our work on student engagement, representation and partnership working continues and includes **new resources, alongside our regular events, sector networks and committees**. All of which are designed to support students and staff in a range of roles, including students, student representatives and sabbatical officers, students' union/association staff, student engagement staff, programme leaders, academic practitioners and senior academic managers. This is what we have lined up...

Student Engagement Festival	A pivotal moment for student engagement and representation - this event will support new and current practitioners to reimagine the expectations and practices of student engagement.	**14 - 18 October 2024**
Student Engagement and Representation	A dedicated space providing an overview of student engagement activity supported by QAA plus resources we offer our members to support them with their student engagement and partnership activities.	**Winter 2024**
Student Engagement Toolkit	Designed to support planning of quality enhancement activities that engage and consult students, QAA has revised this resource to reflect the requirements of the Quality Code and current student engagement practice.	**Winter 2024**

Student Strategic Advisory Committee (SSAC)	A sub-committee of the QAA Board. With nine new members this session, the SSAC will meet for the first time in November to help influence QAA's work.	**11 November 2024** **19 February 2025** **14 May 2025**
Student Engagement Network	This collaborative forum unites student engagement champions from across the sector. Events foster the sharing of innovative ideas, resources and practice, prompting discussion on critical issues and shaping future initiatives for QAA and our members.	**3 December 2024** **11 February 2025** **8 April 2025**
Student Engagement and Representation e-book	Published to coincide with our April Student Engagement Network, this e-book will bring together in one place, a selection of resources for students and staff in order to engage students in the quality of their learning and support effective partnership working.	**8 April 2025**
UK Quality Code Advice and Guidance - Principle 2: Engaging students as partners	This will focus on the quality and enhancement considerations around Principle 2 and will signpost to key resources published by QAA and across the sector.	**Summer 2025**

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Trends in Learning, Teaching and Assessment

From evaluating the impact of block delivery to embedding inclusive assessment, to approaching Generative Artificial Intelligence, we are continuing to develop our suite of resources focused on innovative practices in learning, teaching and assessment.

Inclusivity and compassion are key concerns for sector colleagues. Building on a completed Collaborative Enhancement Project (CEP) - Belonging through assessment: Pipelines of compassion, our new CEP led by University of Bedfordshire, enables you to join and engage with a Compassionate Assessment Network. Find out how you can get involved.

We have been supporting work on **competence-based education (CBE)** with dedicated sector-wide resources and funding the University of Hull's CEP - exploring the impact of implementing a Competence-based Framework across a range of higher education providers. We continue to drive work in this area with a CEP specifically targeting assessment within CBE.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) continues to be a focal point for lively debates across the sector, and so, this year, we are funding six CEPs exploring the opportunities that Gen AI offers. We are also developing guidance that supports providers who wish to reframe their regulations and policies to help students confidently use assistive technologies without breaching academic integrity rules.

Our work on assessment will also seek to open conversations on the role of skills and competencies through QAA-hosted debates. Finally, we will also be supporting the development of the new Integrated Programmatic Assessment Network UK (IPAN UK), which emerged from our Assessment Festival in April 2024. Our exciting programme looks like this...

Integrated Programmatic Assessment Network UK launch	An online conference hosted by University of Leeds. Register for the conference	**17 September 2024**
QAA-hosted online debate	QAA will host two debates exploring the role of skills and competencies in higher education.	**November 2024 December 2024**

Generative AI academic integrity guidance for providers	A resource for providers looking to reframe their regulations and policies to help students confidently use assistive technologies without breaching *academic integrity* rules.	**Spring 2025**
Assessment Festival	A week-long online event that brings together colleagues in a multitude of roles from across higher and further education to engage in conversation around emerging and pressing issues in assessment.	**12-16 May 2025**

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