



**QAA**  
Global

# International Quality Review

Accreditation by QAA



*TOM YATES*  
DIRECTOR OF  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

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# About International Quality Review

International Quality Review (IQR) has been specially developed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to provide accreditation for your institution against internationally recognised standards. It enables institutions worldwide to demonstrate that they meet European standards for quality assurance in higher education, providing trust and confidence for students and international partners.

## Benefits of IQR:

-  **Demonstrate effective quality assurance measured against international benchmarks**
-  **Strengthen your global positioning**
-  **Drive improvement and excellence**
-  **Develop partnerships with UK institutions**

As a member of the IQR community you will have the chance to share best practice with institutions around the world. IQR also offers the opportunity of continuing professional development through the provision of a free delegate place at QAA's International Quality Assurance Programme.



Having a QAA International Quality Review enhances our Institute's reputation, competitiveness and global image. Our Review enabled us to assure students and parents that all our programmes meet European standards.

*Dr Vong Chuk Kwan, President,  
Macao Institute for Tourism Studies*

# What is involved?

IQR is designed to analyse your approach to quality assurance.

The review will:

- challenge your existing quality assurance processes
- benchmark them against the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)
- support you to drive improvement through quality processes.

During an IQR we consider how an institution's policies and processes help it to meet each of the 10 Standards for Internal Quality Assurance of the ESG:

- Policy for quality assurance
- Design and approval of programmes
- Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
- Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
- Teaching staff
- Learning resources and student support
- Information management
- Public information
- Ongoing monitoring and periodic review of programmes
- Cyclical external quality assurance

The logo for ENQA (European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) is displayed in a white rounded square. It consists of the lowercase letters 'enqa' in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by a small red dot.

International Quality Review, offered by QAA to overseas providers, is established as a well-documented and demanding process, fully in line with the ESG.

*ENQA review report on QAA, 2018*

# Five stages of IQR

## 1 Application

You apply and submit initial information. We assess your application and determine whether you are eligible for IQR.

## 2 Scoping

We visit you in person (or virtually if necessary) to gather information, meet key staff and students, explain the IQR process and answer any questions. This enables both you and us to decide whether to proceed with IQR. If we do not recommend a full review, we indicate what needs to change.

## 3 Review

You prepare a self-evaluation document and supporting evidence which you send to us. The review team analyses the evidence submitted and visits your institution (virtually if necessary) to judge whether you meet the ESG. After the review we let you know our key findings.

## 4 Accreditation

If your institution meets all the standards the review panel will put forward a recommendation to the QAA Accreditation Panel.

The accreditation is for five years and is subject to a satisfactory mid-cycle review. Your institution's IQR report will be published on the QAA website.

A successful IQR means that you are officially accredited by QAA. You will be able to use the IQR Accreditation Badge on your website and marketing materials, which shows that you are accredited by us against internationally recognised standards.



## 5 Mid-cycle review

The mid-cycle review takes place two to three years after a successful review and is normally desk-based. If both the Scoping and Review stage visits are conducted virtually, the Mid-cycle Review will include an in-person visit.



Find out more about the IQR process by watching our [introductory video](#).

# Case Study

## Amity University Uttar Pradesh, India



Amity University Uttar Pradesh is part of the Amity Education Group – a large provider of education in India and beyond. Following their International Quality Review in April 2018, benefits for the University resulting from this process included:

- improvements in academic audit and quality assurance processes
- sharing of information across multiple campuses
- development of a new faculty in learning, teaching and assessing in higher education.



**“IQR was a phenomenal learning experience for the improvement of our university’s processes. QAA supported and guided us at every stage. We felt delighted to work with QAA to achieve the prestigious accreditation of IQR.”**

*Prof (Dr) Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor,  
Amity University Uttar Pradesh, India*

# About QAA

QAA is a well-established, trusted agency with over 20 years' experience in assuring the standards and quality of UK higher education. We are the Designated Quality Body for England and conduct quality reviews across the UK. As an agency, QAA has a worldwide reputation and we play a leading role in international developments in quality assurance. We have completed over 45 country-based reviews of UK transnational education (TNE).

We are a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). QAA is an observer of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN).

The logo for ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) consists of the lowercase letters 'enqa' in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by a small blue dot.The logo for EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education) features the lowercase letters 'eqar' in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by three slanted blue parallel lines.

“Undoubtedly, QAA accreditation will further strengthen AU’s positioning on the global map of higher education and continue to drive improvement and excellence.”

*Dr Karim Seghir, Chancellor,  
Ajman University, United Arab Emirates*

# Find out more

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

 [accreditation@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:accreditation@qaa.ac.uk)

 Find out more about the IQR process by watching our [introductory video](#).

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