
Guidance 10(ii) Endorsement of EU and overseas quality assurance or accrediting bodies/agencies in articulating institutions

For the following types of institutions not listed on UK NARIC, further investigations into the status of the national quality assurance body or accrediting agency is required:

- State overseas universities and other HE and FE institutions/organisations with internationally recognised degree awarding powers in their own right whose educational ethos is compatible with MU's (with or without experience of delivering UK HE provision).
- State recognised or accredited private EU and overseas universities and other HE and FE institutions/organisations with or without degree awarding powers in their own right whose educational ethos is compatible with MU's (with or without experience of delivering UK HE provision).

To establish the status and standing of such bodies/agencies the following information will be evaluated by AQS and a recommendation made to the University Collaborations sub-Committee on whether the proposed articulating institution can be confirmed.

- a. Evidence that the agency/accrediting body is formally recognised by a competent national public authority and that the agency/accrediting body has official responsibility for external quality assurance.
- b. Evidence that this is a major part of its activities.
- c. Evidence that it has clear and explicit goals and objectives for its work and that there is a systematic approach to achieving these.
- d. Evidence that it undertakes external quality assurance activities (which may involve evaluation, review, audit, assessment, accreditation or similar) on a regular basis.
- e. Evidence that the process, criteria and procedures used by it are pre-defined and publicly available (this should include publication of reports on formal outcomes of quality inspections/accreditations).
- f. Evidence that the agency/accrediting body is independent to the extent that it has autonomous responsibility for its operations and that the conclusions and recommendations it makes cannot be influenced by third parties.
- g. Evidence that it has procedures for their own accountability (e.g. a policy for the assurance of the quality of themselves, regular reviews of their own activities etc).

For state recognised or accredited private EU institutions, membership of the European Network of Quality Assurance bodies (ENQA) of the recognising quality assurance or accrediting body/agency would be sufficient.