

Quality Assurance and Enhancement in HE in the UK - TEMPUS 16 Oct 2014

10-12.30

We will consider the work of the QAA as the primary national organisation responsible for the QA framework in the UK. We will also consider how the QAA relates to institutional processes for courses and programmes such as validation, external examining, and programme review. You will be invited to share examples of the quality assurance and enhancement processes in your own institution and national system with colleagues from other HEIs.

2-4.30

Starting from a brief consideration of the nature of professionalism we will take as a case study of quality assurance and enhancement in HE in the UK the development of programmes and accreditation processes for those who teach in HE. The changing nature of the profession of university lecturers will be discussed with particular reference to initial professional development and continuing professional development in teaching. You will be invited to share accounts of initial/continuing professional development opportunities and requirements for university staff in your own institution and national system with colleagues from other HEIs.

Further Reading

The Higher Education Funding Council for England has a helpful outline of quality assurance:
<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/lt/qa/qasystem/>

The Quality Assurance Agency website has links to many resources:
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/home>

Brown, R and Bekhradnia, B. (2013). *The future regulation of higher education in England*. HEPI report 63. Oxford: Higher Education Policy Institute.

Available online at <http://www.hepi.ac.uk/2013/11/07/the-future-regulation-of-higher-education-in-england/>

This short (15 page) report for HEPI provides a sharp critique of current quality assurance processes in the context of rapid change in HE. It goes on to suggest that as an HE market develops it will weaken the sector's capacity for self-regulation, and sets out an alternative regulatory framework that could be more effective and economical than the current arrangements.

Brennan, J. (2012). *Talking about quality: the changing uses and impact of quality assurance*. Gloucester, UK: The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Available online at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/impact-of-quality-assurance.pdf>

This short (11 page) discussion for the QAA is in a very accessible and anecdotal account of the issues from someone who has worked extensively in Europe on QA in HE.

Parsons, D., Hill, I. Holland, J. & Willis, D. (2012). *Impact of teaching development programmes in higher education*. York: Higher Education Academy.
Available online at <https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/impact-teaching-development-programmes-literature-review> this is a literature review commissioned by the HEA of the international evidence for the quality enhancement of teacher development programmes.

Williams, P. (2009) *The result of intelligent effort. Two decades in the quality assurance of higher education*. London: Institute of Education, University of London.
Available online from the IOE library.
A 35 page lecture from a key figure covering the history of QA in the UK from 1992 in some detail.

There is also the journal *Quality in Higher Education* published by Taylor and Francis which addresses the theory, practice and policies relating to the control, management and improvement of quality in higher education.