

New approaches to regulating the quality of transnational education

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Presentation overview

- About QAA
- UK transnational education (TNE): quality assurance today
- Recent UK consultation on the future quality assurance of TNE
- Future opportunities and challenges

Some of QAA's main UK activities today

Review programmes for universities, further education colleges and alternative providers of higher education

Adviser to Privy Council on applications for **degree-awarding powers and university title**

Provider of **Educational Oversight**, on behalf of the Home Office

UK Quality Code for Higher Education and other key documents for quality and standards

Access to HE



UK transnational education (TNE): quality assurance today

A snapshot of UK TNE

Students studying for UK awards in over 200 different countries

598,925 students (2012-13):
+13% on the previous year

78% of UK higher education institutions now involved in some form of TNE

Top 10 countries for UK TNE (2012-13, student numbers)

- | | |
|-------|----------------------|
| i) | Malaysia |
| ii) | Singapore |
| iii) | China |
| iv) | Pakistan |
| v) | Hong Kong |
| iv) | Nigeria |
| vii) | Ghana |
| viii) | United Arab Emirates |
| ix) | Ireland |
| x) | Trinidad and Tobago |

Source of data: HESA (2012-13)

UK TNE review activity



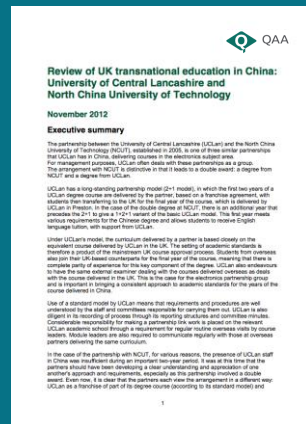
Typical TNE review outputs



Country overview report



Case studies



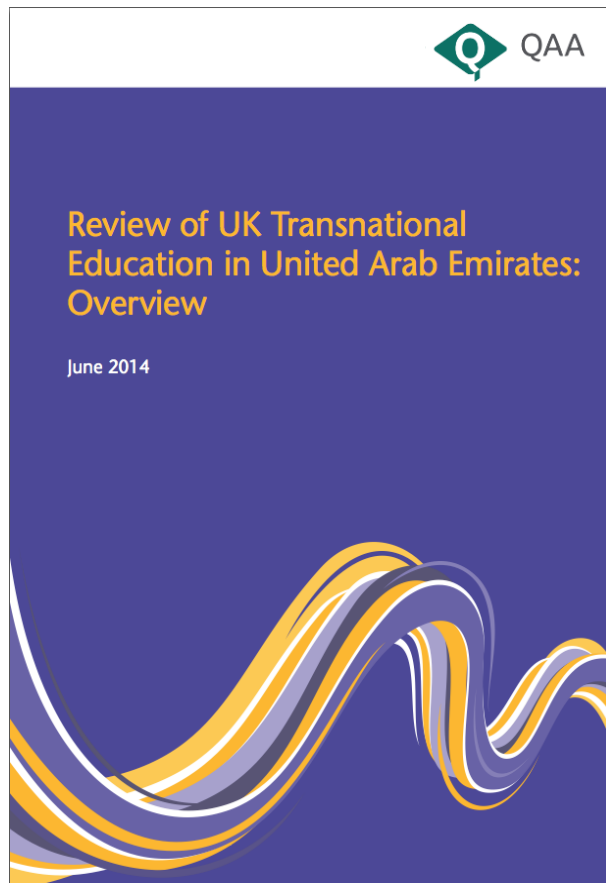
Individual review reports

‘The only example of data gathering of overseas provision collected in a systematic way was found to be the country reviews conducted by the UK’s QAA.’

‘The UK’s QAA approach to auditing the exports of UK providers is a good practice.’

*Delivering Education Across Borders in the European Union
(European Commission: July 2013)*

UK TNE: United Arab Emirates (2014)



Focused on Dubai

Two particular themes:

Branch campuses of UK providers

Delivery of business administration programmes

Close partnership with local Agency, KHDA

Reports published in June 2014

International networks:



International partnerships:

Australia (TEQSA)

China (CDGDC)

Hong Kong (HKCAAVQ)

Ireland (QQI)

Japan (NIAD-UE)

Malaysia (MQA)

Singapore (CPE)

South Africa (CHE)

UAE (KHDA)

UK consultation: future quality assurance of transnational education

UK consultation

‘QAA and the Higher Education International Unit will consult the sector on how to strengthen the quality assurance of higher education delivered overseas.’

*International Education Strategy
(HM Government, 29 July 2013)*

December 2013
Consultation opened

March 2014
Consultation closed (113 responses)

May 2014
Report published



Key themes emerging

Improved links between TNE and UK institutional reviews

Proportionate, flexible approach

Need for improved information base for UK TNE

Desk-based analysis, plus review team visits where appropriate:

- Investigate risks
- Highlight excellence

Approach to student engagement



Next UK TNE review: Caribbean (2014)

Trinidad & Tobago

Possible other location(s)

Particular theme – distance
learning

International recognition of
distance learning

Incorporating changes following
UK consultation

Future opportunities and challenges

European project: Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE)

‘Between 1 October 2013 and 31 December 2015, the project will look closely into different ways in which European quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions address the accreditation and quality assurance of the programmes delivered outside their countries.’

Project members:

ENQA (lead)

European agencies (including QAA)

TEQSA (Australia)

Arab Network for Quality Assurance

in Higher Education (ANQAHE),

Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

Final report to European

Commission by January 2016

QAche

Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education

Other considerations

Do we want or need a single set of international quality standards?

What would be their reference points or frameworks?

Facilitating greater international co-operation for TNE quality assurance in the future

A global market for quality assurance services?

Moving from threshold standards to excellence

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