



news

September 2015



Te Pokapū Kōunga Mātauranga mō ngā Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Cycle 5 Academic Audits

The site visit for the academic audit of the University of Waikato took place in August. It is anticipated that the report of this audit will be available from the AQA website in early-December 2015. The Waikato Audit Panel was chaired by Professor Sheelagh Matear (Lincoln University). Professor Matear was joined by Darryn Russell (University of Canterbury), Professor Vernon Squire (University of Otago), Emeritus Professor Deborah Willis (recently retired from Victoria University of Wellington) and Emeritus Professor Bob Elliott (Australia).

The academic audit of AUT University is well underway and the site visit for this audit is scheduled for 17-19 November 2015. In 2016, AQA will be undertaking academic audits of the University of Otago (site visit May 2016) and Lincoln University (site visit August 2016). www.aqa.ac.nz/cycle5

AQA Director to Retire in 2016

After nearly six years in the role of Director, Dr Jan Cameron has advised the Board of AQA that she will be retiring at the end of January 2016. Dr Cameron has overseen AQA through a period of significant change, both for the universities and for the organisation itself, guiding it through a new name and corporate identity, new audit framework, and increased focus on national and international interactions.

AQA is currently recruiting for a new Executive Director. www.aqa.ac.nz

AQA Support for Quality Conference 2015

The 2015 AQA Support for Quality Conference will be held on Thursday 1 October at the Royal Society of New Zealand, 11 Turnbull Street, Wellington. The Conference will commence with a Keynote from Emeritus Professor Geoff Scott on "Developing and assessing graduates who are 'work ready plus': addressing the new quality agenda for higher education". There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion with colleagues. If you haven't already registered, please do so at: www.aqa.ac.nz/conference2015

The day will be preceded by a programme/internal review discussion forum for universities in the afternoon of Wednesday 30 September at UNZ Meeting Rooms, Level 9, 142 Lambton Quay. Updated information about both events is now available: www.aqa.ac.nz/conference2015

AQA | About

The Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA) was established in 1993 to carry out audits of the processes in universities which underpin academic quality. The mission

of AQA is to contribute to high quality New Zealand university education by engaging as a leader and advocate in the development of universities based on high quality, internationally acceptable,

academic practices, and by providing quality assurance and quality enhancement services which assist universities in facilitating excellent student experience and learning outcomes.

Quality Enhancement

HEA Professional Standards Framework

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) is a UK-based organisation responsible for enhancing teaching and supporting learning in higher education. HEA has developed and, since 2006, supported a Professional Standards Framework which is a nationally-recognised framework for benchmarking higher education teaching and learning support. Part of the Framework, the HEA Fellowship Programme, provides a recognised badge of "professional competency". According to the HEA, many educational institutions around the world are now starting to use the Fellowship Programme as a condition of appointment and promotion. **The HEA has a current project with Massey University.** Massey is exploring aligning their practices with the Professional Standards Framework (PSF). As part of the project, HEA will review Fellowship applications from Massey staff and "provide formative feedback in order to enable participants to construct a successful application for fellowship". More information about the Massey project and the PSF is available from the HEA website. <http://tinyurl.com/nsaubzh>

2015 Higher Education Compliance and Quality Forum

Registrations are open for the 2015 Higher Education Compliance and Quality Forum to be held in Melbourne, Australia on 4 - 5 November 2015. The theme of the Forum is "Securing Standards" and it will explore standards from a broad perspective, bringing together speakers from across Australia and overseas to talk through some of the challenges facing Australia's higher education sector. Topics include: the rise of contract cheating; raising standards through accreditation and international benchmarking; securing qualified staff; curriculum transformation; quality for learning and teaching; and assuring the quality of achievement standards and their valid assessment.

www.hes.edu.au/events/higher-education-compliance-and-quality-network-forum/

AQA Board News

Board Vacancy

The Board of AQA is seeking a lay/community member with expertise in quality assurance for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2016. Particular skills/competencies sought:

- expertise in quality assurance (national and/or international);
- Knowledge of the New Zealand university sector or other relevant educational institutions/sectors;
- Prior board experience.

www.aqa.ac.nz/Boardvacancy2015

External Review

The report of the 2015 External Review of AQA has now been finalised and is currently with the Board and Vice-Chancellors for their consideration. The report will be available from the AQA website within the next few weeks. AQA would like to thank the audit panel, AQA auditors, university staff and students, government officials and other stakeholders who gave so generously of their time, experience and views to the review panel.

AQA Board's Role in Audit

The Board of AQA has, among its terms of reference, responsibility for appointing audit panels and for receiving and approving the release of audit reports. The Board must ensure that the process of audit is such to produce reports that reflect an independent judgement, are evidence-based and that are perceived as authoritative, rigorous, fair and perceptive. The Board also receives and reviews the formal follow-up report from each audited New Zealand university approximately 12 months after the public release of the audit report. www.aqa.ac.nz/about-us/board

International Focus

One of the objectives of the AQA is to improve the quality of AQA activities, including audit practice, by interaction with other education and academic quality assurance agencies, both nationally and internationally. AQA is a member of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

INQAAHE

INQAAHE is calling for research proposals from full or associate members. INQAAHE will fund three proposals up to USD\$2,500 to support the preparation of research papers or essays relevant to a range of topics including: new modes for quality assurance in well-developed systems; independence of quality assurance decisions; diversity of approaches to institutional and academic programme quality assurance including new modes of study (e.g. e-learning, MOOCs).

APQN

The first formal review for APQN's Asia Pacific Quality Register (APQR), was conducted of the Fiji Higher Education Commission in late-June 2015. As with the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education, APQN believes that the APQR will help facilitate mutual recognition and cross-border co-operation of quality assurance agencies in the Asia Pacific region.

www.apqn.org

Learning and Teaching in Europe

A recent report released by the European Universities Association (EUA) entitled "Trends 2015: Learning and Teaching in European Universities" explores the impact of major reforms across Europe over the past 15 years. From the authors: "The Bologna Process has emphasised several policy objectives in the past fifteen years and the longitudinal Trends data shows that quality assurance has been a

particularly important change driver during this period. Moreover, the development of internal quality assurance processes has been particularly remarkable. External quality assurance is changing to take into account these developments. It is shifting toward institutional audits and evaluations that are mission-driven and enhancement-led at the same time as quality assurance agencies emphasise the involvement of students and a dialogue with all stakeholders." www.eua.be/Libraries/publications-homepage-list/EUA_Trends_2015_web



What's happening in external QA internationally?

New CEO for TEQSA

Anthony McClaran, the current Chief Executive of the QAA (UK), has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) in Australia. AQA congratulates Mr McClaran on his appointment. Mr McClaran, who has been the CE of QAA since 2009, will commence his new role in mid-October 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/qhhw283>

BAC launches overseas HE accreditation

The British Accreditation Council (BAC) has introduced a new accreditation scheme for UK and overseas higher education institutions. BAC currently accredits 260 institutions in 12 different countries. The **Independent Higher Education Scheme** is available to any university in the UK and overseas which wishes to gain BAC accreditation. The Scheme complies with European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education guidelines. According to the CEO of BAC, the Scheme "provides reassurance for British universities in partnering with overseas institutions". The new Scheme incorporates the student learning experience as an explicit element of the accreditation and inspection process.

<http://tinyurl.com/pvsmt2w>

Have You Seen This?

- The Ministry of Education's recent analysis of 2014 **Māori Tertiary Education Students** has been published. The fact sheet includes Māori student participation in tertiary education, employment outcomes of young Māori graduates and more: www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/91676/maori-tertiary-education-students-in-2014
- Ako Aotearoa has released a **"Beginners guide to plagiarism: What is plagiarism and how can you avoid it?"**. This illustrated guide covers the issues involved and provides practical advice for students and other academic writers about avoiding plagiarism. <http://tinyurl.com/oumnyra>
- Two recent publications on MOOCs may be of interest to New Zealand universities. **"A Policy Brief on MOOCs"** has been released by the Commonwealth of Learning and "is an essential guide for anyone interested in Massive Open Online Courses and the implications for higher education... [and] concludes with recommendations on how MOOCs can be harnessed to increase access, build capacity, foster innovation, and improve pedagogy and quality". <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/825> A new publication on MOOCs and quality assurance has been released in the UK by QAA: "MOOCs and Quality: A Review of the Recent Literature". <http://tinyurl.com/pzo64n5>
- The leaders of Canada's universities have committed to a **set of 13 principles on indigenous education**. "These principles acknowledge the unique needs of Indigenous communities across Canada and their goals of autonomy and self-determination, as well as differences in jurisdiction among provinces and territories, institutional mission among universities, and the authority of appropriate university governance bodies in academic decision-making." <http://tinyurl.com/qjuvox7>
- NZUSA has released the results of their **2014 Tertiary Student Income and Expenditure Survey**. For the latest report 5,000 students were surveyed across the country with a representative sample of universities, polytechnics, internal, distance and age-varied students. www.students.org.nz/income_and_expenditure_survey
- The inaugural **Pacific Tertiary Education Forum** will be held on 4 November at the Fale Pasifika Complex at the University of Auckland. The Forum theme is "Enhancing Learner Success" and it will be focussed on practically-oriented discussions about the strategic, organisational and practitioner changes required to improve outcomes for Pacific learners. <https://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/pacific-education-forum>
- The **2015 Australian Learning Analytics Summer Institute (ALASI)** is being hosted by the University of Sydney on 26-27 November. ALASI is the main forum in Australia for the exchange of knowledge, innovation and experiences in the area of Learning Analytics. ALASI is a highly interactive event and proposals are now open for various sessions (panels, tutorials, workshops, posters and demos). www.itl.usyd.edu.au/analytics/alasi.htm
- The **2015 Australasian Association for Institutional Research (AAIR) Forum** will be held in Wellington on 9-11 November 2015. The theme for the forum is "The Winds of Change". Sub-themes that will be explored include: informing learning and teaching standards through evaluation; closing-the-loop, putting evidence into practice; modelling the implications of change; learning analytics; and planning, policy and positioning. www.aairforum2015.com.au/
- A **calendar of upcoming events** can be found on the AQA website. www.aqa.ac.nz/events



Contact Us