

**Frequency of periodic programme/academic unit reviews  
Limited review of national and international practice**

Periodic undertaking of academic programme and/or academic unit reviews is a common element of the quality assurance frameworks of higher education institutions around the world. The following is a summary of current national and international practice with regard to the frequency of such reviews for academic areas of activity e.g., programmes or qualifications and/or faculties and departments. Note: this summary is not comprehensive but covers several of the jurisdictions against which New Zealand universities tend to benchmark their activities and practices.

**National-level statements or guidelines of required or recommended frequency:**

<b>New Zealand</b>	
CUAP Handbook 2013 – 2014 (p 57)	“All programmes offered by a university are reviewed. As well as CUAP’s Graduating Year Review process, which is mandatory for all new qualifications, subjects and endorsements, a university might plan ahead for reviews on a <b>five to 10-year cycle</b> , such as Professional accreditation visits..., Academic unit reviews..., [and] Programme reviews...”.
<a href="http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/aboutus/sc/cuap">www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/aboutus/sc/cuap</a>	
<b>Australia</b>	
Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2011	“6.1 The higher education provider ensures the course of study is <b>systematically</b> updated, through internal revision and external reviews, and that its coherence is maintained.” **
<a href="http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C00169/Html/Text#_Toc330548952">www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013C00169/Html/Text#_Toc330548952</a>	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	
UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Chapter B8: Programme monitoring and review.	“Higher education providers, in discharging their responsibilities for setting and maintaining academic standards and assuring and enhancing the quality of learning opportunities, operate effective, <b>regular</b> and systematic processes for monitoring and for review.” “Reflecting conventional use within the UK higher education sector, programme monitoring refers to a regular, systematic process. It may take place annually or at shorter or longer intervals and provides a check on ongoing learning and teaching provision at an operational level. <b>Programme review occurs less frequently, but periodically and to an agreed cycle.</b> It has a broader remit and is informed by a view of Chapter B8: Programme monitoring and review trends over time.”
<a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/B8.pdf">www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/B8.pdf</a>	
<b>Ireland</b>	
Universities Act 1997	35. (2) The procedures shall include— (a) the evaluation, at regular intervals and in any case <b>not less than once in every 10 years or such longer period as may be determined by the university in agreement with An</b>

	tÚdarás, of each department and, where appropriate, faculty of the university and any service provided by the university...
<a href="http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1997/en/act/pub/0024/print.html#sec29">www.irishstatutebook.ie/1997/en/act/pub/0024/print.html#sec29</a>	
Review of Quality Assurance in Ireland: Sectoral Report, European University Association. (2005) Jointly commissioned by the Higher Education Authority and the Irish Universities Quality Board.	“The Universities Act allows a maximum of ten years for the cycle of evaluating all departments, except in special circumstances. Given the number of academic departments, two universities have opted for a ten year cycle, while others have chosen a shorter cycle, between five and seven years. <b>The EUA teams considered that a cycle of ten years was too long, and that, depending on the size and structure of the university, a seven year review cycle could also be rather long.”</b>
<a href="http://www.eua.be/Libraries/IEP/Report_Sectoral_Ireland.sflb.ashx">www.eua.be/Libraries/IEP/Report_Sectoral_Ireland.sflb.ashx</a>	
<b>Canada</b>	
Ministerial Statement on Quality Assurance of Degree Education in Canada	“7.10 Program Evaluation – The institution has a formal approved policy and procedure requiring the periodic review of programs to occur on a cyclical basis, <b>normally not exceeding ten years.</b> ”
<a href="http://www.cicic.ca/docs/cmec/QA-Statement-2007.en.pdf">www.cicic.ca/docs/cmec/QA-Statement-2007.en.pdf</a>	
Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance: Quality Assurance Framework	“Establish a cycle, <b>not to exceed eight years</b> , for the review of the institution’s full complement of undergraduate programs of specialization and graduate degree and diploma programs, and indicate how the cycle may coincide with any other internal reviews and professional accreditation.”
<a href="http://www.oucqa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Quality-Assurance-Framework-and-Guide-Updated-January-2014.pdf">www.oucqa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Quality-Assurance-Framework-and-Guide-Updated-January-2014.pdf</a>	
<b>Europe</b>	
European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (2009)	“External quality assurance of institutions and/or programmes should be undertaken on a <b>cyclical basis</b> . The length of the cycle and the review procedures to be used should be clearly defined and published in advance.”
<a href="http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/ESG_3edition-2.pdf">www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/ESG_3edition-2.pdf</a>	

\*\* Updated as at 24 April: the Australian government’s Higher Education Standards Panel has released for consultation a revised set of threshold standards to be applied by TEQSA. The current reference to review frequency is fairly open. The new version looks to be much more prescriptive, if it is adopted: “ 5.3 Monitoring, Review and Improvement. 1. All courses of study are subject to comprehensive reviews at least every seven years, which are overseen by peak academic governance processes and include ‘process for approval’ means the higher education provider’s internal approval of a course of study, prior to seeking accreditation of the course by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).” (page 16) Note: Courses of study broadly equates to “programme” in our terminology.

[www.hestandards.gov.au/sites/default/files/ProposedHESFrameworkConsultationDraft-April2014.pdf](http://www.hestandards.gov.au/sites/default/files/ProposedHESFrameworkConsultationDraft-April2014.pdf)

**Selected national and international university examples:**

	Activity/ Unit of Review	Frequency	Extract from policy or procedures	URL
<b>New Zealand (only those with public links to relevant policies on website)</b>				
University of Otago	All aspects	5 – 7 years	Each aspect of the University’s operations will be reviewed at least once every five to seven years.	<a href="http://www.otago.ac.nz/quality/docs/Review%20Admin/ReviewPrinciples.pdf">www.otago.ac.nz/quality/docs/Review%20Admin/ReviewPrinciples.pdf</a>
University of Auckland	Departments, divisions and schools	7 – 10 years	Departments, divisions and schools are reviewed by an external panel of peers on a seven-ten year cycle.	<a href="https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/teaching-learning/quality-assurance.html#7be576a99a087aa624b1d40860b387b">https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/teaching-learning/quality-assurance.html#7be576a99a087aa624b1d40860b387b</a>
“	Programmes	10 years	Programmes with large enrolments or of strategic importance are reviewed on a ten-year cycle. Other established programmes are reviewed internally or as part of the Department review process.	<a href="https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/teaching-learning/quality-assurance/programme-reviews.html">https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/teaching-learning/quality-assurance/programme-reviews.html</a>
Massey University	Qualifications	4 – 7 years	Each qualification within the University’s academic portfolio will be comprehensively reviewed at least once every four to seven years.	<a href="http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/PolicyGuide/Documents/Academic/Qualification%20Review%20Policy.pdf?93190FC50245EB5C1A69DEBBC44884B">www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/PolicyGuide/Documents/Academic/Qualification%20Review%20Policy.pdf?93190FC50245EB5C1A69DEBBC44884B</a>
Victoria University of Wellington	Programmes	7 years	All programmes offered at Victoria University are reviewed in a regular cycle, approximately once every seven years	<a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/academic-programme-reviews">www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/academic-programme-reviews</a>
University of Canterbury	Award programmes	5 years	All awards of the University, except higher doctorates, shall be reviewed via an academic review ... every five years.	<a href="http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/aqua/programme%20reviews.shtml">www.canterbury.ac.nz/aqua/programme%20reviews.shtml</a>

	Activity/ Unit of Review	Frequency	Extract from policy or procedures	URL
<b>Australia (Go8 universities)</b>				
University of Melbourne	Course (of study)	5 years	Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance Committee will review courses on a five yearly cycle.	<a href="https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1197">https://policy.unimelb.edu.au/MPF1197</a>
Australian National University	Award programs	5 years	Each of the University's award programs must be reviewed at least every five years.	<a href="https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000691">https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000691</a>
University of Sydney	Faculties	4 – 6 years	Rounds of "Faculty Review Visits" held periodically. Phase 4 held 2013 – 2016. Phase 3 held 2007 – 2012.	<a href="http://sydney.edu.au/ab/faculty_review/abr_phase4.shtml">http://sydney.edu.au/ab/faculty_review/abr_phase4.shtml</a>
University of New South Wales	All coursework and research programs	5 – 7 years	UNSW requires all coursework and research programs to be reviewed at least once every 5 to 7 years	<a href="https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/academicprogramreviewpolicy.pdf">https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/academicprogramreviewpolicy.pdf</a>
Monash University	Faculty, school, department, centre or institute, or discipline or cross-disciplinary area.	Ad hoc (but generally no longer than 5 years between reviews)	The Dean in discussion with the Provost (or the Pro Vice-Chancellor of an offshore campus and the Vice-Chancellor) will determine which of those nominated reviews are to be undertaken in the next calendar year. Consideration will also be given to reviewing academic areas which have not been reviewed within the last five years.	<a href="http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/management/governance/academic-review-procedures.html">www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/management/governance/academic-review-procedures.html</a>
University of Western Australia	Academic Unit	7 years	Reviews are cyclical in nature, with each school or other academic unit typically being reviewed every seven years.	<a href="http://www.governance.uwa.edu.au/procedures/policies/policies-and-procedures?method=document&amp;id=UP11%2F16">www.governance.uwa.edu.au/procedures/policies/policies-and-procedures?method=document&amp;id=UP11%2F16</a>

	Activity/ Unit of Review	Frequency	Extract from policy or procedures	URL
University of Queensland	Academic Program	5 – 7 years	Academic Program Review (APR) ensures that the major generalist degrees are reviewed every 7 years, and that all other teaching programs (or suites of programs) are reviewed comprehensively every 5 years.	<a href="https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.30.05-academic-program-review">https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/3.30.05-academic-program-review</a>
University of Adelaide	Academic Unit	At least every 7 years	Each academic unit is to be reviewed at least once every seven years.	<a href="https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/">https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/</a>
“	Coursework Programs	5 years	All coursework programs offered by the University are subject to review as part of a five year cycle.	<a href="https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/">https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/</a>
“	Course	3 – 5 years	The responsibility for ensuring the quality and standards of individual courses lies with the faculties. It was agreed that Executive Deans will.... Ensure that courses are reviewed every three to five years.	<a href="https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/">https://www.adelaide.edu.au/learning/staff/reviews/</a>
<b>United Kingdom (selection of Russell Group universities spanning England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)</b>				
University of Bristol	School (formerly Departments)	5- 6 years	University School Reviews are carried out on a five or six yearly basis to assure the University that its schools are of a high quality in teaching and research and that they are working efficiently in terms of staffing and financial matters.	<a href="http://www.bris.ac.uk/esu/facultyadvice/deptreviews/">www.bris.ac.uk/esu/facultyadvice/deptreviews/</a>
University of	Programme	6 years	The General Board, through its	<a href="http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/education/reviews/ltr.html">http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/education/reviews/ltr.html</a>

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Cambridge			Education Committee, sets the timetable for learning and teaching reviews in negotiation with the Councils of the Schools. Since the timetable runs on a six-year cycle, the approximate timing of reviews is known well in advance.	
University of Cardiff	School	5 years	Periodic Review (PR) is the process by which Schools undertake a broad review of all their programmes, evaluate their strategic direction and reflect upon the experiences of their students. It takes place every five years and is an opportunity for broad thinking about the student experience as well as a point at which Schools, in the context of College plans, review the continuing standards, validity and relevance of their programmes.	<a href="http://learning.cf.ac.uk/quality/review/periodic-review/">http://learning.cf.ac.uk/quality/review/periodic-review/</a>
University of Glasgow	All credit-bearing provisions	6 year cycle	Periodic Subject Review is one of the main ways by which the University assures itself of the quality of the provision delivered by Subjects and Schools. All credit-bearing provision is reviewed on a six-year cycle.	<a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/qea/periodicsubjectreview/">www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/qea/periodicsubjectreview/</a>
University of	Programme	5 years	Reviews are constructive and	<a href="http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicsservices/qualitymanual/programme-">www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicsservices/qualitymanual/programme-</a>

	Activity/ Unit of Review	Frequency	Extract from policy or procedures	URL
Nottingham			holistic exercises, covering teaching and learning and operate according to a 5 year schedule.	<a href="http://monitoring-and-review/teaching-and-learning-review.aspx">monitoring-and-review/teaching-and-learning-review.aspx</a>
Queen's University Belfast	Subjects, Programmes and Modules	Subjects - Every 6 years; Programmes – every year; modules – after they are taught.	The Educational Enhancement Process (EEP) forms part of an integrated internal quality enhancement and review process whereby modules are reviewed after they are taught, programmes are reviewed every year and subjects are reviewed every six years.	<a href="https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/EducationalEnhancementProcess/">https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/EducationalEnhancementProcess/</a>
University of York	Programmes within a Departments	Not more than six years	Reviews will take place at intervals of not more than six years according to a schedule agreed by UTC.	<a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/media/staffhome/learningandteaching/documents/periodic-review/PR%20periodic%20review%20policy.pdf">https://www.york.ac.uk/media/staffhome/learningandteaching/documents/periodic-review/PR%20periodic%20review%20policy.pdf</a>
<b>United States (selection chosen to span public universities in a variety of states)</b>				
University of California Berkeley	Academic Program	8 years	An eight-year cycle (see Appendix III) (extended to nine years for the duration of the budget crisis) for the review of units has been established by the Program Review Oversight Committee (PROC), in consultation with the cognizant deans, based on the timing of the previous review and an equitable annual distribution of reviews per dean.	<a href="http://vpapf.chance.berkeley.edu/apr/GUIDE_May2011.pdf">http://vpapf.chance.berkeley.edu/apr/GUIDE_May2011.pdf</a>
University of	Academic	At least once	Programs must be reviewed at	<a href="http://apir.wisc.edu/programreview.htm">http://apir.wisc.edu/programreview.htm</a>

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Wisconsin-Madison	Program	every 10 years	least once every ten years under UAPC policy, Board of Regent policy, and federal financial aid regulations.	
Iowa State University	Generally, a single academic department or a single interdisciplinary program. A review may be warranted for a subunit of a department or programs that involve more than one department or college, or an entire college.	Ordinarily, at least every 7 years	Each program is reviewed on a regular cycle. Ordinarily, the length of time between reviews is no more than seven years, but the associate provost who is responsible for program review may grant exceptions to this timeframe.	<a href="http://www.provost.iastate.edu/help/program-review/policies">www.provost.iastate.edu/help/program-review/policies</a>
University of Virginia	All academic units and programs	5 years	Academic program review consists of on-going, high quality peer reviews of all the University's academic units and programs on a five-year cycle.	<a href="http://avillage.web.virginia.edu/iaas/assess/reporting/programreview.shtm">http://avillage.web.virginia.edu/iaas/assess/reporting/programreview.shtm</a>
University of Arizona	Academic program	At least once every 7 years	Both departmentally based programs and programs administered by committees are reviewed at least once every seven	<a href="http://www.academicaffairs.arizona.edu/academic-program-review">www.academicaffairs.arizona.edu/academic-program-review</a>



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			years.	
University of Colorado	Academic program	Every 7 years	Consistent with the CU System Administrative Policy Statement “Implementation of Regent Policy on Program Review,” the university conducts academic program reviews every seven years to assess the strengths and weaknesses of units, to make decisions regarding their future, and to ensure high-quality programs that are administered efficiently.	Denver example (part of University of Colorado system): <a href="http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ViceChancellors/Provost/AcademicPlanning/AcademicProgramReview/Pages/default.aspx">www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ViceChancellors/Provost/AcademicPlanning/AcademicProgramReview/Pages/default.aspx</a>
University of Massachusetts	Academic program	5 – 7 years	1. Each Program shall be reviewed on a regular cycle. Ordinarily, the length of time between reviews may be no more than five to seven years, but campus procedures may establish the circumstances under which exceptions to this time frame may be granted.	Boston example (part of University of Massachusetts system): <a href="http://www.umb.edu/academics/provost/academic_quality_assessment_and_development_aquad">www.umb.edu/academics/provost/academic_quality_assessment_and_development_aquad</a>
University of Missouri	Academic program	7 years	Program review is on a seven-year cycle.	<a href="http://www.missouristate.edu/provost/ProgramReview/accreditations.htm">www.missouristate.edu/provost/ProgramReview/accreditations.htm</a>