

Sheelagh Matear
Executive Director

Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities
Level 9, Lambton Quay
P O Box 5787, Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Re: INQAAHE Board Decision on the Review of Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities

Dear Ms. Sheelagh Matear,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), I extend my congratulations to the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities, for completing a successful review against INQAAHE's Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP), 2016.

The INQAAHE Board, on its meeting of 17 November, 2020, approved the recommendation of the INQAAHE GGP Recognition Committee on recognizing the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities as fully compliant with the six (6) *INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice*, as per the overview below:

Overview of the external review results:

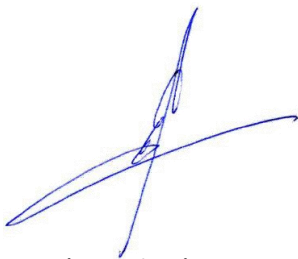
INQAAHE GUIDELINES OF GOOD PRACTICE		DECISION
GGP1:	The Structure of the External Quality Assurance Agency (EQAA)	Fully compliant
GGP2:	Accountability of the EQAA	Fully compliant
GGP3:	The EQAA'S Framework for the External Review of Quality in Higher Education Institutions	Fully compliant
GGP4:	The EQAA and its Relationship to the Public	Fully compliant
GGP5:	Decision Making	Fully compliant
GGP6:	The QA of Cross Border Higher Education	Fully compliant

The INQAAHE Board also endorses the Recognition Committee recommendations and suggestions regarding areas of enhancement as per Annex 1 attached to this decision.

In closing, the INQAAHE Board recognizes the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) for New Zealand Universities as aligned with the INQAAHE GGPs 2016 for a duration of **5 years** commencing on the day the decision was taken. As such, and as per the duration mentioned, AQA will be enlisted in the list of the INQAAHE GGP aligned agencies on the INQAAHE respective web-page. For

further enhancement purposes, the Board also expects AQA to submit a follow-up mid-term report on the recommendations as per Annex 1. The INQAAHE Board respectfully asks that the report be submitted within two years of this notice specifically addressing the activities undertaken and the achievements made for each of the recommendation for enhancement.

Congratulations again on this successful review.
Sincerely,



Martí Casadesús Fa
INQAAHE Secretary

Barcelona, 23 November 2020

Annex 1

The INQAAHE Board endorses the following panel recommendations and suggestions paired with the respective GGP:

GGP 1.3. Governance and Organisational Structure

1. The Panel recommends that, in order to actively 'acknowledge the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi', the AQA Board reflect this in their membership through the appointment of an appropriately qualified Māori member as either the Co-Chair or Deputy Chair.
2. The Panel recommends that the AQA Board be expanded to include a Māori student representative from Te Mana Ākonga (TMĀ), and for equal representation of Te Mana Ākonga and the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) on all future ad-hoc AQA committees.
3. The Panel recommends that the term of each student representative on the AQA Board be for one year with TMĀ and NZUSA determining their representatives, and that TMĀ student members are also remunerated for their time and all student members receive appropriate induction.
4. The Panel recommends that all AQA Board members receive training on how to effectively work with and support student voices.

GGP 1.4. Resources

1. The Panel recommends that the AQA Board prioritises the development of a workforce development plan to address the sustainability of the organisation.

GGP 3.3. The external review process

1. The Panel recommends that, to improve consistency, AQA works with students' associations to develop a national framework for student voices and good practice guidelines for including student voices.
2. The Panel recommends that the appointment of auditors mirrors our society and that the training of all auditors provides a comprehensive understanding of the quality assurance processes and procedures from a New Zealand context, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi training.
3. The Panel recommends that all AQA auditors receive training on how to effectively work with and support student voices.

GGP 4.2. Other public reports

1. The Panel recommends that the AQA Board consider developing a communications and engagement strategy that supports and recognizes the work undertaken by AQA as part of the quality assurance process.