

## Assuring Academic Quality and Standards Policy

### 1. Aim and scope

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- 1.1 This Policy outlines the University's principles and assigns responsibilities for assurance of academic quality and standards.
- 1.2 This Policy applies to assurance of academic quality and standards for all educational provision, including that for postgraduate research students.

### 2. Principles

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- 2.1 The University assures academic standards and the quality of learning, teaching and the student experience by meeting the expectations for academic quality and standards set by the Office for Students, Ofsted and other relevant sector bodies.
- 2.2 As a self-governing academic institution, the University assures academic standards and the quality of learning, teaching and the student experience by setting its own high academic standards.
- 2.3 The University assures academic standards and the quality of learning, teaching and the student experience by promoting continuous enhancement of the quality of learning, teaching and the student experience.
- 2.4 The University's approach to assuring academic quality and standards is **risk-based**:
  - a. Assurance of academic quality and standards is evidence-based.
  - b. Processes for assuring academic quality and standards are applied purposefully to secure underlying principles.
  - c. Processes for assuring academic quality and standards are proportionate and targeted.
  - d. The regulatory and workload burden of processes for assuring academic quality and standards is minimized.
- 2.5 The University's approach to assuring academic quality and standards at the University is **collaborative**:
  - a. The informed student voice is critical to assuring academic quality and standards.

- b. Peer review by colleagues within the University and across the sector is critical to assuring academic quality and standards.
- c. Responsibility for and decision-making about assurance of academic quality and standards is devolved as far as is reasonable to Faculties/the School, academic departments and individual members of academic staff.

### 3. Responsibilities

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- 3.1 The University of Bath is a self-governing academic institution and ultimate responsibility for assuring academic quality and standards lies with each member of **academic staff**.
- 3.2 **Council** reviews the work of the University, including the extent to which the University is compliant with relevant Office for Students Conditions of Registration per the Higher Education and Research Act (2017).
- 3.3 **Senate** approves policies to promote and ensure the qualities and standards of the academic work of the University and assures Council that that the University is compliant with relevant Office for Students Conditions of Registration. Senate delegates responsibility for assuring aspects of academic quality and standards to its various subcommittees including Education, Quality & Standards Committee and University Doctoral Studies Committee.
- 3.4 **Boards of Studies** advise and report to the Senate on all matters relating to the organisation of education, teaching and learning in relevant subjects. Boards of Studies have devolved responsibility for assuring the academic standards of degrees in relevant subjects. Boards of Studies delegate responsibility for assuring aspects of academic quality and standards to their various subcommittees.
- 3.5 **Academic Registry** is responsible for providing expert guidance on academic quality and standards, including related compliance, and supporting processes for assuring academic quality and standards.
- 3.6 **The Centre for Teaching and Learning** is responsible for providing expert guidance and training on learning and teaching.

### 4. Monitoring and Review

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- 4.1 This Policy was approved by Senate on 8 November 2023

### 5. Monitoring and Review

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- 5.1 This Policy is reviewed and updated by Senate on recommendation of the Education, Quality and Standards Committee.