

Paper title: Summary report of Education, Quality and Standards Committee (EQSC) meeting of 15 October 2024

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Purpose/Executive summary

To provide a summary update on the work of the Committee.

Context

EQSC is a committee of Senate. Its purpose is to provide assurance to Senate on the quality and standards of educational provision at the University, in line with both external and internal frameworks and compliance requirements. It is chaired by the PVC (Education and Global).

Report

The Committee met on 15 October 2024.

Summary of meeting decisions

The Committee:

- a) Noted the following decisions made by correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - Approval of OfS Conditions of Registration B5 review recommendations and Committee comments fed back to Chair and Head of Academic Quality and Standards.
 - Approval of changes to Student Regulation 13: Admissions Regulations for First Degrees and agreement to delegate to the Director of Academic Registry corresponding changes required to Regulations for Student Apprentices.
 - Approval of changes to Student Regulation 15: Assessment of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Programmes and agreement to delegate to the Director of Academic Registry corresponding changes required to Regulations for Student Apprentices.
 - Approval of changes to Undergraduate Assessment Regulations (UGAR)
 - Approval of changes to Postgraduate Assessment Regulations (PGTAR)
- b) The Committee **agreed to recommend to Senate for approval** the Terms of Reference for 2024/25, subject to the above amendments and confirmation.
- c) **Approved** changes to the Degree Apprenticeship Quality and Standards Group (DAQSG) Terms of Reference and Membership for 2024/25.
- d) **Agreed** the schedule of EQSC work for 2024/25.
- e) **Agreed** the draft terms of reference and membership for a Task & Finish group on scaling of assessment and unit marks.
- f) **Agreed** the draft terms of reference and membership for a Task & Finish group on academic misconduct and academic integrity - QA53.
- g) **Agreed** that further consideration will be given to the terms of reference for a Task & Finish group on the role of Directors of Studies in the management of the quality of education and standards.
- h) **Agreed** the University's institutional interpretation of the requirements of Office for Students (OfS) Ongoing Condition of Registration B1: Academic Experience and that the Head of Academic Quality & Standards review the extent to which the University's

policies and procedures ensure compliance Condition of Registration B1 and provide recommendations for policy changes.

- i) **Agreed** the University's institutional interpretation of the requirements of Office for Students (OfS) Ongoing Condition of Registration B4: Assessment and awards and that the Head of Academic Quality & Standards review the extent to which the University's policies and procedures ensure compliance with Condition B4.
- j) **Agreed** in principle that the following statements be decommissioned from the QA Code of Practice, and transitioned to appropriate Professional Services remit, for AY 2025-26: QA22 Recruitment, Selection and Admission of Students, QA31 Support of International Students, QA38 Induction of Students, QA55 Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance and **endorsed** the approach to decommissioning QA statements.
- k) **Noted** the proposal to move QA7 Research and Doctoral Degrees under the remit of University Doctoral Studies Committee (UDSC).
- l) In relation to the Education Annual Review and Enhancement (EARE):
 - **Approved** the EARE template for 2024/25.
 - **Approved** the proposed approach of including links to live versions of EAPs in EARE template but to retain a PDF snapshot of each EAP for audit purposes once a year.
 - **Noted** the ongoing discussions relating to resourcing for data analysis support.
 - **Agreed** to keep the current requirement for Deans to comment on all departmental reports and additional, **agreed** to make this requirement more explicit.
 - **Agreed** the institutional review arrangements for EARE 2024/25.
 - **Approved** the proposed timescales for the production, review, and approval of EARE reports in 24/25.
- m) **Confirmed** an update to QA48 to continue the suspension of annual reporting on SSLCs during 2024/25.
- n) **Noted** late updates to QA37, Form 3 Memorandum of Agreement for Student Exchanges.
- o) **Actioned** the development a policy for the sharing of 'unconfirmed assessment marks' (being marks that have not been through any exam boards) with students.

Areas of focus

The Committee:

- a) **Discussed** scaling of assessment and unit marks, in relation to the Task & Finish group, noting that although that the scaling of marks is not externally regulated, the University does need to account for its policy and practice on this.
- b) **Discussed** establishing a Task & Finish group on the role of Directors of Studies in quality. The scope of the group was discussed including if this should be expanded to a much wider consideration of how quality assurance is operationalised across the University. The Terms of Reference and scope for this group will be reviewed.
- c) **Discussed** the Office for Students (OfS) Condition of Registration relating to the academic experience (B1) and the requirement that courses are effectively delivered and that providers of HE ensure that students have technical proficiency in the English language.

- d) **Discussed** the Office for Students (OfS) Condition of Registration relating to the assessment and awards (B4) noting ongoing work across the University on enhancement to feedback processes.
- e) **Discussed** the approach to the Education Annual Review and Enhancement process for 2024/25, which builds on lessons learnt from the initial implementation of this in 2023/24.

Communications

The formal minutes of the Committee are circulated to Senate, F/SLTQCs and Education Advisory Board (EAB) and University Doctoral Studies Committee (UDSC). This summary of the meeting will be published on the University website.

Decision-making and consultation pathway

Executive/management decision-making bodies

- Senate
- University Executive Board (UEB)

Next steps

Formal minutes are circulated as above.

Contact details

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