

Summary of key changes to the Academic Quality Handbook 2024/25

Chapter 1 Institutional Context

- *Section 1.1:* Updated reference to the QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education.
- *Section 1.5:* End date for the Strategic Plan changed from 2023 to 2024.
- *Section 1.9:* Change of reference from HEFCW to Medr.

Chapter 2 Academic Committee Structure

- *Section 2.1:* Addition of new section for Executive Committees with Terms of Reference for the following: Curriculum Planning Group, International Business Committee and Due Diligence Group.
- *Section 2.2:* Inclusion of five named Directors as members of Senate.
- *Section 2.3:* Removal of Applicant Experience Committee and International Affairs and Collaborative Partnerships Committee.
- *Section 2.3.1:* Updating of Academic Standards Committee's Terms of Reference to include reporting mechanisms for its new sub-committees and to reflect changes to the processes for approving and noting accreditation proposals.
- *Section 2.4:* Addition of two new sub-committees: Academic Partnerships Board and Apprenticeships Board.
- *Section 2.4.7:* Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Research Ethics Committees, focusing on research integrity.
- *Throughout the chapter:* Changes to terminology/job titles and minor changes to terms of reference and committee membership.

Chapter 3 Quality Enhancement

- *Section 3.6:* Removal of reference to Learning Design Framework.

Chapter 4 Programme Design, Approval, Validation, Monitoring and Review

This chapter has had substantial revisions, mainly in relation to the following sections:

- *Section 4.1:* References to the Curriculum Review and the new Academic Framework document.

- *Section 4.2.7:* Significant revisions to programme approval processes.
- *Section 4.2.9:* Revisions to the non credit-bearing short course approval process.
- *Section 4.3:* Significant revisions throughout the section in relation to Programme Validation (Taught and Research Awards).
- *Section 4.6:* Addition of references to Curriculum Review in relation to Revalidation.
- *Section 4.8.1:* Statement that the expectation is that programmes do not undergo major modifications outside their Curriculum Review cycle, and that minor modifications will be kept to a minimum.
- *Section 4.10.2:* Statement that programme withdrawals and suspensions will be managed as part of the Curriculum Review.

Chapter 5 Student Representation, Engagement and Support

- No revisions made to Chapter 5.

Chapter 6 Taught Award Regulations

- *Various sections:* Addition of regulations for University Postgraduate Certificate of Credit.
- *Section 6.1.2:* Addition of definitions for Blended Learning approaches.
- *Section 6.3.1:* Addition of section on students on Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accredited Programmes with mandatory non-credit bearing placement hours or additional graduation requirements. A credit or non-credit bearing module (as specified in the validation document) with a mark of Pass/Fail will normally be recorded on each student's transcript to show if they demonstrated the achievement of the required standards.
- *Section 6.5.3.4:* Revisions to regulations for failure and retrieval.

Chapter 7 Assessment: Taught Programmes

- *Section 7.8.(3):* Addition of reference to "inaccessible" student work.

Chapter 8 Research Degree Regulations

- *Section 8.1.1:* Inclusion of reference to practice-based Professional Doctorates (ProfDoc).

Chapter 9 Procedural Framework for Collaborative Provision

- Revisions made throughout to reflect the planned changes to reporting lines, and some processes, in relation to collaborative provision. Of particular note is the revised approach to agreements with third parties, including Memoranda of Agreement and Memoranda of Understanding. Responsibility for these types of agreements was dispersed within the University - the removal of the references to Memoranda of Agreement within Chapter 9 allows for flexibility of approach until the review is finalised.
- Several revisions to terminology throughout e.g. to reflect new committee titles.

Chapter 10 Micro-credentials, Short Courses, Professional Practice Framework, Contributing Partners, External Locations and Accreditation

- *Section 10.4:* Revisions to approval processes for micro-credentials/short courses delivered at an external site.
- *Section 10.7.1:* Revisions to the processes for the approval of clients associated with the Professional Practice Framework.
- *Section 10.11:* Significant revisions to the section on programmes designed and taught by clients accredited by the University and not linked to validated provision, with detailed guidance now being provided in Appendix AC8 Accreditation Guidance, replacing some of the text in the section.

Chapter 11 Working with Others

- *Section 11.2:* Removal of reference to the role of Professors of Practice.
- *Section 11.4.1 (1):* Change of name of Independent Study Module for Study Abroad to International Mobility Opportunity Module.

Chapter 12 Student Policies

- No revisions made to Chapter 12. However, a number of policies listed in Chapter 12 have been updated for the 2024/25 academic year.

THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN WELSH