

Chapter 1

Institutional Context

1. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

1.1 Introduction

This Academic Quality Handbook (AQH) is designed to provide guidance and act as a source of reference for the regulations and principles upon which the University's quality assurance mechanisms are based.

The AQH covers a broad range of areas, including the academic regulatory framework, the committee structure and quality assurance systems. The regulations and principles outlined within the AQH apply to all academic activities and should be adhered to wherever it is appropriate to do so. The AQH also refers to a number of appendices which can be accessed via the University's website.

The AQH is reviewed and updated regularly and in response to changing circumstances and experiences. Advice and information on the regulations and principles within the AQH can be obtained from the Academic Office.

The AQH is consistent with the indicators for good practice outlined in the *UK Quality Code for Higher Education* published by QAA, which is divided into three parts:

1. **Expectations** which express the outcomes higher education providers should achieve in setting and maintaining the standards of their awards, and for managing the quality of their provision.
2. **Practices** representing effective ways of working that underpin the delivery of the expectations and will deliver positive outcomes for students.
3. **Advice and guidance** which help providers to develop and maintain effective quality assurance practices.

Full details of the *UK Quality Code* can be found at: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

The University is working towards full governance and administrative integration with the University of Wales (UW). UW will continue to meet its obligations to students who are registered on programmes of study leading to UW awards, and to the collaborative centres and other institutions where the students are enrolled. Such programmes will continue to be managed in accordance with the academic regulations and quality assurance procedures of UW, which are published separately and are available from the University Registry in Cardiff.

1.2 Background

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) is Wales's oldest Royal Chartered University. The University has multi-disciplinary campuses in Swansea, Carmarthen, Lampeter and London, the Wales International Academy of Voice and Canolfan Berfformio Cymru in Cardiff and other learning centres in England and Wales.

The UWTSD Group is a multi-institutional collaborative venture owned and governed by the Royal Chartered University. Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion are constituent colleges within the UWTSD Group. The UWTSD Group aims to deliver clear, tangible benefits for learners, employers, industry and communities by offering a new integrated approach from entry level to post-doctoral research.

1.3 Mission and Vision

The University's mission is:

Transforming Education; Transforming Lives.

The University's vision is to be a University for Wales, with a commitment to the well-being and heritage of the nation at the heart of all that it does. Central to the vision is the promotion and embedding of a dual sector educational system which educates learners of all ages and backgrounds, and stimulates economic development in the region, across Wales and beyond.

1.4 Values

Through its activities the University promotes:

Excellent teaching informed by scholarship and professional practice, and applied research that influences knowledge and policy in Wales and beyond.

Inclusivity, by removing barriers to participation and supporting people from all backgrounds and circumstances to fulfil their potential.

Employability and creativity, by offering educational programmes that develop entrepreneurial and creative skills, enabling learners to have the best opportunities to gain employment and to contribute to the prosperity of their communities.

Collaboration through strategic relationships, working with others to provide educational and commercial opportunities and to ensure that Wales is connected to the wider world.

Sustainable development, by behaving in a way which ensures that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and by systematically embedding this principle in our approach to teaching and learning.

The concept of global citizenship, through the development of multi-national activities and opportunities for our learners, staff and partners.

Wales and its distinctiveness, through embedding the goals of the *Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act* in all of our activities, and by celebrating the vibrant culture, heritage and language of Wales.

1.5 Strategic Priorities

The University has identified four strategic priorities for 2017-2022:

- Strategic Priority 1: Putting Learners First
- Strategic Priority 2: Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship and Applied Research
- Strategic Priority 3: Creation of Opportunities through Partnerships
- Strategic Priority 4: A University for Wales

Further information about the strategic priorities is published in the University's *Strategic Plan 2017-2022*.