

## **External Quality Assurance Review – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is external quality assurance review?**

The external quality assurance review is a quality assurance exercise undertaken by regulated institutions in Wales (or those seeking to be regulated) as part of the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF).

### **What will external quality assurance review aim to do?**

External quality assurance reviews will evaluate whether the institution's internal quality assurance approaches meet the requirements of the [European Standards and Guidelines](#), and whether the institution meets the requirements of the baseline within the QAF. The review will also evaluate the institution's strategic approach to quality enhancement. An external quality assurance review (or equivalent Higher Education Review: Wales, or other appropriate QAA process) is required to have been undertaken in the past six years by institutions wishing to become or remain regulated. External quality assurance reviews are underpinned by HEFCW's annual and triennial quality assurance processes.

### **How frequently should external quality assurance reviews take place?**

External quality assurance reviews should be held at least every six years; reviews may take place more frequently if desired by the governing body or if required by HEFCW in some circumstances, for example, where an institution has undergone substantial structural change or where there are significant changes to an institution's provision or student numbers.

### **Who will carry out an external quality assurance review?**

External quality assurance reviews can only be undertaken by a body on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). The body appointed must understand the context of Wales within the UK and have appropriate Welsh language capacity.

### **How will students be involved?**

Student engagement in the process is critical because partnership between institutions and their students is a priority in Wales. The review team must include a student representative. Where the student union produces annual quality reports on behalf of the student body, then these should be considered by the team as part of the evidence for the review. The institution should provide advice, guidance and training for the student body as appropriate to enable their effective participation in the review.