

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT FRAMEWORK IN SCOTLAND

Five Strands of the Scottish QEF

The Quality Enhancement Framework in Scotland comprises **five** key strands:

1. **Institution-led Internal Programme/Subject Reviews**
2. **External Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR)**
3. **Public Information about Quality**
4. **Student Representation/Engagement**
5. **Enhancement Themes**

Overview of the Quality Enhancement Framework in Scotland

The Quality Assurance Agency Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Universities Scotland and the National Union of Students Scotland worked collaboratively to develop an **enhancement-led approach to quality** in the Scottish higher education sector.

The Quality Enhancement Framework was introduced in 2003, and all Scottish HEIs are expected to engage with the five elements of the QEF (*see below*). The engagement of institutions is reviewed both by the Scottish Funding Council (through each HEI's Annual Institutional Report on Quality) and by QAA Scotland (through each HEI's ELIR, ELIR Follow-On Report and Annual Discussions).

Engagement should span various levels within an institution: the University, Schools, Professional Services and Students. Although a Scottish approach, QEF applies equally to all of an HEI's academic provision, irrespective of mode or location of delivery. For HWU, this includes the Dubai and Malaysia Campuses, IDL and all partnerships.

Five Key Elements of the Scottish QEF

1. Institution-Led Internal Reviews (ILR)

Internal subject/programme reviews carried out by HEIs, based on SFC guidance. Outcomes reported to SFC + QAA.

2. Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR)

QAA Scotland external reviews of all HEI's over five-year cycle, covering assurance and enhancement.

3. Public Information about Quality

HEIs and external agencies to provide improved forms of public information about quality, based on differing stakeholder needs, including students and employers.

4. Student Engagement/Representation

A greater voice for students in national, institutional and departmental quality systems. Supported externally by sparqs (student partnerships in quality scotland).

5. Enhancement Themes

National programme to encourage sharing of current good practice and collective generation of ideas/models for innovation in learning and teaching.

Key Principles of the Scottish QEF

1. Commitment to students and to the continuing enhancement of their learning.
2. Partnership approach between various agencies and the active involvement of students.
3. Cultural shift from audit and compliance towards improvement and participative, critical self-evaluation.
4. Assurance and enhancement are inextricably linked and integral to a quality HE culture.
5. Commitment to the long-term, recognising that development of a quality culture takes time.
6. Trust in institutional systems: HEIs conduct their own internal subject reviews.

References and Further Information

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk Quality Assurance Policies and Procedures: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/quality-assurance.htm>

Learning and Teaching Policies and Procedures: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm>

Quality Enhancement Framework in Scotland: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/about-us/scotland>

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by Academic Quality and is one of a series related to Learning and Teaching. The briefing papers aim to provide a concise, informative overview of key policies, and include links to relevant procedures and templates.