



**Consultation on Future Approaches to the
External Quality Enhancement of UK Higher
Education TNE**

**Response from the Chartered Association of
Business Schools and the British Academy of
Management**

3 January 2020

The original consultation documents are available at:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/consultation-on-uk-transnational-education-launched>

The Chartered Association of Business Schools represents business schools across the UK, and the British Academy of Management (BAM) is the leading authority on the academic field of business and management in the UK.

The Chartered ABS is the voice of the UK's business and management education sector and our members consist of 120 business schools and higher education providers across the UK, as well as affiliate stakeholders, corporate members and international partners.

As a learned society, BAM supports the community of scholars in the inter-disciplinary business and management field, and fosters engagement with our international peers. BAM has around 2,000 individual members, almost a quarter of whom are based outside of Britain, including world-renowned thought leaders and top academics in our field.

Information about you

Questions 1 to 6 referred to information about the responding organisations.

Section 1: Guiding principles

Question 7

To what extent do you agree that any quality enhancement system of TNE should retain a UK-wide approach?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Comment:

We are in agreement that any quality enhancement system of TNE should retain a UK-wide approach. While there should be some flexibility, recognising the variation in HE contexts that exist across the different countries where UK institutions provide TNE, it is important to have consistent and recognised standards across UK TNE to provide a clear marker of quality.

Question 8

To what extent do you agree that a quality enhancement system of UK HE TNE should be underpinned by the 11 guiding principles outlined above?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Comment:

We also note that the principle of ensuring the equivalence of student experience and outcomes between TNE and UK-based students is particularly important to the future success of UK HE TNE, ensuring that it is recognised and adopted more widely.

Section 2: Models for the continued improvement and quality enhancement of UK HE TNE

2A - Model 1: Reaffirming institutional and national enhancement arrangements

Question 9

To what extent do you agree that it will be possible to rely on existing national quality assurance and enhancement mechanisms, without complementary regular in-country reviews, in order to strengthen the international reputation of UK HE TNE?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Comment:

While there will need to be periodic reviews on a country by country basis, it should not be necessary to do this annually. Such a system of periodic review should be underpinned by robust reporting mechanisms that trigger reviews when the need arises.

Question 10

What additional measures, if any, could complement existing national quality enhancement mechanisms to underpin a robust and internationally-trusted quality enhancement approach to UK HE TNE?

Comment:

At this time, we do not believe additional measures are required, especially as many countries will have their own quality assurance systems, some of which may be more stringent than the UK's system.

Governance of Model 1

Question 11

Do you agree that there should be UK-wide sector-led oversight to ensure that existing national quality enhancement arrangements are, and remain, fit-for-purpose for TNE?

- yes
- no

Funding mechanism of Model 1

Question 12

To what extent do you agree that the costing of any eventual additional quality enhancement measure should be decided collectively by the sector on a case-by-case basis, and request an external organisation to cost and price those additional measures?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

2B - Model 2: Regular in-country quality enhancement

Question 13

To what extent do you agree a regular programme of in-country quality enhancement activity is needed in order to strengthen the international reputation of UK HE TNE?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Question 14

Do you agree that three countries/regions is an appropriate number of locations to be selected for quality enhancement activity normally each year? If you disagree, please indicate in your comments the number of locations that you would consider optimal.

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Comment:

The scale of TNE and the number of countries in which UK HE providers have arrangements probably means that the number of locations needs to be increased from what is proposed in the question, if meaningful quality enhancement is to be achieved.

Governance of Model 2

Question 15

If in-country reviews were retained, would there be a need for additional external oversight of the in-country review programme?

- yes
- no

Funding mechanism of Model 2

Question 16

To what extent do you agree that regular in-country quality enhancement of UK HE TNE should be a voluntary QAA Membership service?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Question 17

How do you think providers buying into the proposed voluntary QAA TNE membership scheme should be charged?

- through a **flat fee** where all providers pay the same
- through **differential fees** where providers pay different amounts depending on specific factors
- no opinion

Comment:

If a voluntary QAA TNE membership scheme were to be instituted, our preference would be for members to be charged differential fees. These differential fees should take into account the scale of the provider's provision, in terms of both the number of countries they operate in, and the number of students involved in their TNE programmes.

Question 18

If differential fees were charged, which of the following parameters should be considered to determine different fee bands? Please rate in order of importance, with 1 being the most important.

- TNE student numbers (2)
- number of TNE arrangements (1)
- number of countries of delivery (3)

- other

Question 19

Taking the example of three locations being selected for quality enhancement activity each year - each involving three peer-reviewers and a QAA Officer, and assuming that a significant majority of all degree-awarding bodies with TNE provision buy into the scheme - the annual fee per provider might range between £2,500 and £5,000. Would you agree that this is a reasonable and acceptable fee range for the service?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Question 20

To what extent do you agree that buying into this model of TNE quality enhancement should be associated with a mark or statement signifying the provider's commitment to enhancement of the quality of its TNE provision?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Comment:

Although kitemarks can be useful in signifying a commitment to quality, there is a risk that it will be largely overlooked amongst the plethora of already existing kitemarks within the HE sector.