Transnational education: the QAA experience of working across boundaries

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Content

- UK TNE definition
- Development and growth of UK TNE
- QAA TNE review activity
- China – case study
- Partnerships
- UK TNE consultation
UK transnational education (TNE)

**TNE: definition**

- TNE is the provision of higher education for students based in a country other than the one in which the awarding institution is located.

- UK TNE provision includes:
  - overseas branches
  - overseas partnerships
  - overseas distance learning (may involve in-country support centre)
Expansion: UK TNE statistics (2011-12)

- Over 120 (and rising) UK higher education institutions are now involved in some form of TNE
- Students study for UK awards in over 200 different countries
- Around 570,000 students studying overseas for UK awards (+13% on the previous year)
QAA TNE review activity
2012: QAA TNE review in China

- Conducted in co-operation with the China Academic Degrees & Graduate Development Centre
- Visited UK provider links in Beijing, Dalian, Kunming, Shanghai, Ningbo and Suzhou
- Four part approach:
  i) Survey
  ii) Desk-based studies
  iii) Review team visit
  iv) Outputs (reports)
Review outputs

- Range of reports
  - individual review reports
  - case studies
  - update on previous review
  - country overview report

- ‘The only example of data gathering of overseas provision collected in a systematic way was found to be the country reviews conducted by the UK’s QAA.’

- ‘The UK’s QAA approach to auditing the exports of UK providers is a good practice.’

Delivering Education Across Borders in the European Union (European Commission: July 2013)
# Partnerships and memberships

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<tr>
<th>Working with QAA international partners</th>
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<td>China Academic Degrees &amp; Graduate Development Centre</td>
<td>CDGDC China</td>
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<td>Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic &amp; Vocational Qualifications</td>
<td>HKCAAVQ Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Council for Private Education</td>
<td>CPE Singapore</td>
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<td>Knowledge and Human Development Authority</td>
<td>KHDA Dubai, UAE</td>
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<td>Malaysian Qualifications Agency</td>
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<td>National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation</td>
<td>NIAD-UE Japan</td>
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<td>Quality and Qualifications Ireland</td>
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<td>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</td>
<td>TEQSA Australia</td>
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UK TNE Consultation

- QAA and the Higher Education International Unit consultation on what is needed to strengthen the quality assurance of TNE proposed

- significantly strengthened risk-based element to focus resource and attention where most needed and

- possible models and mechanisms to demonstrate the commitment of individual UK TNE providers to:
  - high quality provision
  - protection of the UK sector’s high reputation.

*(International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity: page 46, paragraph 3.20)*
Frames of reference

- *European Standards & Guidelines*, which underpin standards across the signatory countries to the Bologna Process, within the European Higher Education Area


- Both the *European Standards & Guidelines* and the INQAAHE *Guidelines of Good Practice* stand as possible frameworks and reference points, for the future development of international standards