

Designation of a body to perform the assessment functions for higher education in England

Universities UK response

21 December 2017

Universities UK supports the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) expression of interest to be the designated quality body (DQB). The QAA can meet all the conditions required of the DQB. Universities UK is not aware of any other body that could meet the requirements. It is essential that the Office for Students (OfS) designates a quality body to carry out the relevant functions.

The quality body will play an important role in delivering the new regulatory framework. It is also essential that the OfS protects the independence and expertise of the designated body. The role of the DQB should give the sector confidence in the judgement of the OfS, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the new framework.

In the context of an increasingly competitive sector, the DQB must demonstrate its ongoing commitment to increasing efficiency and effectiveness, and reducing burden on higher education providers. This would include coordination with other sector bodies to avoid duplication. Universities UK expects to work with the DQB to meet these commitments when the DQB commences its work.

The voice of universities

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