CAN QUALITY ASSURANCE MEET STAKEHOLDER NEEDS? UK PERSPECTIVES

Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive
Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK

QAA

WHO ARE OUR STAKEHOLDERS?

- Higher education providers (growing in number and diversity)
- Students (‘at the heart of the system’)
- Governments (UK and international)
- Other sector agencies and representative bodies
- Employers and professional bodies
- The public

QAA

UK HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR: GROWTH & CHALLENGES

- Devolved governments and policy
- Increasing diversity of providers:
  - ‘Traditional’ higher education institutions
  - Further education colleges
  - Alternative/ private providers
- Growing public interest in the ‘impact of inputs on outcomes’
- Changing patterns of funding

QAA

QAA RESPONSES & INNOVATIONS

- *UK Quality Code* and common UK framework
- Risk-based approaches to quality assurance
- Student engagement:
  - In QAA's governance (Board)
  - QAA reviewers
  - Student-specific research
- Communicating with wider audiences and answering the 'big questions'

QAA

INTERNATIONALISATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 478,000 international students in UK (2012-13)
- Need for increased guidance and support
- *International Students Studying in the UK – Guidance for Higher Education Providers*

QAA

UK TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

- Students studying for UK awards in over 200 different countries
- 598,925 students (2012-13: +13% on the previous year)
- 78% of UK higher education institutions now involved in some form of TNE
- Current UK consultation on TNE quality assurance

QAA

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- International networks
- International partnerships:
  - Australia (TEQSA)
  - China (CDGDC)
  - Hong Kong (HKCAAVQ)
  - Ireland (QQI)
  - Japan (NIAD-UE)
  - Malaysia (MQA)
  - Singapore (CPE)
  - South Africa (CHE)
  - UAE (KHDA)

CASE STUDY: UK TNE REVIEW IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (2014)

- Focus on Dubai
- Two review teams:
  - Team 1: branch campuses of UK providers
  - Team 2: offshore delivery of Executive MBAs
- Close partnership with KHDA
- Report publication: late May

QAA

Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive
QAA

@AnthonyMcClaran
@QAAtweets
www.qaa.ac.uk

QAA