

M5. Regulation, accreditation and external quality assurance

1. Members should consider adopting the IHE Code of Governance as a benchmark against which to evaluate and develop their own governance framework and practices.
2. Members who provide regulated higher education in partnership with a UK Degree Awarding Body are expected to follow any guidance issued by IHE or others that the Board deems necessary for the effective assurance of the quality and standards of such provision.

Providers in England

3. Members who provide higher education in scope of regulation in England are expected:
 - to register with the Office for Students (OfS), if and when they become eligible to do so;
or
 - to be working towards such registration with the support of IHE;
or
 - to offer higher education in an effective partnership with one or more higher education provider registered with the OfS or regulated under the equivalent systems in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. This will usually be a UK Degree Awarding Body.
4. Members who provide higher education in England are expected to be members of the student complaints scheme administered by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), if and when they become eligible to do so.

Providers in Wales

5. Members who provide higher education in scope of regulation in Wales are expected:
 - to register with the Welsh Government via the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) for the designation of their courses, and in due course with the new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, if and when they become eligible to do so,
and
 - undergo the applicable method of review by QAA;
or
 - to be working towards such registration and review with the support of IHE;
or
 - to offer higher education in an effective partnership with one or more higher education provider registered with the OfS or regulated under the equivalent systems in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. This will usually be a UK Degree Awarding Body.
6. Members who provide higher education in Wales are expected to be members of the student complaints scheme administered by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), if and when they become eligible to do so.

Providers in Scotland

7. Members who provide higher education in scope of regulation in Scotland are expected:
 - to register with the Scottish Government via the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) for the designation of their courses, if and when they become eligible to do so,
and

- undergo the applicable method of review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA);
or
- to be working towards such registration and review with the support of IHE;
or
- to offer higher education in an effective partnership with one or more higher education provider registered with the OfS or regulated under the equivalent systems in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. This will usually be a UK Degree Awarding Body.

Providers in Northern Ireland

8. Members who provide higher education in scope of regulation in Northern Ireland are expected:
- to register with the Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland) for the designation of their courses, if and when they become eligible to do so,
and
 - undergo the applicable method of review by QAA;
or
 - to be working towards such registration and review with the support of IHE;
or
 - to offer higher education in an effective partnership with one or more higher education provider registered with the OfS or regulated under the equivalent systems in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. This will usually be a UK Degree Awarding Body.

Alternatives to regulation

9. Members who only provide higher education, professional training or pathway programmes deemed out of scope and hence ineligible for regulation in their home nation of the UK, or who are still in the process of working towards such regulation, may provide alternative evidence for the suitable accreditation or external quality assurance of their provision.
10. The suitability of different methods of accreditation, inspection, review and quality assurance for the purposes of IHE Membership, and the range of positive outcomes accepted as sufficient to meet the Conditions of Membership, will be kept under review and determined at the sole discretion of the Board.
11. Methods determined to be suitable currently are:
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA): various review methods
 - Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI): Private Further Education (PFE) inspection
 - Ofsted: further education and skills inspection
 - British Accreditation Council (BAC): various accreditation schemes
 - UK Degree Awarding Body: a current and effective partnership operating under a validation or subcontract agreement
 - Professional body accreditation, and specifically:
 - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
 - British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)

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- British Psychological Society (BPS)
 - General Osteopathic Council (GOC)
 - Royal Academy of Arts (RA)
 - Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
- For **study abroad** programmes only, accreditation by an overseas institution with recognised degree-awarding powers, these powers having been conferred by a recognised accrediting agency (this would normally be a national agency or, in the case of US institutions, an organisation recognised by the US Council for Higher Education Accreditation)
12. A provider which has not yet achieved OfS registration, the equivalent regulation in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, or a successful final outcome through another suitable method of accreditation or external quality assurance, will not meet the Conditions of Membership but may apply to be a subscriber to our Launchpad service.