

**Approval of the Application  
by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)  
for Inclusion on the Register**

Register Committee

Ref. RC15/A22

Ver. 1.0

Date 11/06/15

Page 1 / 3

Application of:	27/02/2015
External review report of:	July 2014
Review coordinated by:	ENQA
Review panel members:	Guy Haug (chair), Dionyssis Kladis, Vincent Wertz (academic), Daniel Derricott (student), Núria Comet (secretary)
Decision of:	4-5 June 2015
Registration until:	31 July 2019
Absented themselves from decision-making:	none

1. The application of 27/02/15 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee considered the external review report of July 2014 on the compliance of QQI with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)<sup>1</sup>.
3. The Register Committee found that the report provides clear evidence and analysis of how QQI complies with ESG.

Analysis:

4. In considering QQI's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee only took into account the activities within the scope of the ESG (i.e. quality assurance of higher education providers in universities, institutes of technology, Education and Training Boards and private bodies in higher education). **Activities related to the accreditation of non-tertiary education providers and recognition of qualifications are not within the scope of the ESG and, thus, pertinent to the application for inclusion on the Register.**
5. With regard to the specific European Standards and Guidelines, the Register Committee considered the following:  
 ESG 2.6: The review panel stated that QQI's follow-up activities are based on inherited procedures, established by its predecessors and the

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<sup>1</sup>The application was made before adoption of the 2015 version of the ESG. It has therefore been considered on the basis of the 2005 version of the ESG, and all references refer to that version.

monitoring procedures are dependent on the different types of evaluations. QQI engages in Annual Dialogue Meetings with higher education institutions that have degree awarding powers and it has introduced a new follow-up mechanism (*Provider Lifecycle of Engagements*) in case of initial validation of programmes for higher education providers that do not have their own awarding powers.

The Register Committee concurred with the analysis of the panel that QQI's current follow-up activities may have limited impact at least until the procedures have been fully developed and implemented.

ESG 2.8: While the Register Committee recognised that some efforts have been made as part of the development of a system wide analysis (report on "Review of Reviews", 2014), it concurred with the view of the review panel that these processes have not yet been completely developed.

The Register Committee concurred with the panel's statement that QQI should carry out further thematic and disciplinary analyses. The Register Committee has therefore flagged this matter for future review.

ESG 3.7: The panel found that higher education institutions are not familiar with QQI's appeal procedure. The Register Committee noted the panel's recommendations that additional and clearer information should be made available to higher education institutions in this respect.

ESG 3.8: The Register Committee concurred with the view that QQI's accountability procedures are not yet completely developed, and noted the panel's recommendation that QQI needs to complete the development of its internal quality assurance system. This matter has therefore been flagged.

## Register Committee

Ref. RC15/A22

Ver. 1.0

Date 11/06/15

Page 2 / 3

### Conclusion:

6. **Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that QQI complies substantially with the ESG and therefore approved the application for inclusion on the Register.**

**QQI's inclusion shall be valid until 31/07/2019<sup>2</sup>.**

7. **The Register Committee noted that – due to the recent merger – QQI still operates partially on the basis of the procedures established by its predecessors and is in the course of replacing those by its own procedures. The Register Committee underlined that QQI is expected to make (a) Substantive Change Report(s) as it finalises its own procedures and criteria.**
8. The following issues have been flagged for particular attention when considering a potential application for renewal of inclusion. QQI is

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<sup>2</sup> Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §4.1 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.

expected to address these issues specifically in its next self-evaluation report, setting out whether the issue has been resolved or indicating what progress has been made. QQI is further responsible for informing the coordinator of the next external review and the review panel of the need to address these issues in the external review report.

**ESG 2.8: System-wide analysis**

It should receive attention whether QQI has produced further system-wide analyses as required by the standard.

**ESG 3.8: Accountability procedures**

It should be addressed whether QQI has completed the development of its internal quality assurance system.

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**Ref.** RC15/A22

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**Page** 3 / 3