National University of Ireland
Quality Policy

Ollscoil na hÉireann
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May 2024

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1. Introduction

The National University of Ireland (NUI) is a federal university comprised of four constituent universities (all designated awarding bodies) and two recognised colleges (one a linked provider, the other a designated awarding body). NUI is responsible for ensuring that the quality of education and research programmes developed and delivered by the recognised colleges is comparable to that in the constituent universities.[1]

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Senate document is to articulate the quality and quality assurance and enhancement standards expected of NUI member institutions.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all NUI member institutions: constituent universities and recognised colleges, whether designated awarding bodies (DABs) or linked providers, and colleges associated with constituent universities.[2] This policy is intended to complement the suite of quality policies and procedures in member institutions, which will have a greater level of detail, specific to the identity and mission of the individual institution.

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1   This is the role of the NUI Administration but is also a statutory obligation in the case of the linked provider.

2   Additional policies, guidelines and regulations apply to recognised colleges and linked providers.

4. Principles

There are four core principles of this policy:

1. All member institutions share responsibility for the upholding of NUI quality standards and the reputation of the federal university.

2. All member institutions will develop and maintain quality assurance policies and procedures that align with European and Irish standards for higher education providers.

3. All member institutions will undergo relevant external institutional review in accordance with statutory requirements. In the case of DABs, this will be arranged by QQI. In the case of linked providers, external review will be arranged by NUI. Colleges associated with NUI constituent universities will have external reviews arranged by the relevant constituent university.

4. All member institutions will develop and maintain quality assurance policies and procedures that align with applicable NUI policies, regulations and guidelines, as agreed by NUI Senate.[3]

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3   Different policies, regulations and guidelines apply to different types of member institution. Please see the table in Appendix B for further details.

Appendix A – Sample Relevant Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

European Guidelines

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). (2015) Brussels, Belgium.

Irish Legislation

Higher Education Act, 2022

Irish Universities Act, 1908

Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012

Universities Act, 1997

Statutory Guidelines

QQI (2016) *Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI for Use by all Providers*.

QQI (2016) *Sector-Specific Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI for Designated Awarding Bodies*.

QQI (2017) *Topic-specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI for Providers of Research Degree Programmes*.

QQI (2023) *Topic Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended and Fully Online Programmes*.

Appendix B – Relevant NUI Quality Documents

The table below indicates which NUI quality policies, regulations and guidelines apply to each of the member institution types:
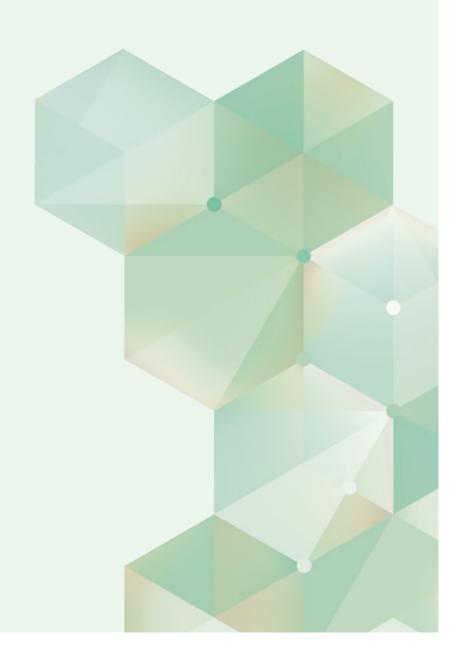
1. Designated awarding body that is a constituent university of NUI – DAB-CU

2. Designated awarding body that is a recognised college of NUI – DAB-RC

3. Linked provider that is a recognised college of NUI – LP-RC.

Document Title	DAB-CU	DAB-RC	LP-RC
National University of Ireland Grade Descriptors (under review)	•	•	•
NUI Extern Examiners: Primary Degree and Taught Postgraduate Courses in NUI Constituent Universities	•		
NUI Extern Examiners: Primary Degree and Taught Postgraduate Courses in NUI Recognised Colleges		•	•
Policy in Relation to the Usage of Titles of Degrees and Other Qualifications	•	•	•
Guidelines for the Institutional Review of Quality Assurance Effectiveness at Recognised Colleges that are Linked Providers of the NUI			•
Policy and Procedures for the Approval of Quality Assurance Procedures in the Recognised Colleges			•
Human Rights Principles and Code of Conduct for the National University of Ireland and its Member Institutions (under review)	•	•	•
Recognition of Prior Learning (under review)	•	•	•

Document Title	DAB-CU	DAB-RC	LP-RC
Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges		•	•
Policy, Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Research Degrees in the Recognised Colleges		•	•
Guidelines, Criteria and Procedures for the Periodic Review of Programmes Leading to NUI Degrees and Other Qualifications in the Recognised Colleges			•
Quality Assurance for Collaborative and Transnational Provision of Academic Programmes Leading to NUI Qualifications (under review)			•

All policies are approved by NUI Senate and subject to revision and replacement. New policies may be added at the direction of NUI Senate.

All policies can be found on the NUI website: *https://www.nui.ie/about/gvrnce.asp*.