

2 Sept 2024

Dear colleague

I hope this finds you well and ready for the start of the new academic year.

Following the update we sent in July, I'm pleased to say that our contract with The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has now begun.

### **Approval and modification requests**

QAA are progressing their arrangements to begin undertaking approval and major modification activity this autumn. They are actively recruiting and selecting visitors. This means they will begin confirming event dates with individual approved education institutions (AEIs) over the next few weeks.

QAA have been in contact with those AEIs who have requested events between now and the end of December 2024. They will be in touch with those of you who have submitted a request with preferred choice of dates from January 2025 in due course, after the first tranche of events have been arranged.

We would like to thank everyone who has submitted an event request, for your patience while we support QAA with putting in place the necessary preparations to deliver these.

### **NMC Framework**

As we previously indicated, we have taken the opportunity to refresh our EdQA framework ahead of the new academic year. The framework sets out our overall strategic approach to EdQA activity.

The content has not significantly changed; we have condensed the introduction, corrected some sections that were out of date, and updated the design of the document in line with our visual identity. The framework will be kept under regular review.

You can view the refreshed framework [on our website](#).

We have also taken the opportunity to update the navigation of our EdQA webpages. This is based on feedback we received about the accessibility and usability of the webpages. The webpages will continue to be updated over the coming weeks.

### **Mott MacDonald**

We'd once again like to thank Mott MacDonald and all QA visitors who undertook activity on our behalf for their valuable service and support over the years. Mott MacDonald will be completing all outstanding EdQA reports by the end of September.

## **QAA website and handbook**

QAA's website is now also live: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/nmc>

As part of our future ways of working with QAA, the existing NMC handbook will be replaced by QAA's own version of the handbook. This will set out QAA's operational approach to undertaking EdQA reviews and assessments on our behalf.

QAA will operate in line with our framework and follow our agreed approach – the gateway approach has not changed and the evidence we require remains the same.

QAA are running two sessions later this week to give you the opportunity to hear about their initial plans and feedback any comments that they can take into account in the development of their approach. This approach includes some changes which we hope will positively enhance the EdQA experience, including the introduction of a dedicated QAA officer contact for AEIs to provide support and consistency of approach.

Please note the sessions this week will be led by QAA and will focus on their processes as our independent QA service provider, not the NMC's framework or overall approach to EdQA.

You can sign up for QAA's sessions here:

[4 Sept 14:30-16:00](#)

[5 Sept 11:30-13:00](#)

Throughout September we will be supporting QAA's onboarding and readiness to undertake the urgent pending approval and modification activity. We will be arranging a wider introductory session hosted jointly by the NMC and QAA in October. More details of this will follow.

## **Pre-2022 post-registration programme approval now withdrawn**

Lastly, following our previous reminders, we wanted to confirm that the pre-2022 post-registration (SCPHN and community SPQ) standards have now been withdrawn.

From now, all new post-registration students enrolling onto a post-registration programme will start a programme approved against the 2022 SCPHN standards or the 2022 Community nursing SPQ standards.

Students on existing programmes can still complete the programme they started. The process for uploading these students to the NMC database will be slightly different. Please contact the NMC QA team before you plan to make the upload, we will update the system to facilitate this, and you will then have five working days to do so.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about any of these updates, please contact our QA team: [QAteam@nmc-uk.org](mailto:QAteam@nmc-uk.org).

Kind regards,  
The NMC QA Team