



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

between

**the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education  
Gloucester, United Kingdom**

and

**the Higher Education and Training Awards Council  
Dublin, Ireland**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, of Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, United Kingdom, hereafter referred to as QAA

and

The Higher Education and Training Awards Council of 26-27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland, hereafter referred to as HETAC.

### **Recitals**

#### **Whereas:**

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications and for informing and encouraging continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom;

HETAC was established in 2001 under the provisions of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999 as the qualifications awarding body for third level educational and training organisations outside of the University sector in Ireland;

#### **QAA and HETAC**

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, now wish to establish closer relations as equal partners for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties;

## **Article I**

### **Aims of Memorandum of Understanding**

HETAC and QAA agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

## **Article II**

### **Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration**

HETAC and QAA will work together:

- a to exchange information and expertise as appropriate. This will include:
  - key policy documents and operational information where appropriate and in particular where they relate to provision provided by higher education institutions from both countries jointly
  - information on programmes of study and institutions in which each party has an interest, subject to any overriding requirements of confidentiality to which either party may be subject
  - information on review or other activity that relates to awards provided by higher education institutions from both countries only
- b to cooperate in the identification of fraudulent awarding bodies or accrediting agencies which may adversely affect the reputation of higher education awards and institutions in the United Kingdom and Ireland
- c to provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for staff of both parties
- d to collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit
- e to cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties.

## **Article III**

### **Duration of Memorandum**

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

## **Article IV**

### **Alteration of Memorandum**

This memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

## Article V

### Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of HETAC (at the time of signing Mr Séamus Puirseil) and the Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Peter Williams) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

## Article VI

### Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

## Article VII

### Schedule of projects and activities

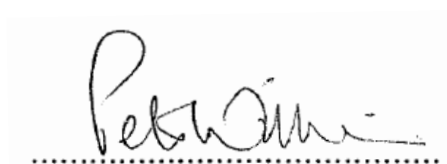
Any projects or other activities that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum will be described in administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Signed in Glasgow on 6 June 2006



Séamus Puirseil

Chief Executive  
HETAC  
Ireland



Peter Williams

Chief Executive  
QAA  
United Kingdom