

King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework

Lead staff member:	CEO
Date of first approval	
Name of approval body:	Council
Frequency of review:	3 years
Next review date:	

Revision No.	Details of change/s	Date
01		
02		

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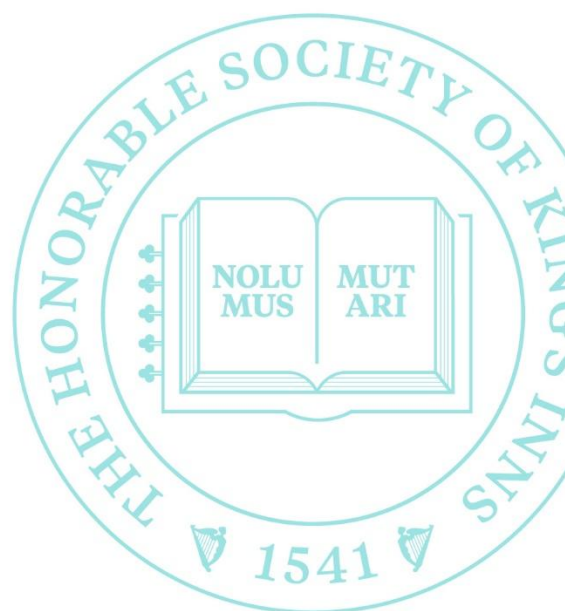
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1. Introduction

King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework documents the context and overarching principles for the development and implementation of quality assurance policies and procedures at King's Inns. King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework sets out principles and standards for developing and then ensuring a quality culture across all the activities of King's Inns School of Law.

2. Quality Assurance in Education and Training

In the field of education and training, quality assurance (QA) refers to an ongoing, continuous process of monitoring, evaluating, maintaining and enhancing the quality of an education system, institution or programme. Quality includes teaching, opportunities for learning, assessment, qualifications standards, the design and delivery of programmes, accreditation and certification of learners, and learning environments. QA processes promote accountability, openness and transparency. They also help to ensure that, at the end of a programme of study or training, the qualification awarded to a learner is credible and trustworthy (www.qqi.ie).

The level of complexity of QA policies and procedures is influenced by the education provider's context, overall goals, size, as well as its external responsibilities (to regulators and statutory professional bodies and other national requirements) (QQI, 2016).

A successful QA system will be efficient, well communicated and integrated into the normal activities of the provider. External quality assurance has the same broad goals as provider-owned quality assurance, but the objectives are achieved through establishing national or international guidelines to inform provider-owned quality assurance (QQI, 2016).

A quality culture is the outcome of individual staff and collective organisational commitment to quality enhancement and continuous improvement. In such a system QA policies and procedures are not seen as a bureaucratic burden but as tools to drive continuous improvement.

3. Legal and Regulatory Context

3.1 National Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines

[*QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines*](#) (2016) outlines the core statutory quality assurance guidelines established by QQI for providers of higher and further education and training. These guidelines are to be used by providers when designing, establishing, evaluating, maintaining, renewing and reviewing their quality assurance policies and procedures. The Core Guidelines should be considered in conjunction with QQI's sector and topic specific QA guidelines as appropriate.

[*Topic Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Listed Awarding Bodies engaging with QQI on a voluntary basis*](#) (2024) provide sector-specific, quality assurance guidelines for listed awarding bodies (LABs) to supplement the *Core Statutory*

Quality Assurance Guidelines which are applicable to all providers. A LAB is an awarding body that does not have statutory awarding powers in the State and voluntarily seeks to have their awards included within the National Framework of Qualifications.

[QQI Policy, Core Policies and Criteria for the Establishment of Listed Awarding Bodies](#) (2024).

[QQI Policy Core Policies and Criteria for the Inclusion of Awards within the Framework](#) (2024).

3.2 European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance

[Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of European Higher Education](#) (ESG) were adopted by the Ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area in May 2015. The ESG are a set of standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance in higher education. The ESG are not standards for quality, nor do they prescribe how the quality assurance processes are implemented, but they provide guidance, covering the areas which are vital for successful quality provision and learning environments in higher education.

3.3 Professional Regulatory Body

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) is the independent regulator responsible for regulating the provision of legal services by both barristers and solicitor and to ensure that standards are maintained and improved, under the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

4. King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework

King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework is the documented infrastructure of policies, procedures, guidelines, forms and handbooks that informs and supports decision-making and day-to-day activity at King's Inns. The *King's Inns Quality Assurance Manual* is the main reference point for all QA policies and procedures. The *King's Inns Quality Assurance Manual* is published on the King's Inns website.

5. Principles underpinning the development of policies and procedures

When developing, monitoring and reviewing QA policies and procedures, we will be:

5.1 Learner-centred

We will consider the needs and experiences of the learners and require good practice in all aspects of teaching and learning and support a learner centred environment.

5.2 Benchmarked

We will ensure the King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework is benchmarked against National and European quality assurance guidelines for higher education.

5.3 Our standards

We will ensure that our policies and procedures are:

- documented in accordance with the King's Inns Policy on Developing Policies
- written in readable, plain English and clearly laid out in a standard format
- binding on everyone to whom they apply
- realistic, relevant and implementable
- consistent with other policies and procedures of the framework
- owned by a named responsible person
- formally adopted by Council on the recommendation of Standing Committee. Policies relating to the School of Law will be reviewed in the first instance by the Education Committee before being recommended to Standing Committee
- transparent – policies will be published on the website
- periodically reviewed - each policy or procedure must have a clear schedule for review at least every 3 years.

6. Policy areas to be developed

The policy areas to be addressed, at a minimum, are set out in Appendix 1.

7. Responsibility for the Quality Assurance Framework

The Council of King's Inns is ultimately responsible for the development, approval, monitoring and review of the policies, procedures and other elements of the King's Inns Quality Assurance Framework.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) is responsible for ensuring the ongoing, continuous process of monitoring, evaluating, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the programmes and the quality of education provision at King's Inns. Each QA policy has a named 'owner' who is a member of the SMT. The owner is responsible for implementation, monitoring and review of said policy.

The School of Law Faculty Board is responsible for overseeing and assuring the quality and standards of academic matters.

All members of the King's Inns community have responsibility for implementation the Quality Assurance Framework in their respective work and studies.

8. Monitoring and Review of the Framework

The CEO is responsible for monitoring and review of the Framework, ensuring that all associated documents are updated and current, and that the policy is reviewed as required.

The Framework will be reviewed every three years from the date of first approval unless changes are required owing to legal, statutory and/or organisational change.

All changes to the Framework will be approved by Council on the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

9. Associated Documents

[*QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines*](#) (2016)

[*Topic Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Listed Awarding Bodies engaging with QQI on a voluntary basis*](#) (2024)

[*QQI Policy Core Policies and Criteria for the Inclusion of Awards within the Framework*](#) (2024).

[*Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of European Higher Education*](#) (ESG) (2015)

10. Referenced Policies

- Policy on Developing Policies.

APPENDIX 1

QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines, 2016

1. Governance and Management of Quality

- 1.1 Governance
- 1.2 Management of quality assurance
- 1.3 Embedding a quality culture

2. Documented approach to Quality Assurance

- 2.1 Documented policies and procedures
- 2.2 A comprehensive system

3. Programmes of Education and Training

- 3.1 Programme development and approval
- 3.2 Learner admission, progression and recognition
- 3.3 Programme monitoring and review
- 3.4 Protection for enrolled learners

4. Staff Recruitment, Management and Development

- 4.1 Staff recruitment
- 4.2 Staff communication
- 4.3 Staff development

5. Teaching and Learning

- 5.1 Teaching and Learning
- 5.2 A provider environment that promotes learning
- 5.3 National and international effective practice
- 5.4 Learning environment

6. Assessment of Learner Achievement – General Guidelines

- 6.1 Assessment of Learning Achievement

7. Supports for Learners

- 7.1 Supports for Learners

8. Management Information and Data

- 8.1 Information Systems
- 8.2 Learner information systems
- 8.3 Management information system

8.4 Information for further planning

8.5 Completion rates

8.6 Records maintenance and retention

8.7 Data protection and freedom of information

9. Public Information and Communication

9.1 Public Information

9.2 Learner information

9.3 Publication of quality assurance evaluation reports

10. Other parties involved in Education and Training

10.1 Peer relationships with the broader education and training community

10.2 External partnerships and second providers

10.3 Expert panellists, examiners and authenticators

11. Self-Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

11.1 Provider owned internal review, self-evaluation and monitoring

11.2 Internal self-monitoring

11.3 Self-evaluation, improvement and enhancement

11.4 Provider-owned quality assurance engages with external quality assurance

QQI (2016). [Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines](#)

This document outlines core statutory quality assurance guidelines established by QQI for providers of higher, further and English language education and training.

QQI (2016). [QQI Policy on Quality Assurance Guidelines](#)

This policy sets out the approach to the development and organisation of the statutory QA guidelines issues by QQI under section 27(1) of the 2012 Act.

Mapping QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines (2016) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), 2015

QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines, 2016		Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), 2015	
1	Governance and Management of Quality	2	Policy for Quality Assurance
2	Documented approach to Quality Assurance	1 10	Policy for Quality Assurance Cyclical external Quality Assurance
3	Programmes of Education and Training	2 4	Design and approval of programmes Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
4	Staff Recruitment, Management and Development	5	Teaching staff
5	Teaching and Learning	3	Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
6	Assessment of Learner Achievement – general guidelines	3	Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
7	Supports for Learners	6	Learning resources and student support
8	Information and Data Management	7	Information management
9	Public Information and Communication	8	Public information
10	Other parties involved in Education and Training		
11	Self-Evaluation, Monitoring and Review	9	On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes

ESG (2015). [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area](#). European Higher Education Area