

QAA Subject Benchmark Update

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) publishes benchmark statements setting out expectations about standards of degrees in a range of subject disciplines. The benchmark statements are a key reference point in programme development and review.

The QAA are in the process of producing new and revised benchmark statements for some subjects. They are invite stakeholders to contribute to the revision process for existing statements; a schedule outlining the phases of the review has been published.

This paper outlines details of the:

- Publication of new and updated Characteristics Statements and Benchmark Statements
- Current consultations and Benchmark Statements undergoing review during the next year

Recommended Action

Education & Student Committee is asked to:

- a) **note** the publication of new and revised Characteristic Statements and Benchmark Statements
- b) **note** the QAA's current consultations and proposed subject areas for review in the next year
- c) **note** the QAA's invitation for stakeholders to engage with the review of benchmark statements

NEW AND REVISED CHARACTERISTICS STATEMENTS

- **Doctoral Degrees**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2975#.VkDQ4CtKYsT>

The QAA have also published *The UK doctorate: a guide for current and prospective doctoral candidates* jointly with the NUS:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Doctorate-guide.pdf>

- **Masters Degrees**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VkDSWytKYsQ>

- **Foundation Degrees**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2976#.VkDTVctKYsQ>

- **Qualifications Involving More Than One Degree-Awarding Body**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2984#.VkDMXrFFC70> and

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/newsroom/what-happens-when-universities-jointly-award-a-degree#.VkDNKLFFC71>

REVISED SUBJECT BENCHMARK STATEMENTS 2015

- **Linguistics**

http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2983#.VkDN_rFFC70

- **Optometry**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2981#.VkDONbFFC70>

- **Languages, Cultures and Societies**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2982#.VkDOjrFFC70>

CONSULTATIONS ON REVISIONS TO EXISTING BENCHMARK STATEMENTS

- **Creative Writing**: draft for consultation open until 23 November 2015

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2986#.VkDPICtKYsQ>

- **Social Policy**: draft for consultation open until 23 November 2015

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2985#.VkDPTitKYsQ>

Subject Benchmark Statement Review 2013-16 – Phase 3 from July 2015 to July 2016

QAA seek feedback from users of Benchmark Statements and others with an interest in higher education - feedback about any aspect which needs updating in individual Statements can be sent to via their [contact us form](#). Any feedback received will be taken into consideration when deciding how individual Statements need to be revised. Development of new Statements will continue during the course of the review.

During the course of the review process, QAA will contact professional, statutory and regulatory bodies along with any subject associations and networks with an invitation to be involved in the review of the relevant Benchmark Statement. If you would like to signal a particular interest in this, please send contact details to the address above.

Phase 3 includes the review of following Benchmark Statements:

- Communication, media, film and cultural studies
- Construction, property and surveying
- Health studies
- Materials
- Music
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology