



Quality Committee	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday 12 March 2026   14.00 – 16.00   Trinity Boardroom
<b>Present</b>	Professor Orla Sheils, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (Chair); Ms. Patricia Maguire, Academic Secretary; Professor Vincent Wade, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies; Professor Sylvia Draper, Dean STEM; Professor Carmel O’Sullivan, AHSS Dean; Dr. Michael Cleary-Gaffney, Interim Quality Officer; Ms. Breda Walls, Director of Student Services (nominee of the Chief Operating Officer); Prof. David O’Regan, STEM Representative; Dr Cormac Kennedy, FHS Representative; Prof Graeme Watson, Head of School Representative; Mr. Patrick Magee, Director, IT Services (CSD delegate); Ms. Anne Marie O Mullane, Deputy Secretary, Secretary’s Office; Mr Noel Gorman, COO.
<b>Apologies</b>	Ms Jessie Kurtz, Deputy Librarian; Ms Victoria Butler, Secretary to the College/Director of Governance; Dr David Fennelly, AHSS Representative; Mr Buster Whaley, Education Officer, Trinity Students' Union; Professor Brian O’Connell, HS Dean.
<b>Vacancies</b>	External Member; Chief Risk Officer; Graduate Student Representative
<b>Visitor/In - attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor Gillian Wylie and Mr. Martin Humphreys for <b>QC/25-26/031</b> <i>Quality Review Report – School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies</i></li> <li>Professor Sven Vanneste and Ms Michelle Le Good for <b>QC/25-26/032</b> <i>Quality Progress Report – School of Psychology</i></li> <li>Professor Deborah Kelleher for <b>QC/25-26/033</b> <i>Institutional Quality Progress Report – Royal Irish Academy of Music</i></li> <li>Professor Richard Porter for <b>QC/25-26/035</b> <i>PGR StudentSurvey.ie 2025 Institutional Findings Report</i></li> </ul>

Agenda item		
	Key points arising from discussion	Actions/Decisions
<b>QC/25-26/029</b> Quality Committee Minutes		<b>Decision</b> <b>029.01</b> The QC minutes of the 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved.



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Agenda item		
	Key points arising from discussion	Actions/Decisions
<p><b>QC/25-26/030</b> Matters Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>The following items were approved by Council on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/017</b> Quality Implementation Plan – School of Social Science and Philosophy</li> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/018</b> Quality Review Report – School of Mathematics</li> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/019</b> Quality Implementation Plan – School of Engineering</li> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/025</b> Quality Implementation Plan – School of Linguistics, Speech and Communication Sciences</li> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/026</b> Marino Institute of Education Academic Policies</li> <li>• <b>QC/25-26/027</b> Annual Quality Report to QQI</li> </ul>	
<p><b>QC/25-26/031</b> Quality Review Report – School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies (SRTPS).</p>	<p>The Head of School, Professor Gillian Wylie and the School Manager Mr Martin Humphreys, presented the findings of the Quality Review Report and the School’s response.</p> <p>The Head of School noted that the School has undergone significant structural change since the previous review in 2017, resulting in the consolidation of three units into a single School with one undergraduate programme and unified budget arrangements. The Review Team commended the School’s implementation of recommendations arising from the 2017 review. The Review Team commended the School’s commitment to student learning, research activity, and community engagement.</p> <p>The key recommendations of the Review Panel were noted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a School Research Strategy</li> <li>• Streamlining of academic administrative processes to support research and teaching</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decision</b> <b>031.01</b> The Quality Committee recommend School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies Quality Review Report dated 05<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Council for approval.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of religious studies teaching and research provision</li> <li>• Enable students to study relevant ancient languages</li> </ul> <p>Additional suggestions from the Review Team were noted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of micro-credentials</li> <li>• Increasing student numbers on the Belfast MPhil programme</li> <li>• Adoption of a 10-year strategic plan, including associated long-term budget planning</li> </ul> <p>The Head of School noted that the School will commence development of an implementation plan to address the Review recommendations with an emphasis on long-term strategic planning. The School noted the challenges associated with balancing administrative, teaching, and research responsibilities within a small School.</p> <p>The AHSS Dean noted that, at Faculty level, there will be engagement with the School on financial planning and that there are opportunities for growth and new programme development. The VP/CAO advised that the Planning Group will develop templates to support succession planning, staff planning, budget management, and space planning. The VP/CAO commended the School for its positive engagement with the Review process.</p>	
<b>QC/25-26/032</b> Quality Progress Report – School of Psychology	The Head of School, Professor Sven Vanneste and the School Manager, Ms Michelle Le Good presented the Quality Progress Report for the School of Psychology.	<b>Decision</b> <b>032.01</b> The Quality Committee recommended



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	<p>The Head of School highlighted that the School has developed and implemented a Workload Allocation Model (WAM). Annual meetings are held between academic staff and the Head of School to review and adjust workload. The WAM has supported the allocation of supervision in response to increased student numbers. The School's EEDI Committee is exploring further enhancements to the model. It was noted that the WAM has been shared with, and implemented by, other Schools across the Faculty.</p> <p>To improve resilience and efficiency in postgraduate taught (PGT) provision, the School reorganised its programmes to enable increased co-teaching across programmes. Growth in PGT student numbers has enabled the recruitment of two academic staff posts. The Dean of Graduate Studies commended the School's work to ensure that programmes were no longer vulnerable to staffing levels.</p> <p>The School is accommodated across multiple sites. To enhance cohesion, the School has introduced social events following School meetings, an Away Day, and a research day. A fund is being established to support cross-TRC research collaboration. The Head of School noted ongoing challenges relating to the retention of Professional Staff. It was noted that Trinity Research Centres (TRCs) hosted within the School have been reorganised. All TRCs now have a strategy in place and have updated their websites.</p> <p>The Head of School has engaged with HR to amend contracts so that the role of Course Director rotates rather than being assigned to an individual staff member. It was noted that those that hold the position of Chair within the School are now engaged in School governance and academic administration roles. The School has set an objective to</p>	<p>the School of Psychology Progress Report, dated 05<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Council for approval.</p>



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	<p>achieve an Athena Swan Gold award. The Head of School reported that the School is exploring ways to better integrate postdoctoral researchers into the School and the College. It was suggested that postdoctoral researchers be invited to participate in School and College committees, where appropriate.</p> <p>The VP/CAO commended colleagues within the School for their progress in addressing the recommendations, noting that many recommendations had been completed or were in progress. Members noted the significant progress made by the School. It was suggested that examples of good practice be shared with other Schools. It was noted that structural and organisational matters are shared through the School Managers Forum.</p>	
<p><b>QC/25-26/033</b>            Institutional Quality Progress Report            – Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM)</p>	<p>The Director RIAM, Professor Deborah Kelleher presented an update on the RIAM Institutional Quality Progress Report.</p> <p>The Director provided an update to three recommendations that are currently in progress.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Student-Centred Learning, Assessment and Feedback</b></p> <p>RIAM is revising its master’s programme and using this as an opportunity to embed a more intentional, student-centred approach to assessment and feedback, drawing on Universal Design for Learning and Tuning-Calohex guidelines for alignment between learning outcomes, assessment, and professional expectations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Research Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>Decision</b>  <b>033.01</b> The Quality Committee recommended the Royal Irish Academy of Music Institutional Quality Progress Report, dated 05<sup>th</sup> March 2026, to Council for approval.</p>



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	<p>RIAM is developing a research strategy to further embed research activity within the institution. Emerging themes within the draft strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talent Development Education</li> <li>• Artistic Citizenship</li> <li>• Contemporary Creative Practice</li> <li>• Heritage and Interpretation</li> <li>• </li> </ul> <p>It was noted that these themes represent areas of strategic focus for RIAM. The Director reported that RIAM’s relationship with Trinity had been identified externally as a significant strength. The draft research strategy will be shared with Trinity through the Associated College Degrees Committee to obtain feedback.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. CPD for Teaching Staff</b></p> <p>RIAM is developing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework for teaching staff as part of its institutional strategy. The proposed CPD will provide protected time for staff participation and support the development of shared approaches to pedagogy and research-led teaching. It is proposed that participation in CPD will be linked to performance review processes.</p> <p>Members commended RIAM’s ambition and its thoughtful and focused approach to implementing the Quality Review recommendations. Members also commended RIAM for its strategic planning to strengthen its institutional profile.</p>	
QC/25-26/034	The Interim Quality Officer advised that RIAM was seeking approval for minor amendments to the following existing policies:	<b>Decision</b>



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Royal Irish Academy of Music – Academic Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admission and Transfer Policy and Procedure</li> <li>• Doctoral Studies Policy and Procedure</li> <li>• Student Code of Conduct</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the proposed changes relate to RIAM’s right to refuse admission or rescind an offer of admission. The proposed wording is taken verbatim from Trinity’s Admission and Transfer Policy, approved in August 2025.</p> <p>Members noted that, in relation to the proposed amendment to the Student Code of Conduct (Section 7: Impact on Admission and Progression), it was unclear whether the student’s right to appeal applied to progressing RIAM students or to applicants seeking admission.</p> <p>Members agreed that RIAM revise the draft amendment to clarify that:  “Students will be entitled to have any decision relating to progression reviewed under the Academy’s appeals process.”</p>	<p><b>034.01</b> The Quality Committee recommended the <i>Admission and Transfer Policy and Procedure</i> and the <i>Doctoral Studies Policy and Procedure</i> to Council for approval.</p> <p><b>034.02</b> The Quality Committee granted conditional approval of the Student Code of Conduct, subject to the identified amendment being made prior to submission to Council.</p>
<b>QC/25-26/035</b> PGR StudentSurvey.ie 2025 Institutional Findings Report	<p>Professor Richard Porter presented an overview of the key findings of the PGR StudentSurvey.ie 2025 Institutional Findings Report.</p> <p>Key findings included that 73% of students were satisfied with their research experience, and 83% were confident about completing their research degree. Compared to the 2023 survey, scores for development opportunities have risen, especially in skills attainment and career development. Scores related to research culture and work-life balance have also improved overall.</p>	<p><b>Decision</b></p> <p><b>035.01</b> The Quality Committee recommended the PGR StudentSurvey.ie 2025 Institutional Findings Report, to Council for approval.</p>



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	<p>Members discussed a number of areas for further consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relatively modest results regarding perceptions that the institution values and responds to student feedback</li><li>• the need for a more formal annual mechanism for obtaining feedback from postgraduate research students.</li><li>• the possibility of using annual review/check-in structures more intentionally for this purpose</li><li>• induction and onboarding, where members felt a more distributed, year-long approach may work better than a single concentrated orientation session</li><li>• the importance of clearly communicating back to students how their feedback has informed changes</li><li>• the possible value of sharing School-level data, with appropriate caution about small sample sizes.</li></ul>	<p><b>Action</b> <b>035.02</b> The Quality Office will share school-specific data to each School.</p>
<b>QC/25-26/036</b> <b>Any Other Business</b>	Nil	