Quality Policy Statement

1. Context
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (herein referred to as Trinity) is Ireland’s highest ranked University, recognised for academic excellence and offering a transformative student experience. A commitment to quality and excellence imbues Trinity’s strategies’ and informs decisions on investment in education and research, in teaching and learning facilities and in partnerships that progress our academic mission.

Quality is recognised as a determinant of higher education choices in an increasingly competitive global education market. Trinity is actively engaged in policy and discourse to enhance the quality of higher education as a member of LERU (League of European Research Universities); the Coimbra Group of Universities, the European University Association, and the Irish Universities Association. A feature of Trinity’s reach nationally, in Europe, and globally is its participation in a range of quality reviews, professional and statutory accreditation, professional registration bodies, voluntary quality accreditation of education programmes, service awards, the Athena Swan Charter, and World University Rankings (QS, Times Higher Education and Shanghai).

2. Governance of Quality

“We are a self-governing corporation, accountable to diverse stakeholders, operating transparently and with integrity. We value autonomy with accountability as the best way to advance our mission in education and research for the public good.” Strategic Plan, 2014-19


The College Board is the governing authority of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. The University Council is the academic council of the University. Board and Council are bound by the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and the University of Dublin (updated
November 2017) and are supported in the exercise of their functions by a number of principal committees of Board, academic committees of Council, and compliance committees of both Board and Council.

A compliance committee of both Board and Council, the Quality Committee has regard to the Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Act 2012, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2015) and associated policies, guidelines and codes, and advises and makes recommendations as appropriate to the College Board and the University Council.

These include advising on the development, evaluation and promotion of quality assurance policies and procedures with respect to teaching and learning, research and administration, as well as collaborative arrangements with Linked Provider\(^1\) institutions in Ireland and transnational education partnerships overseas.

The Framework for Quality in Trinity reflects the current quality assurance and enhancement processes, and demonstrates the governance bodies responsible for the reporting and oversight of quality. It is regularly reviewed to ensure alignment with national and international guidelines and good practice, and to identify the need for policy/procedure development or enhancement.

Trinity is required to have regard to the QQI Act 2012, and associated quality assurance guidelines, policies and codes in the design of its internal quality assurance procedures. These procedures are also informed by national and sectoral policy directions and frameworks, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and related agreements on: European Credit Transfer System, Recognition of Foreign Qualifications, Student Mobility and the Bologna Process.

Trinity’s Linked Providers are responsible as separate legal entities for their own internal quality assurance procedures. Trinity as a Designated Awarding Body is required to approve Linked Provider Quality Assurance Procedures under §33.1 of the QQI Act 2012. The College Policy on Approval of Linked Providers Quality Assurance Procedures, outlines the respective roles and

\(^1\) Linked Providers are non-awarding bodies who enter into arrangements with Designated Awarding Bodies governing full or part provision of programmes of education, training or research leading to Awards.
responsibilities for quality assurance of academic and non-academic procedures which fall within
the legal and corporate responsibility of the Linked Provider as separate legal entities and the
statutory compliance of those procedures. Following the initial approval process, Trinity is required
to conduct a review of effectiveness of those procedures under §32 of the Act; and thereafter a
review on a seven year cycle as outlined under §28 (5) of the Act. Trinity has in place a Linked
Provider Appeal Procedure that outlines the procedure in the event that Trinity withdraws
recognition of a Linked Providers’ quality assurance procedures.

Trinity’s Global Relations Strategy commits to increasing strategic partnerships with a range of
diverse international institutions and to increasing student mobility. Quality underpins these
partnerships and arrangements, and the University Council has established academic policies and
processes to ensure the quality of international education arrangements: Non-EU Collaborative and
Transnational Education Partnerships; Dual & Joint Awards Policy and International Partnership
Toolkit. Quality assurance arrangements are outlined under individual Memoranda of
Understanding including the requirement for a quality review of the programme or Award in
compliance with Trinity’s quality assurance procedures and the QQI Act 2012. Trinity has regard to
the Code of Practice for provision of programmes of education and training to international
learners in the quality assurance of transnational education programmes.

3. Engagement in Quality
Trinity’s commitment to student engagement as partners in quality assurance and enhancement
processes is expressed in the Student Partnership Policy and through the representative roles
students have on College Committees as Student Union Officers, as Faculty Convenors, or Year and
Class representatives. Trinity participates in the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) and the
International Student Barometer (ISB) Survey that allow benchmarking of student engagement and
of the student experience with other Higher Education Institutions, nationally and internationally.

Trinity is committed to engaging external perspectives on the assurance and enhancement of the
quality of our education and research and, as such, invites alumni, employers, collaborative
partners and Linked Providers, industry /sector representatives, academics and researchers to act
in the role of external examiners, external reviewers and/or as members of School or Research
Advisory Committees.
Trinity academic, administrative, technical and support staff engage in a range of quality review, professional accreditation and award processes. Trinity maintains a schedule of quality reviews that operates on a seven – year cycle in compliance with the Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Act 2012 and publishes review reports on the Quality Office website.

Where Schools and units are subject to different quality, accreditation or awards processes, the Quality Office will work to align timelines and streamline reporting requirements across internal and external review processes, where possible. If it can be demonstrated that internal quality assurance requirements are met through alternate review or enhancement processes, a request to grant recognition on this basis, will be considered by the Quality Committee and recommended to University Council and College Board for approval.

4. Where to seek further information

The following resources contribute to the governance of quality in Trinity and are publicly available:

- Information on Trinity structure, and policies are available from the Trinity website https://www.tcd.ie/about/;
- Information on academic policies is available from the Trinity Teaching & Learning website https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning;
- Academic regulations are set out in the College Calender, (Parts I, II and III), accessible via https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/;
- Information on academic progress for undergraduate students is available from the Undergraduate Studies website https://www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/;
- Information on postgraduate taught and research education is available from the Graduate Studies website https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/;
- Information on quality assurance procedures, the quality review schedule, and reports of quality review and quality improvement activities are available from the Quality Office website https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/quality;
- Information on the organisation of research within Trinity is available from http://www.tcd.ie/research/. Research policies are available on the Trinity policies webpage https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/ and the Dean of Research Internal webpage.
• Information on global education partnerships is available from the Global Relations Office website https://www.tcd.ie/globalrelations/partnerships/

Document Control

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