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 committed to a step-change in improving the quality of the student experience in the university. We are committed to prioritising the financial resources needed to significantly reduce the student- staff ratio and we will carefully manage growth in student numbers in the various categories of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students to ensure that the quality of the student experience is maintained as a core objective" *Strategic Plan 2020-2025*

The Trinity College Dublin Code of Governance (2013) commits Trinity to establishing procedures for Quality Assurance under §35 of the Universities Act 1997, later superseded by §28 of the Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Act 2012.

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 Statues of Trinity College Dublin and the University of Dublin *(updated*

December 2020) 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 [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2015) and](#) the [Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education & Training) Act 2012](#), 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](#) 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

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[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.

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 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 National Student Survey.ie 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 reviews, 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 multiple statutory quality accreditation[2]/review obligations, the Quality Officer, in consultation with the Faculty Dean (Academic Area) or Head of Area/Division, as appropriate, will assess via a desktop exercise the process, outcomes, and recommendations of these quality accreditation/review reports against the internal quality assurance procedures and make recommendations to the Faculty Dean (Academic Area) or Head of Area/Division, as to whether the outcomes of the alternate quality processes satisfy the University's quality review procedures for Schools and Units. If it can be demonstrated that internal quality assurance requirements are met through these alternate quality processes, the Quality Officer and the Faculty Dean (Academic Area) or Head of Area/Division may recommend to the Quality Committee to recognise the outcomes of the alternate quality processes *in lieu* of the seven-year cyclical quality review. The Quality Committee, having considered the documentation, may reject the recommendations or propose them 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 is 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;

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[2] A list of Statutory Accreditation/Professional Bodies with which Trinity has a relationship can be found on the Quality Office website.

- 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 organsiation of research within Trinity is availabile 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 Transnational Education Partnerships and approved Education Recruitment Agents is available from the Global Relations website https://www.tcd.ie/globalrelations/about/

- Information for new and prospective students interested in studying at Trinity is available from the Student Life website https://www.tcd.ie/students/

5. Document Control

Date of initial approval by College Board: 12 December 2018

Date Policy Revised: February 2021

Date policy effective from: April 2021

Date for next review: Academic Year 2023/24