Terms of Reference for School Quality Reviews

Context: Academic activities in education and research Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin are performed in one of three Faculties:

(i) Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS) which comprises 12 Schools;

(ii) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which comprises eight Schools; and

(iii) Health Sciences (HS) which comprises four Schools.

Each School is led by a Head of School who is responsible for the effective general management of the School, for ensuring the provision of academic leadership and strategic vision, and for the quality of the student experience.

Purpose of a School Review is to:

(i) to provide a structured opportunity for a School to critically reflect on its activities and plans for development in the context of the school and college strategic plans and other strategic initiatives;

(ii) to benefit from a constructive commentary by external reviewers to College that are experts in their field at a senior academic level;

(iii) to ensure that quality and standards in teaching, research and administration are being maintained and enhanced, and that any areas of concern are identified and addressed;

(iv) to promote the enhancement of the School's provision as part of a strategy for continuous quality improvement.

Outcomes of a School Review:

The Review Team is invited to assess and make recommendations to the University under the following categories:

(i) School Strategy in terms of its fitness-for-purpose to respond to the College strategies, the internal and external environment, emergent risks and opportunities in the relevant discipline, nationally and internationally.

(ii) The quality of the School's teaching and learning provision, learning resources and learning environment (internal and external to campus) that underpin the delivery of:

      a. undergraduate programmes, curriculum and graduate attributes

      b. postgraduate taught programmes, curriculum and graduate attributes

      c. postgraduate research programmes, postdoctoral development

(iii) The quality of the School's research strategy, including any research centres within the School, participation in College Research Themes and engagement with Trinity Research Institutes

(iv) Resources available to the School to deliver on its academic mission (Financial, Facilities, Human)

(v) The effectiveness of the School's governance, management and administration structures in delivering and supporting the achievement of its strategy and mission.