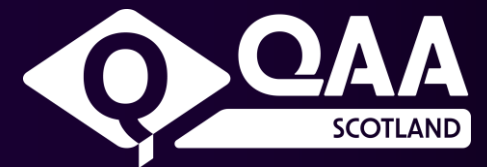




Study Visit – ERI-SEE & RCC

21st and 22nd March 2024

Heriot Watt, Edinburgh



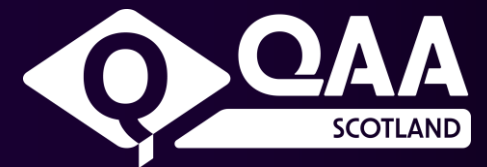
Timeline for the visit

Thursday 21	Friday 22
10am – 11am: Introduction to QAA Scotland	9am – 10.30am: Time with Heriot Watt University
11am – 11:45am Internal QA within QAA	10.45am - 11.30am Coffee break and conversation with Professor John Sawkins, QAA Board
11.45 - 12pm Q & A	11.30am -12pm Microcredentials
12pm – 12.30pm Lunch	12.30pm - 1.30pm Lunch
12.30pm - 1.15pm ESG and ENQA Review	1.30pm - 2.30pm Thematic Analysis
1.15pm - 1.45pm Digitalisation of the QA process	2.30pm - 2.45pm Coffee break
1.45pm - 2pm Coffee break	2.45pm - 3pm Final Q & A and Close
2pm – 2.45pm Stakeholder Engagement	
3pm - 3.45pm Overview of the review process	



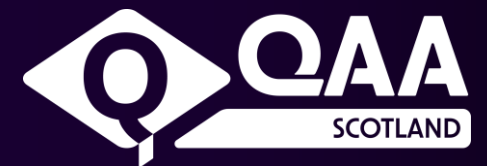
Introduction to QAA Scotland

Kathryn O'Loan and Alastair Delaney



Who is QAA?

- UK-wide organisation
- Purpose: To ensure that students and learners experience the highest possible quality of education
- Independent body entrusted with monitoring, and advising on, standards and quality in UK education (higher and tertiary)
- Stakeholder engagement – nationally and internationally
- Guided by the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (incorporates ESG)



Our Scope and Size

192 staff

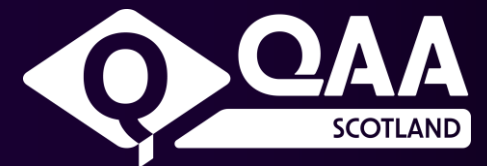
**97.1 Full
Time
Equivalent**

**Cross UK and
International**

**Remote
working**

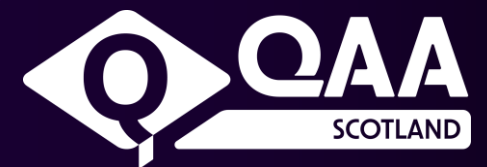
Our experience

- 25+ years experience developing and implementing independent reviews of UK and international education
- Listed on the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) and independently reviewed every five years
- Managing and supporting a pool of over 350 UK and international peer reviewers including students, academic and professional services staff to support multiple review methods and provision types
- Responsible for advising the devolved governments on degree-awarding power applications
- Regulator for Access to HE qualification (E, W, and NI)

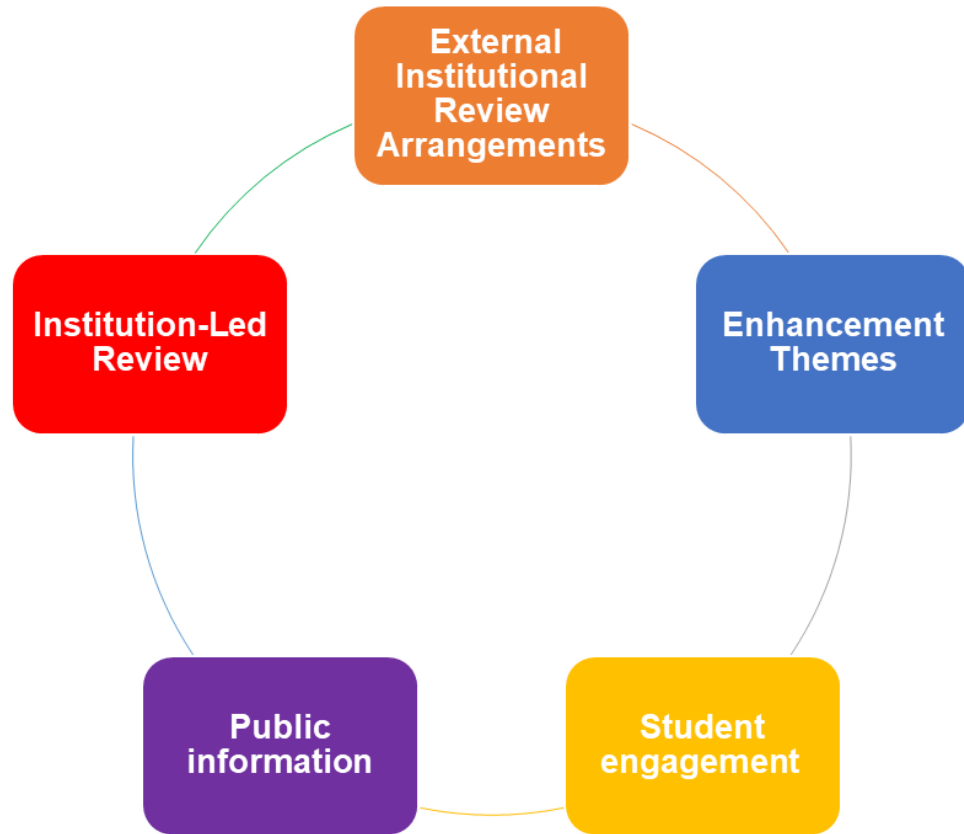


Quality Regulation in Scotland

- The statutory duty for quality sits with the Scottish Funding Council, a Non-Departmental Public Body that is funded by the Scottish Government.
- SFC holds responsibility 'to ensure the quality of fundable provision across Further & Higher Education in Scotland's colleges and universities'.
- The SFC was established through the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005.

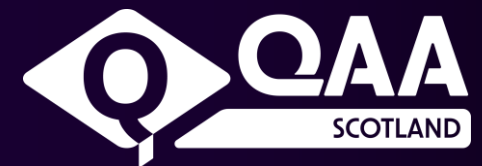


The journey so far: Quality Enhancement Framework



Evaluating the quality of learning & teaching through an enhancement-led approach since 2003

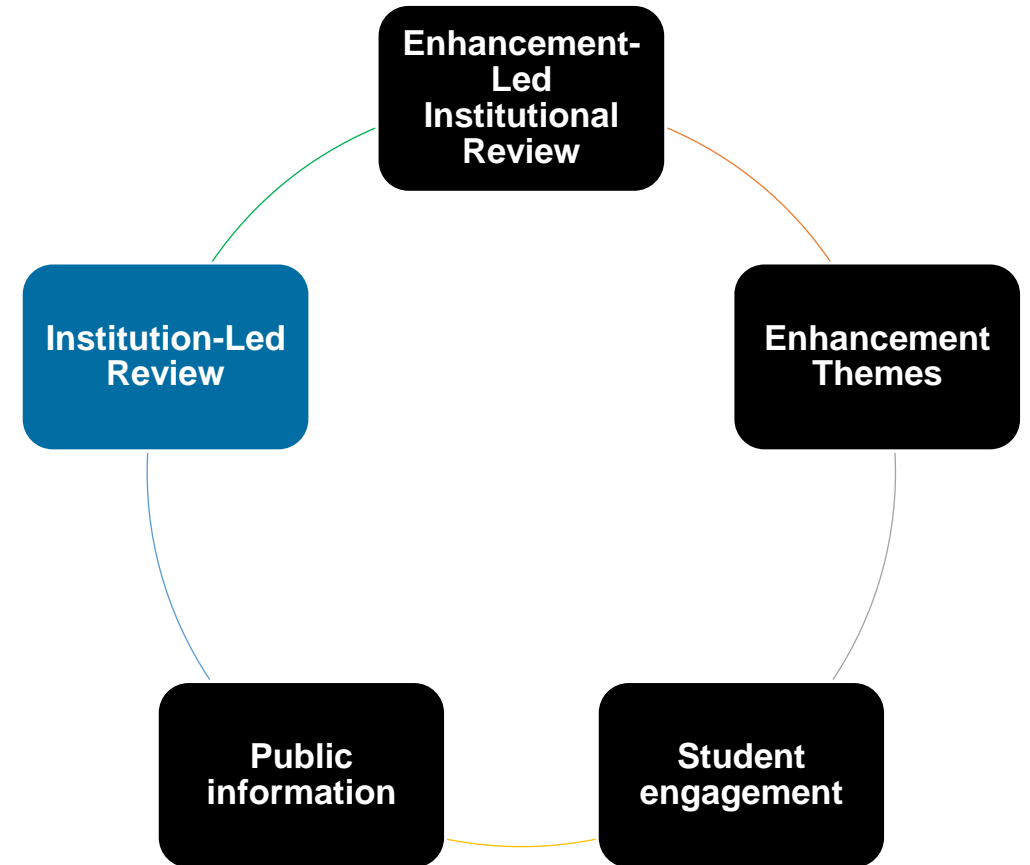
Partnership of agencies



Quality Enhancement Framework

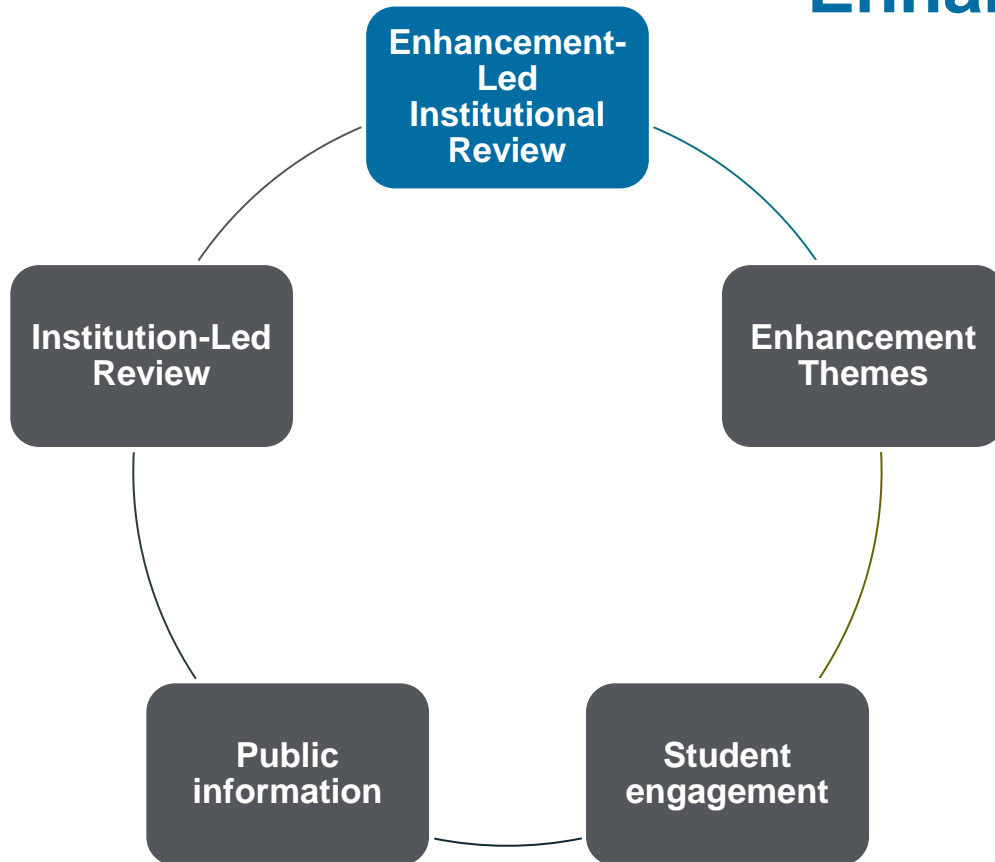
Institution-led review

- Scottish Funding Council (SFC) guidance & UK Quality Code
- All subject areas reviewed within maximum six year cycle
- External involvement
- Student engagement
- Involvement of professional support services



Quality Enhancement Framework

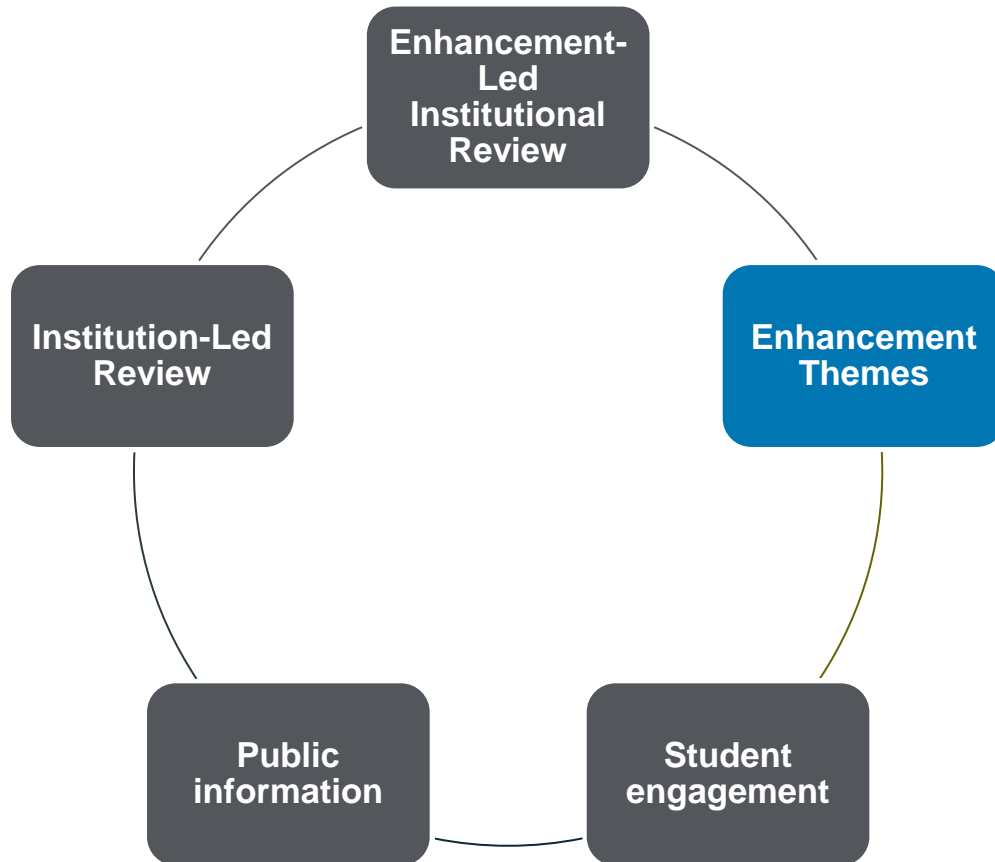
Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR)



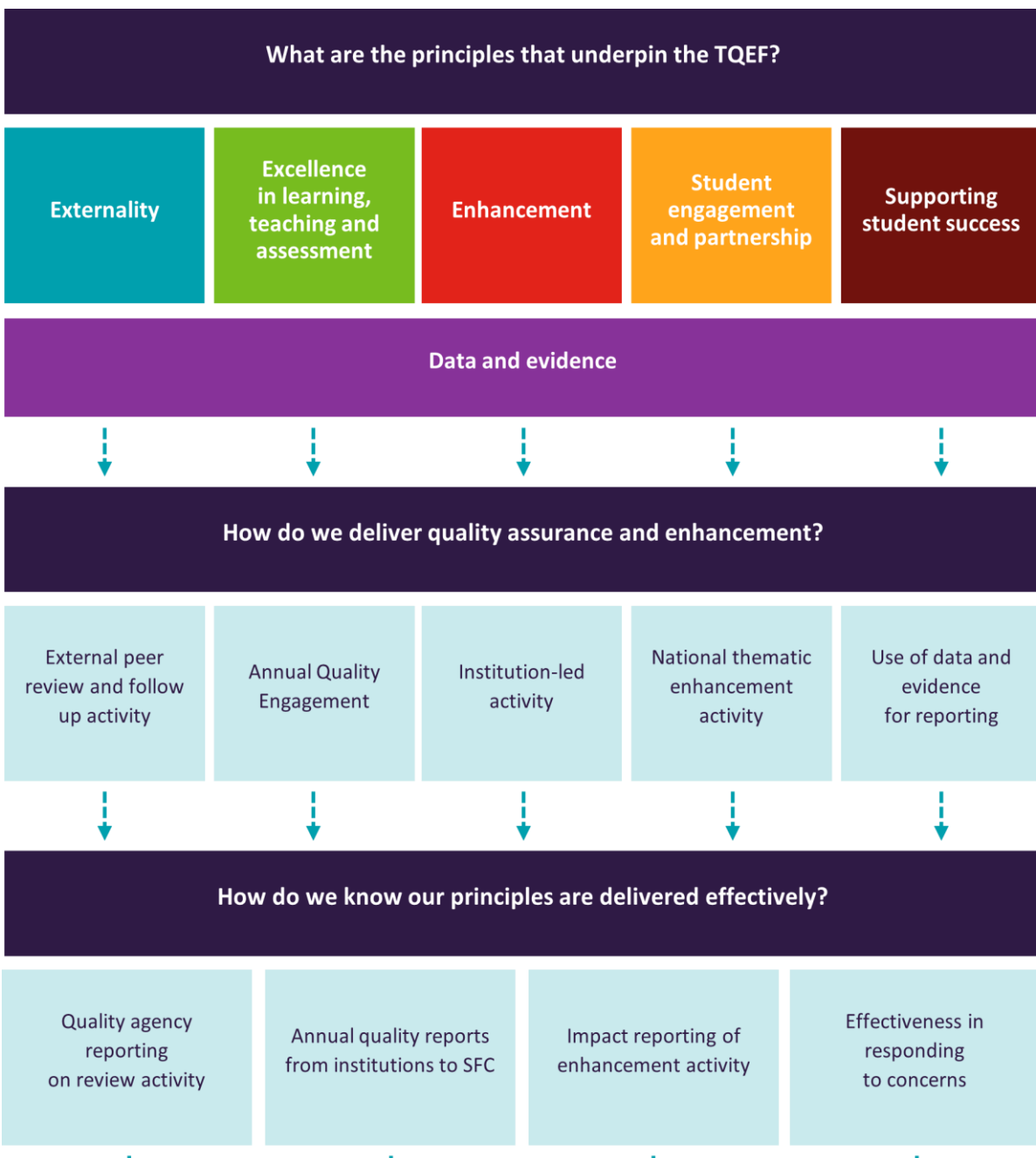
- Peer review of all Scottish HEIs on a cycle
- Student reviewers since 2003
- International reviewers since 2008
- First cycle: 2003-2007
- Second cycle: 2008-2012
- Third cycle: 2012-2017
- ELIR 4: 2017-2022
- Phase 1 arrangements: 2022-24
- Tertiary quality arrangements: 2024/25 onwards
- Threshold judgement plus commendations & recommendations

Quality Enhancement Framework

The Enhancement Themes



- Key element of the QEF
- Distinctive aspect of Scottish HE
- Theme chosen and delivered by sector in collaboration with QAA Scotland
- Fosters partnership and collegiality
- Allows us to achieve things collectively that we might not be able to do individually
- Focus on developing strategies, shaping policies and innovative practice



Scotland's Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF)

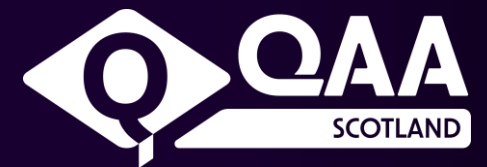
- Common approach to quality assurance and enhancement across Scottish tertiary sector
- Agreed by Scottish Government following SFC Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability.
- Comprises a shared set of principles, delivery pillars and outputs that can apply to colleges and universities.
- Principles developed in collaboration across the tertiary sector.



QAA Scotland commissioned projects under TQEF

As part of the development of the TQEF, QAA Scotland has been commissioned by the SFC to lead two projects:

- **External enhancement-led peer review** - designing, planning and delivering a multi-year external peer review cycle for colleges and universities for implementation in academic year 2024-25. QAA is working closely with Education Scotland, drawing on their expertise of the college sector to ensure the new review method supports the needs of the college sector.
- **National thematic enhancement activity** - designing and delivering an approach to national enhancement across Scotland's tertiary sector, drawing on the expertise of the College Development Network.



QAA approach to External Review

- **Recognise** colleges and universities have internal arrangements for managing quality and standards, build on and test these
- **System focus** looks at how they support standards and quality as well as the impact of that
- **Peer-led** fundamental to QAA's approach to review
- **Enhancement-led quality assurance**
 - Institution-led, critical self-evaluation
 - Robust and evidence driven (understanding review team role)
 - Focused on making things better
 - Lead-in time – supporting staff readiness



Thank you

Any questions?



qaa.ac.uk/scotland