

QQI 2016 Programmatic Review Guidelines

The objectives of the programmatic review are those set out in section 1.4 of QQI's Programme Review Manual 2016, namely:

The objectives of a programme review are to evaluate the programme as implemented in light of the provider's experience of providing the programme over the previous five years with a view to determining:

- 1. What has been learned about the programme, as an evolving process (by which learners acquire knowledge, skill and competence), from the experience of providing it for the past five or so years?**
- 2. What can be concluded from a quantitative analysis of admission data, attrition rates by stage, completion rates and grades achieved by module, stage and overall?**
- 3. What reputation do the programme and HEI provider have with stakeholders (learners, staff, funding agencies, regulatory bodies, professional bodies, communities of practice, employers, other education and training providers) and in particular what views do the stakeholders have about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats concerning the programme's history and its future?**
- 4. What challenges and opportunities are likely to arise in the next five years and what modifications to the programme are required in light of these?**
- 5. Whether the programme in light of its stated objectives and intended learning outcomes demonstrably addresses explicit learning needs of target learners and society?**
- 6. What other modifications need to be made to the programme and its awards to improve or reorient it?**
- 7. Whether the programme (modified or unmodified) meets the current QQI validation criteria (and sub-criteria) or, if not, what modifications need to be made to the programme to meet the current criteria?**
- 8. Whether the HEI provider continues to have the capacity and capability to provide the programme as planned (considering, for example, historical and projected enrolment numbers and profile and availability and adequacy of physical, financial and human resources) without risk of compromising educational standards or quality of provision in light of its other commitments (i.e. competing demands) and strategy?**
- 9. What is the justification (or otherwise) for the provider continuing to offer the programme (modified or unmodified)?**
- 10. What changes need to be made to related policies, criteria and procedures (including QA procedures)?**

Recent Validation Panels have made recommendations that all PostGrad offers have embedded exit awards (by extension additional entry points). HEIs are under no obligation to follow this model but it is worthy of consideration, particularly for new taught models.

Template and document structure to be provided by Registry and to follow QQI 2016 Validation revised guidelines <http://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Programme-Validation07.aspx>

QQI – Guidelines on the Evaluation and Assessment of the Programme Team engaged in the Review;

The evaluation involved a consideration of the process by which the programme team engaged in a review of:

- the fitness for purpose of the programme (including its objectives, intended learning outcomes, organisation, teaching, learning and assessment strategies, staffing, resources and management) in light of experience;
- the actual achievement by the programme of its stated objectives;
- the profile of learners who were enrolled and its suitability for the programme;
- the performance of enrolled learners (grades, attrition, completion, benchmarking) and how the provider has responded to this;
- the quality of the learning environment and the learning opportunities afforded to learners by the programme;
- the suitability of the learner workload in light of experience (whether it is excessive or inadequate);
- the effectiveness of procedures for the assessment of learners including summative and formative assessment of learners and external examining procedures;
- the quality assurance arrangements that are specific to the programme
- the proposed modifications to the programme

NOTE: – Needs to be evidenced based, demonstrable and recorded in Review Document.

QQI – Principles and Criteria for the Validation of Programmes;

- 1 The provider is eligible to apply for validation of the programme *(HEI & HEI Registry)*
- 2 The programme objectives and outcomes are clear and consistent with the QQI awards sought *(Programme – MIPLOs/MIMLOs meet NFQ)*
- 3 The programme concept, implementation strategy, and its interpretation of QQI awards standards are well informed and soundly based (considering social, cultural, educational, professional and employment objectives)
- 4 The programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory *(HEI & Programme)*
- 5 The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose *(Programme)*
- 6 There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned *(HEI & Programme)*
- 7 There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned *(HEI & Programme)*
- 8 The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners *(HEI & Programme)*
- 9 There are sound teaching and learning strategies *(HEI T+L & Programme)*
- 10 There are sound assessment strategies *(HEI T+L & Programme)*
- 11 Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for *(HEI Student Services, Support & Programme)*
- 12 The programme is well managed *(HEI, HoDs, HoF, & Programme)*