



Quality Assurance and Compliance News

Issue 11 - September 2022

Welcome to the Quality Assurance and Compliance Office Newsletter

Message from the Head of Quality Assurance

Welcome back for the academic year 2022/23. After a period of consultation nationally, the Office for Students ('OfS') has now completed the publication of the revised 'B-Conditions' for regulating the quality and standards of Higher Education courses, with the threshold metric compliance data for each institution now being made available online:

[Student outcomes: Data dashboard - Office for Students](#)

In the QACO team we are now bringing forward proposals for adapting the University's QA procedures to meet the requirements of the new regulatory framework, in the first instance in the areas of assessment, course approval, and course monitoring and review. These proposals will be considered by the relevant University quality committees this term.

Similarly, the arrangements for the Teaching Excellence Framework ('TEF'), are now known. The timeline for TEF applications requires the University to make a submission in January 2023, with the outcomes for all universities to be released in the summer of 2023. The TEF submission is likely to be drafted by a small team dedicated for this purpose, with contributions from the Divisions and relevant professional services to be requested as required.

Finally, Kent's apprenticeship provision at all levels remains subject to inspection by OFSTED. Although there is no advance schedule published for such audits, it continues to be sensible to expect our apprenticeship courses to be inspected in the new academic year. The Apprenticeships Governance Committee has developed a revised QA Framework for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, which has been published as Annex T of Kent's QA Code and may be consulted as required.

Malcolm Dixon

30/09/22

Announcements

PGR Pass Lists

Please be aware that the deadline for completing PGR Pass lists for the November congregations is Friday 14th October.

If you have a query regarding the Pass List deadline, please email qaco@kent.ac.uk.



QUALITY ASSURANCE & COMPLIANCE OFFICE / ANNEX 10 QA CLINICS

QA Clinics are available to book this term for Academic Misconduct Chairs, Secretaries, and Panel Members involved in Annex 10 procedures.

We will be running **Annex 10** clinics during the following weeks:

- 17th - 21st October
- 24th - 28th October
- 7th - 11th November

Clinics are 1:1 thirty-minute sessions designed as flexible training. This means that you can take the opportunity to discuss a particular Academic Misconduct case with a QA advisor, or receive training on any aspect of the Annex 10 procedures.

Please email gacotraining@kent.ac.uk to request a Clinic booking, indicating a week you would prefer. We will be in touch to confirm your booking.

If you wish to book a Clinic about any other aspect of our regulatory procedures, please use our [QA Clinic Booking Form](#). Please provide a brief overview of your query so that we can allocate the most appropriate QA specialist.

For more information visit: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/quality-assurance-compliance-office>



Academic Divisions are encouraged to reach out to their current pool of Representatives to confirm their continued involvement in Academic Misconduct Committees for the next academic year.

Kent Union have an open call for Student Representatives to join Academic Misconduct Committees as panel members, and Divisions will be provided with the names of any additional Representatives for the coming year once recruitment has concluded.

Training and resources for all Representatives will be provided by the Quality Assurance & Compliance Office. Training dates to follow.

For more information and to register, students should email the Academic Policy & Representation Manager at kentunion@kent.ac.uk

Watch This Space!

We are currently working to roll out several projects to improve QA procedures, and provide resources and training for staff across the University. The following projects are soon-to-be launched:

- **CMA Moodle Module** - online training for all staff engaged with Competition and Markets Authority law.
- **Academic Misconduct App** - a new app built using PowerApps software, designed to make the referral and processing of academic misconduct cases more efficient and easier to manage.
- **New Academic Integrity Website** - the new website will include guides for both students and staff, as well as dedicated information for Academic Misconduct Chairs, Secretaries, and Student Representatives. Please note that this website will not replace Annex 10 of the Credit Framework but will provide stakeholders with additional information and resources.

A reminder that recordings of previous QA training sessions can also be found on our [MS Streams Channel](#).



Updates to Codes of Practice / Credit Framework

The following changes have recently been applied to the Code of Practice - Taught Courses of Study

- Annex H (Divisional Structure for Education and UG Student Experience): (multiple sections) Revised to meet the outcomes of the Academic Governance Review allowing greater flexibility in structuring the use of Directors of Studies and Boards of Studies in local QA arrangements.
- Annex I (Divisional Structure for Graduate Studies and PG Student Experience): (multiple sections) Revised to meet the outcomes of the Academic Governance Review allowing greater flexibility in structuring the use of Directors of Studies and Boards of Studies in local QA arrangements.

The following changes have recently been applied to the Credit Framework

- Annex 9 (Mitigation of Extenuating Circumstances): (multiple sections) Clarifications to raise awareness of the responsibility to make timely reasonable adjustments for Students including how this applies to existing regulations.
- Annex 9 (Mitigation of Extenuating Circumstances): Appendix 2 is now in line with the text of Annex 9 by including the details about the normal 2 week maximum period allowable for an extension.
- Annex 9 (Mitigation of Extenuating Circumstances): Clauses 6.2.2 and 6.2.3 added to highlight the grounds upon which an extension should not be automatically denied.
- Annex 9 (Mitigation of Extenuating Circumstances): The terminology of “deferred assessments” has been changed to “delayed assessments” in line with the 21/22 Guidance for Examiners documentation.
- Annex 9 (Mitigation of Extenuating Circumstances): Appendix 1 has undergone changes to remove out of date and contradictory text.

Useful weblinks

Academic Regulations – Research Courses:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/index.html?tab=research-courses-of-study>

Academic Regulations – Taught Courses:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/index.html>

Collaborative Partnerships:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/index.html>

Credit Framework:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/index.html>

Research Code of Practice:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html?tab=research-courses-of-study>

Taught Code of Practice:

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html>

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, please email qacotraining@kent.ac.uk.