The aim of the QA newsletter is to provide:

- a summary of changes in QA procedures and processes approved by the Education Board and the Graduate School Board;
- an update on external QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) reviews, consultations and developments;
- an update on developments in collaborative provision;
- a note of KentVision (SITS)-related matters.

More information can be accessed through the relevant weblinks below and any queries should be forwarded to qa@kent.ac.uk.

If you currently do not get this newsletter and would like to be informed when a new QA newsletter is available, please send an email to qa@kent.ac.uk and we will arrange for you to be added to the QA News alert.

**Key Quality Assurance weblinks**

- Code of Practice for Taught Programmes of Study: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/code_taught.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/code_taught.html)
- Annexes to the Taught Code of Practice: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html)
- Code of Practice for Research Programmes of Study: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/code_research.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/code_research.html)
- Annexes to the Research Code of Practice: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html?tab=research-programmes](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html?tab=research-programmes)
- Credit Framework: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html)
- Annexes to the Credit Framework: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/index.html)
- Academic Regulations – Taught Programmes: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/index.html)
- Managing Higher Education With Others: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/index.html)
- Collaborative Provision: Policies and Procedures: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/policies.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/policies.html)
- Guidance, Policies and Procedures: [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/guidance/index.html](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/guidance/index.html)
Contents:
1. Code of Practice for Taught Programmes of Study
   - Annex K
2. Credit Framework
   - Annex 10
   - Annex 13
3. SARC Standing Orders
4. Collaborative Partnerships Developments

1. Code of Practice for Taught Programmes of Study
Annex K: External Examiners for Taught Programmes
The annex has had the following addition, to make the requirement more explicit for Schools:

   8 External Examiners should be sent detailed information about the relevant programme(s) of study, modules and systems of assessment by the School concerned. This should be done ahead of the External Examiner’s first engagement with the programme and also subsequently if there are any relevant changes to the programme or modules.

Annex K can be accessed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexk.html

2. Credit Framework
Annex 10: Academic Discipline: Procedures
The annex has had the following paragraphs inserted to ensure that it reflects the guidance of the QAA Quality Code:

   4.3.7 Consideration of the appeal and communication of the outcome to the student should normally take place within 21 days of receipt of the appeal. Where this is significantly outside of the 21 day timescale the student should be informed that consideration of the appeal remains ongoing.

   4.6 … the student shall have a further right of appeal to the Senate Academic Review Committee, which will consider only whether the original appeal was considered properly and fairly or that there is new evidence that could not have reasonably been submitted with the original appeal. An appeal to SARC must be submitted within 21 days of the date of the letter informing the student of the outcome of their appeal against the decision of a School Disciplinary Committee.
8 Completion of the Appeals Process

The completion of the appeals process, including an appeal against the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, a Faculty Review Panel (where so required) and, where submitted, an appeal to SARC should normally be completed within 90 calendar days (where a student goes on to submit a further appeal to SARC this may necessarily extend the overall time period beyond 90 days).

Annex 10 can be accessed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex10.html

Annex 13: Appeals against Recommendations of Boards of Examiners

The annex has had the following paragraphs inserted to ensure that it reflects the guidance of the QAA Quality Code:

1 Advice and support for students is available from the Students' Union and students who are considering submitting an appeal are encouraged to contact the Union at the earliest opportunity to discuss their appeal submission, as appropriate.

6.2.7 Consideration of the appeal and communication of the outcome to the student should normally take place within 21 days of receipt of the appeal. Where this is significantly outside of the 21 day timescale the student should be informed that consideration of the appeal remains ongoing.

6.5 An appeal to SARC must be submitted within 21 days of the date of the letter informing the student of the outcome of their appeal against the recommendation of the Board of Examiners.

8 Completion of the Appeals Process

The completion of the appeals process, including an appeal against the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, a Faculty Review Panel (where so required) and, where submitted, an appeal to SARC should normally be completed within 90 calendar days (where a student goes on to submit a further appeal to SARC this may necessarily extend the overall time period beyond 90 days).

Footnote: It is expected that Kent staff considering appeals cases will have undertaken EDI training, within a reasonable timescale.

Annex 13 can be accessed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex13.html

3. SARC Standing Orders

The SARC Standing Orders has had some minor updates to ensure that it reflects the guidance of the QAA Quality Code.
The SARC Standing Orders can be accessed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/taught/sarc.html and the SARC Standing Orders Governing Research Appeals can be accessed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/soga.html

4. Collaborative Partnerships Developments
A register of all approved partner institutions can be viewed at https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/collaborative/documents/collabprovregister14-05-19.pdf