Welcome to the Quality Assurance and Compliance Office Newsletter

QUALITY ASSURANCE & COMPLIANCE OFFICE / QA CLINICS

QA Clinics are 20 minute sessions with a Quality Assurance specialist. You can discuss and troubleshoot specific QA matters, seek advice on implementing regulations and procedures, or request informal training on a 1-2-1 basis.

To book, complete our QA Clinic Booking Form. Please provide a brief overview of your query so that we can allocate the most appropriate QA specialist.
Academic Integrity Charter

We are pleased to announce that the University of Kent has join a number of UK Higher Education providers in pledging to the QAA Academic Integrity Charter.

The Charter represents the shared commitment of the Higher Education sector to promote academic integrity and take action against academic misconduct and essay mill services. It has been developed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) with the support of the Academic Integrity Advisory Group, and is intended to provide a reference point for Higher Education providers in the UK to develop effective policies and practices to ensure that student qualifications remain authentic and respected.

Signing up to the Charter further demonstrates the University's commitment to developing a holistic and robust approach to ensuring academic integrity, and our continued work with University staff, students and other institutions across the sector.

You can also follow the excellent work of Student Union Education Officers at the Academic Integrity Collective. Read more about their campaign to ban Essay Mills and contract cheating services here. Find them on Twitter @AcademicInteg or using the hashtag #BetterByU.

Meet The Team

In each newsletter we'll be asking QACO Team members to tell us a bit more about themselves. Head of Quality Assurance, Malcolm Dixon, answered a few questions for our 'Five Questions' series:

1. **If you had a podcast, what would it be about?** Today, it would mostly be about Thomas Malory. Until yesterday I had no idea he was such a wild character. Tomorrow, it would be something else.

2. **Historical figure you would most like to go for tea/coffee/drinks with?** Charles Dickens, every time. He's such good fun. Call me, he says. Do.
3. **Best advice you've been given?** My wife said to me, You should write a Young Adult novel. So I wrote a Young Adult novel and it won an international prize and will be published by Fitzroy Books in the US and UK on 4th Feb 2022 ("The Little House on Everywhere Street" - Save the date, folks!).

4. **Favourite movie?** "Harold and Maude” No, "The Third Man”. No "Harold and Maude.” One of them. Probably.

5. **Which 3 words would your best friend use to describe you?** "Who are you?"

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**Updates to Codes of Practice / Credit Framework**

The following changes have recently been applied to the Credit Framework

- **New Annex 15** (Micro-credential Framework for Kent): Micro-credentials are short courses that are smaller than a current award and can be certified as credit bearing. For the purposes of the Credit Framework for England, micro-credentials are awarded by a body with the powers to award academic credit, and are quality assured and mapped against the Credit Framework levels.


Please note that the Conventions for Classification of Awards Guidance for Examiners 2020/21 has been revised and published: [guidance-for-examiners-2020-21.pdf](https://kent.ac.uk).

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**QAC FAQs**

These are QA questions that are asked regularly, that might be of general interest. If you have a question that you would like to see answered here, please contact qacotraining@kent.ac.uk.

**Q: What are the timelines for Early Informal Resolution and submitting an Appeal?**

A: If a student chooses to go through Early Informal Resolution, they have 5 working days to contact the Division. The Division has 5 working days in which to reply and then the student has an additional 5 working days from the Division response to submit an appeal. Alternatively, if they do not want to go through Early Informal Resolution, they can submit a formal appeal within 15 working days. Divisions are advised to exercise flexibility in applying the deadline for students to request Early Informal Resolution in order to ensure that they can be dealt with in the most efficient way.

**Q: Will there be KentVision user guides to aid us when we are operating the system during a Board meeting?**

A: PDF guides will be made available, possibly in the form of a handbook. A KentVision legend will also be provided to clarify the terms allocated to actions within the system. There are user guide videos already available here KentVision - University of Kent.

**Q: How many times can students fail under the No Detriment Policy? Can they continue to resit until they pass the module?**

A: Kent allows a standard maximum 3 attempts to pass. As per the No Detriment Policy for this year, students who have failed their first attempt will get an un-penalised further attempt (AFT). Students who have failed their second or third attempt will get a further attempt capped at the pass mark.
QA Training Survey

Our QA Training Survey is now open for the Summer Term. We welcome any feedback you may have regarding the QA training session(s) you have recently attended. This information will help us make improvements to future training and tailor sessions specifically to the needs of academic Divisions.

Click here to access the QA Training Survey

The Project Management Office are asking for feedback and suggestions on processes and how we work, which you can do here:


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.