BEING PART OF A QQI REVIEW TEAM



CYCLICAL REVIEW

QQI coordinates and oversees the cyclical review of Irish higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education and training (FET) providers. Cyclical review evaluates the effectiveness of institution- and provider-wide quality assurance procedures to establish, ascertain, maintain and enhance the quality of education, training, research and related services. QQI appoints independent teams of peer reviewers, with a broad range of expertise and from a variety of backgrounds, to conduct external quality reviews of institutions and providers on its behalf. (see 'Review Team Composition', below).

If you have expertise and skills that meet the criteria set out below and are interested in acting as a reviewer for QQI, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact etbm-r@qqi.ie (further education reviews) or hereviews@qqi.ie (higher education reviews). QQI will brief all reviewers in advance of their acceptance of the role.

REVIEW TEAM COMPOSITION

Pedagogical Expertise

International

Independence

Chair

Serving (or recently former) international institutional leader

External Representatives

'Third mission'/ industry/ sectoral perspective; quality assurance expertise

Coordinating Reviewer

Expertise in relevant education sector; experience of external reviews

Learner Representative

experience of relevant education sector; or has completed training, or had a key role in another review

QA Expertise

Sectoral Expertise

Competence

REVIEW PROCESS & TIME COMMITMENT

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

Provider submits self-evaluation report

Review team members evaluate self-evaluation report and formulate initial impressions

~ 3 mths before main review visit

INITIAL MEETING

Review team
meets to discuss
initial impressions
of the selfevaluation report,
identify additional
information needed,
and allocate areas
of responsibility for
main review visit

1.5 days on site

~ 5/6 weeks before main review visit

PLANNING VISIT

Chair & coordinating reviewer visit provider to discuss self-evaluation report, request any additional information needed, and agree main review visit schedule

0.5 days on site

~ 6 weeks before main review visit

MAIN REVIEW VISIT

Review team visits provider and meets with management, staff, students/learners and externa stakeholders to discuss self-evaluation report and

drafting review report

5 days on site

REPORT

Coordinating reviewer leads report-drafting process through several iterations.
Each review team member drafts parts of report relating to own areas of responsibility.

Up to 12 weeks after main review visit

WHAT DO REVIEWERS GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?



Contributing to Academic Quality

"Being a QQI reviewer offers a unique and privileged opportunity to work with an expert panel drawn from academia and industry to support the enhancement of academic standards and learning and teaching ... It is a demanding yet enriching experience, and wholly beneficial to the individual and the institution itself."

Dr Claire Carney, Vice Principal Student Learning Experience, City of Glasgow College Coordinating Reviewer, CINNTE Cyclical Review (Higher Education)



Professional Development

"Acting as a reviewer was a valuable opportunity for me to broaden my knowledge of the higher education sector from a new perspective. The insight I gained into new innovations and practices, in the review process and from the other team members, has transformed my ability to think strategically, structurally and culturally about an institution."

Dr Morgan Cawley Buckley, MA Student (Higher Education), TU Dublin; Lecturer, Carlow College Student Reviewer, CINNTE Cyclical Review (Higher Education)



Insight into Innovative Practices

"Engaging with QQI as a reviewer of quality assurance in further education and training provided a unique opportunity to work with a number of experts in the fields of both further and higher education as well as industry experts ... I gained insight into innovative practices, different approaches to QA and knowledge from other stakeholders/experts and was able to take away good practices to share with my colleagues. The process was a very intense, comprehensive, professional process and a very enjoyable experience."

Linda Coone, Head of Quality Assurance and Improvement, Rehab Group Reengagement Panel Member (Further Education and Training)



Insight into Other Organisations

"The QQI process for quality evaluation was the most robust and comprehensive deep dive into the operations of a third-level institution I have been involved in. The outstanding professionalism of the QQI team and their processes ensure that, as an external committee member, I was able to focus 100% on evaluating and effectively assessing the institution."

Ken Finnegan, CEO, Tangent (TCD Ideas Workspace)
Industry Representative, CINNTE Cyclical Review (Higher Education)



Engaging with Other Providers and Stakeholders

Acting as a reviewer as part of a reengagement panel for a further education and training (FET) QQI provider was a unique and valuable opportunity for me to engage with fellow panel members, QQI and other providers. The process enhanced my understanding of all relevant Quality Assurance guidelines at FET level and built on my knowledge of how providers can seek to implement QQI's guidelines on a practical level. In my experience, everyone benefits and the process is worthwhile and rewarding for all concerned.

Dave Collins, Director of Training, Chevron Training
Reengagement Panel Member (Further Education and Training)