

National University of Ireland

To whom it may concern,

Following detailed consideration of the core statutory guidelines and our recent a consultation meeting with representatives from QQI, NUI wishes to offer this brief commentary on the guidelines.

It has been noted that the National University of Ireland, while it is subject to specific provisions of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education And Training) Act 2012 in its role as a designated awarding body (DAB), is not mentioned in these guidelines. It is accepted that the University differs from the other DABs - in that uniquely it is not a provider of programmes – but NUI is very aware that it has responsibilities to fulfil under the Act vis-à-vis the establishment of quality assurance procedures and the approval of these by QQI. As such, any guidelines issued by QQI that relate to the development of QA procedures will apply, at least in part, to NUI. It would be helpful to the University, specifically in the context of its relations with Recognised Colleges, if NUI could be referenced specifically in the guidelines where appropriate.

In other areas, such as the development and approval of programmes, the NUI, under its Charter and statutes, has responsibility for safeguarding the quality of any programmes leading to NUI qualifications in its recognised colleges. The University currently has procedures in place to ensure that the quality and standards of these programmes are consistent with (i) similar programmes offered in the NUI constituent universities (ii) national policy for access, transfer and progression and (iii) the mapping conventions for the Irish NFQ and European qualification frameworks. In this respect it would be helpful if NUI (although not a provider) could continue to be included in any consultation processes undertaken by QQI in this area to ensure there remains consistency between NUI procedures and QQI guidelines. This approach would avoid any unnecessary dual processes or duplication of effort and ensure greater clarity for NUI recognised college(s) (as linked providers) with QQI.

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