



Recent developments in UK higher education and quality assurance

Douglas Blackstock

Chief Executive

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About QAA

Founded in 1997

Offices in England, Scotland
& Wales

Member of the European
Association for Quality
Assurance in Higher
Education (ENQA)



Our mission is to safeguard standards and improve the quality of UK higher education, wherever it is delivered around the world

UK higher education



Northern Ireland
Assembly



Northern
Ireland



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Scotland

Wales

England



The Scottish
Government



Characteristics of the UK higher education sector

Mass levels of participation, with high student retention

A world-leading research base

Diverse range of providers

Recognised worldwide for high quality and standards



Delivering UK higher education (2014-15)



159 higher education providers (source: UUK)

241 colleges delivering higher education (source: AoC)

732 alternative providers (source: BIS)

Higher education students in the UK (2014-15)

2.26 million students (approx), of which:

1.72 million undergraduates

540,000 postgraduates

Where did they study?

England (**1.9 million**)

Scotland (**215,000**)

Wales (**125,000**)

Northern Ireland (**50,000**)

Where were they from?

UK (**1.8 million**)

European Union (**125,000**)

Outside the European Union (**312,000**)



Snapshot of UK transnational education (2014-15)

663,915 TNE students:

11.3% (**75,270**) studying within the European Union (EU)

88.7% (**588,645**) outside the EU

Top 20 countries represent 71.4% (**474,010**) of all TNE provision (by student number)

Top 10 countries for UK TNE (2014-15, student numbers)

- | | |
|-------|--------------------|
| i) | Malaysia (78,565) |
| ii) | China (56,340) |
| iii) | Singapore (48,520) |
| iv) | Pakistan (42,525) |
| v) | Nigeria (32,410) |
| vi) | Hong Kong (29,705) |
| vii) | Oman (18,530) |
| viii) | Ghana (16,920) |
| ix) | Egypt (16,570) |
| x) | Sri Lanka (16,545) |

Source of data: HESA (2014-15)

The work of QAA

THE WORK OF QAA (I)

Quality assessment

Managing the assessment process for the Teaching Excellence Framework

Enhancement-led Institutional Review and Enhancement Themes in Scotland

Reviews of alternative providers

The work of QAA (II)

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Strategic international work
(including TNE and partnerships)

Adviser to government on
applications for degree-awarding
powers and university title



Stakeholder engagement

Public affairs - government and politicians

Students:

- QAA governance (Board, Student Advisory Board)
- Reviews

Employers

Professional, statutory and regulatory bodies

QAA subscribers



Recent policy developments

A time of significant change

Quality assessment review

New higher education legislation for England

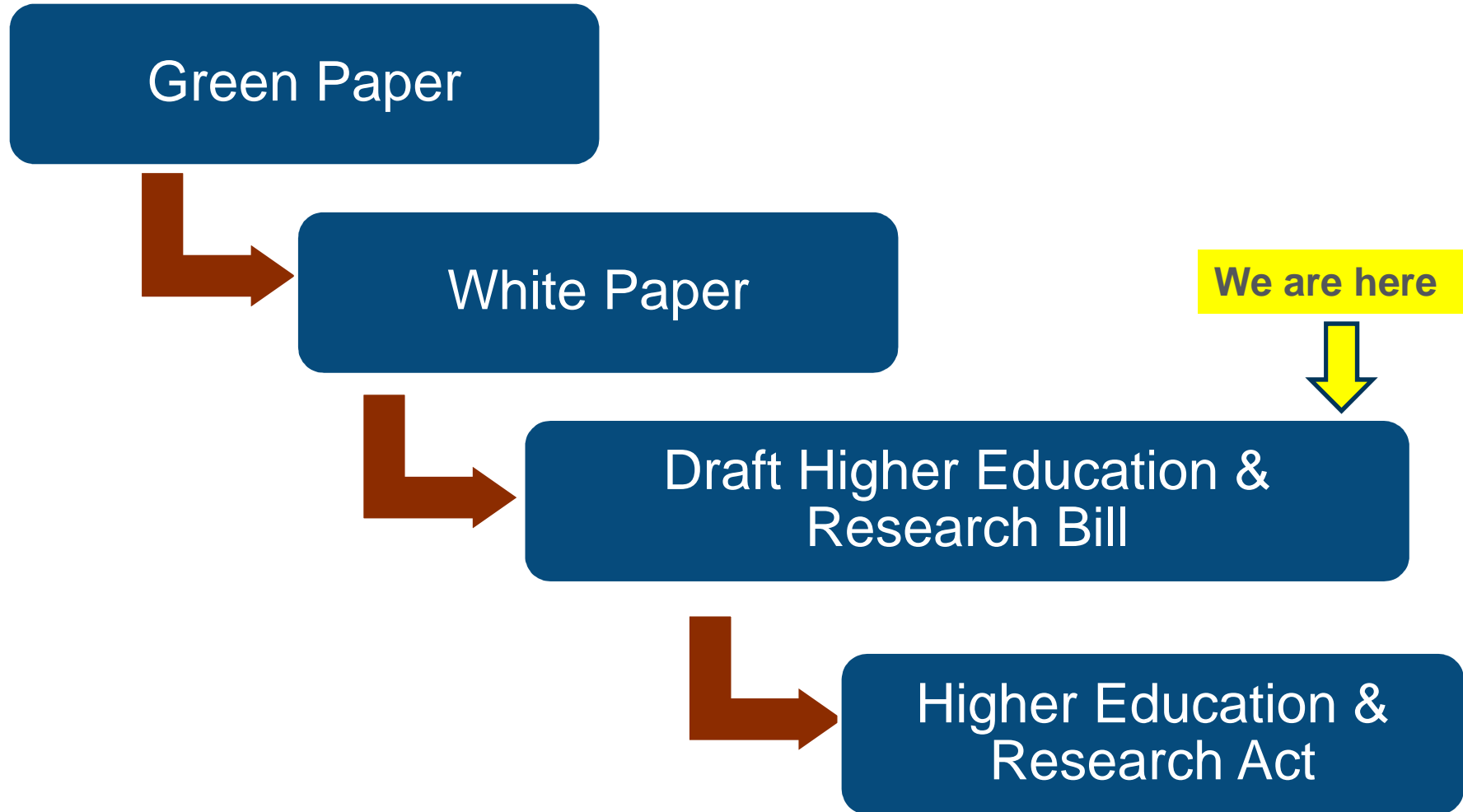
New Teaching Excellence Framework

Major developments in the devolved administrations

'Brexit' vote to leave the EU



England: new government policy and law



Key points in relation to quality

New Office for Students, responsible for quality *and* standards

Independent quality body

Risk-based quality assurance

Simpler market entry for new, high quality providers

Protecting the student interest

Teaching Excellence Framework



Success as a Knowledge Economy:

Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice

May 2016



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Recognition for QAA

‘Our higher education system is internationally renowned, something that is reflected by the high number of students who wish to come here to study.

‘Underpinning this reputation is our system of quality assurance, both within providers and externally.

The QAA has been at the heart of this, in developing many of the methods, approaches and techniques which have since been adopted across the world.’

BIS White Paper, page 32

About the Teaching Excellence Framework

- Confirmed in government White Paper (May 2016)
- Assesses the quality of teaching in higher education providers
- Differentiates quality over and above the baseline set by quality assurance

TEF ratings:

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE



Purpose of the TEF

The government has introduced the TEF as a way of:

- a) Better informing students' choices about what and where to study
- b) Raising esteem for teaching
- c) Recognising and rewarding excellent teaching
- d) Better meeting the needs of employers, business, industry and the professions

Post-Brexit: the UK's relationship with Europe



Triggering Article 50 – by end of March 2017

Parliamentary vote

‘Hard’ Brexit?

UK – participation in EHEA & Bologna Process



Thank you



qaa.ac.uk



enquiries@qaa.ac.uk



+44 (0) 1452 557000

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