UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

UPDATED OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR TERTIARY ENHANCEMENT TOPIC

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper provides an overview of the updated Operational Guidance which has been developed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland (QAAS) for the Tertiary Enhancement Topic.

2. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY /FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED

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3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

The University Education Committee is invited to note the updated Operational Guidance for the Tertiary Enhancement Topic.

4. QUALITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022/23 – 2023/24

4.1 The Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland (QAAS) published its Handbook for Scottish Quality Enhancement Arrangements (Phase 1: 2022-24) in September 2022. This has been supplemented by updated Operational Guidance published in July 2023, which has been specifically developed to support the sector to engage with the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC) tertiary enhancement topic for academic year 2022/23: The Future of Learning and Teaching: Defining and Delivering an Effective and Inclusive Digital/Blended Offering.

4.2 The Handbook and Guidance were published in relation to the new external institutional review method. The new method is a two-phased approach, with phase 1 arrangements having been established in the context of the SFC Coherent Provision and Sustainability Review and the development of new tertiary quality arrangements.

4.3 Phase 1 of the quality arrangements comprises of Quality Enhancement and Standards Review (QESR) and Institutional Liaison Meetings (ILM). The University underwent its Quality Enhancement and Standards Review in February 2023, where the review panel had confidence that the institution is making effective progress in continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision to enable effective arrangements to be in place for managing academic standards and the quality of the student learning experience.

4.4 In 2023/24, the University is due to undergo an ILM with QAAS. The areas covered in the ILM align with the QESR process and there will be a particular focus on engagement in, and activity relating to, the current tertiary enhancement topic. The reflective summary of the institutional approach provided as part of QESR will also be included in the documentation submitted for ILM.
5. **OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR TERTIARY ENHANCEMENT TOPIC**

5.1 The updated *Operational Guidance for the Tertiary Enhancement Topic* has been made available on the QAAS website.

5.2 The Guidance has been updated to include reference to the impact of digital education on the student experience, and engagement with the cross-sector tertiary enhancement project 2022-24.

6. **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information is available from Ruth Taylor (Vice-Principal, Education), ruth.taylor@abdn.ac.uk; Steve Tucker (Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement), s.j.tucker@abdn.ac.uk; Gillian Mackintosh (Director of Academic Services and Online Education), g.mackintosh@abdn.ac.uk; or Liam Dyker (Acting Assistant Registrar, Academic Services), liam.dyker2@abdn.ac.uk.

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**Freedom of Information/Confidentiality Status:** Open