



# ICHAS

## Section 11 – Other Parties involved in Education & Training

<b>Subject:</b>	Policy on Collaborative Provision		
Applicable QQI Core Standard	Other Parties Involved In Education And Training		
<i>Date Approved by Board of Directors:</i>			<b>July 2019</b>
Policy Version	1/2019	Date due for Revision	February 2024

### CONTEXT

In terms of Collaborative Provision in the Independent /Private Sector, QQI's Quality Assurance Sector Specific Guidelines require that the provider's quality assurance arrangements in respect of any collaborative provision must comply with the quality assurance requirements underpinning the QQI Policy for Collaborative Programmes, Transnational Provision and Joint Awards, 2012.

Collaborative Provision refers to other parties with which a voluntary provider is involved. The quality assurance procedures established by voluntary providers in respect of collaboration with other providers or parties have regard to the overall suite of education and training provision offered by those other partners or providers and any other parties with whom the voluntary provider is engaged.

Where a voluntary provider organises or procures a programme which is provided in whole or in part by another provider, the voluntary provider must establish and agree appropriate QA procedures with that provider.

Providers apply due diligence and be aware of any reputational risk to themselves and the sector and /or the national qualifications system associated with prospective providers, awarding bodies and other third parties with whom they are considering entering into collaboration arrangements.

Within that context, ICHAS will only engage in collaborative provision where the process has the capacity to enrich its learning environment and strengthen its programme provision. Its core premise is to further advantage ICHAS students, in a manner which is not possible within its own capacity or resources. Collaborative provision will be strategic in nature. ICHAS is committed to collaborative provision where each Consortium Partner plays a significant and equitable part in each facet of the development and delivery of the programmes. This is possible through:

- (a) Alternating meetings between sites by utilising ICT;

- (b) Sharing responsibilities for key roles such as the Chair of Programme Boards;
- (c) Facilitating the engagement of each of the partner institutes in respect of quality assurance activities;
- (d) Recognition of each Consortium Partner in all promotions and media communications in relation to its provision in an honest, fair and accurate manner.

Quality assurance processes employed in respect of collaborative provision are as rigorous as the quality assurance processes operated in respect of other ICHAS programmes. This also requires that partner's quality assurance processes are consistent with ICHAS.

It is a requirement of ICHAS that processes for assessing students are fair and consistent and comply with QQI standards for the relevant award on the National Framework of Qualifications. Procedures for access, transfer and progression will also be implemented in accordance with national policy.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The College will actively seek and develop collaborative provision arrangements where appropriate to meeting the College's Strategic Aims. ICHAS is open to the establishment of partnerships with other higher education institutions which may involve different forms of collaboration, including transnational and joint awards, where the relevant partner organisations or potential collaborators meet the type of expectations set out by QQI in terms of reputational standing. This policy will support that development and will also be subject to revision as such opportunities arise.

Collaboration is broadly interpreted to include all arrangements with collaborative partners in relation to programme development, student selection and registration, provision of physical facilities as well as technology enhanced learning facilities, provision of support services, programme delivery and assessment.

### **SCOPE**

<b>Applies To</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Both</b>	
	✓			
<b>Responsible for Implementation</b>	Registrar			
<b>Responsible for Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	Vice President (Corporate Affairs)	Vice President (Academic Affairs)	Registrar	Quality Assurance & Enhancement Officer
		✓		

### **RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY**

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI for use by all Providers
- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) et al (2015) Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Sector Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI For Independent/Private Providers Coming To QQI On A Voluntary Basis
- Government of Ireland (2012) Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Policies & Criteria for the Validation of programmes of Education.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2015) QQI Policy Restatement Policy and Criteria for Access, Transfer and Progression in Relation to Learners for Providers of Further and Higher Education and Training.
- National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (2005) – re-published by QQI, (2015) Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training June 2005
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2018) Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended Learning Programmes
- Protection of Enrolled Learners: Protocols for Implementation of Part 6 of the 2012 Act.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2013) Assessment and Standards, Revised 2013
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (revised 2018) Quality Assuring Assessment: Guidelines for Providers
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2018) Quality Within Higher Education 2018 A Summary Report.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Policy on Quality Assurance Guidelines
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2012 - revised) Policy for Collaborative Programmes, Transnational Programmes and Joint Awards

### Linked Policies and Procedures

<b>Linked Policies</b>	
<b>Linked Procedures</b>	Procedures associated with Collaborative Provision