



ICHAS

Section 3 - Policies and Procedures associated with Quality in ICHAS

Subject:	Policy on Documenting the Effectiveness of Quality Assurance		
Applicable QQI Core Standard	Governance and Management of Quality		
Date Approved by Board of Directors:			February 2021
Policy Version	1/2021	Date due for Revision	February 2024

CONTEXT

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) published statutory guidelines underpinning their *Policy on Quality Assurance Guidelines* in April 2016. These Guidelines draw upon and reflect the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (ESG 2015).

The fundamental purpose of QA guidelines is that they contribute to the overall assurance available to prospective learners, existing students and other key stakeholders that the procedures underpinning educational services provide a well-supported learning experience within the scope of the provider's provision and ultimately that the quality of the award meets best national and international standards.

ICHAS relies upon the statutory quality assurance guidelines issued by QQI when designing, establishing, evaluating, maintaining, renewing, and reviewing its internal quality assurance policies and procedures. This is essentially what forms the basis for the approval by QQI of the College's quality assurance policies and procedures.

The College's quality assurance and enhancement system underpins its activities in the development, monitoring, attainment, maintenance and evaluation of standards. The QAE systems are designed to assure and facilitate the enhancement of programmes, services, and the learner experience. It is fundamental to ensuring that there are appropriate mechanisms for appropriate governance within the College, appropriate mechanisms of academic and corporate decision making, programme design, delivery and review and thus contributing to the College's reputation. The systems are designed to optimise stakeholder engagement and ensure as far as is practicable that the needs of all stakeholders are considered and responded to appropriately.

POLICY STATEMENT

ICHAS is committed to the promotion of a culture of quality and enhancement which is

supported by a documented quality framework and published Quality Assurance and Enhancement Manual. This allows for the continuous review and enhancement of quality procedures and gives an overview of the governance and management of quality. The Quality Framework is designed to enable ICHAS to meet best national and international guidelines, standards and statutory regulations and is supported by a set of procedures. The College is committed to ensuring that information and guidance in relation to Quality structures and systems is easily accessible to stakeholders, to ensure transparency and clarity around decision-making.

SCOPE

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

DEFINITIONS

A **policy** is a set of ideas or plans that are used as a basis for making decisions, especially in politics, economics, or business.

Procedures include the range of actions associated with the implementation of policies. They set out 'mechanics' or processes which should be undertaken to achieve the policy aims.

These definitions apply to all policies and Procedures associated with the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Framework at ICHAS.

RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY

- QQI (2014a) Re-engagement with QQI: Overarching Policy for all Providers.
- QQI (2014b) Re-Engagement with QQI; Policy and Criteria for Renewed Access to QQI Validation for Voluntary Providers of Higher Education and Training.
- Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines (QQI, 2016)
- 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

Linked Policies & Procedures

Linked Policies	Policy on assuring the Quality of the Physical Learning Environment Policy on Provider owned internal monitoring Policy on Provider owned QA engagement with External QA
Linked Procedures	Procedures associated with assuring the Quality of the Physical Learning Environment Procedures associated with Documenting the Effectiveness of Quality Assurance Procedures associated with Provider owned internal monitoring. Procedures associated with Provider owned QA engagement with External QA