



ICHAS

Section 4 - Policies and Procedures Associated with Programmes of Education & Training

Subject:	Policy on Programme Review and Revalidation		
Applicable QQI Core Standard	Programmes of Education and Training		
Date Approved by Board of Directors:			February 2021
Policy Version	1/2021	Date due for Revision	February 2024

CONTEXT

According to QQI, the aim of a programmatic review is to conduct an external peer review of programmes and to ensure quality of the programmes being offered. Proposals and decisions in relation to updating programmes and modules, discontinuing programmes or parts of programmes, together with proposals to develop new programmes, should be part of such a review process. Furthermore, programmatic review confirms that the promise evidenced at validation has been realised. Alternatively, the review recognises whether or not a programme has adapted appropriately to circumstances unforeseen at validation.

Programme review is intended as an opportunity to assess the ongoing suitability of a programme for its intended purpose and objectives, its continued relevance to industry or society, and its ongoing ability to provide a supportive and effective learning environment and an appropriate assessment strategy.

According to section 3.3 of QQI's Core Statutory Quality Assurance (QA) Guidelines, programme monitoring and review is taken as an opportunity to:

- ensure that the programme remains appropriate, and to create a supportive and effective learning environment
- ensure that the programme achieves the objectives set for it and responds to the needs of learners and the changing needs of society
- review the learner workload
- review learner progression and completion rates
- review the effectiveness of procedures for the assessment of learners
- inform updates of the programme content; delivery modes; teaching and learning methods; learning supports and resources; and information provided to learners
- update third party, industry or other stakeholders relevant to the programme(s)
- review quality assurance arrangements that are specific to that programme

POLICY STATEMENT

The programme review process provides the Programme Board with an opportunity to conduct a critical evaluation of previously validated programmes and to propose significant amendments, where appropriate. The programme review is conducted in line with guidelines and criteria contained in the Core Policies and Criteria for the Validation by QQI of Programmes of Education and Training (2016) and the Programme Review Manual (2018).

SCOPE

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

DEFINITIONS

Revalidation is defined as “validation by QQI of a programme that has evolved from a programme that had been previously validated by QQI. Revalidation is required for any programme that is to continue to enrol learners following expiry of the duration of enrolment.” The statutory basis for validation and revalidation is outlined in sections 44-47 of the *Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012*. The outcome of validation in the form of the independent evaluation report, QQI determination on the Validation Process and QQI’s Certificate of Validation will be published.

RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY

- QQI Validation Policy and Criteria, QQI Validation template 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

Linked Policies & Procedures

Linked Policies	Policy on Programme Design and Development Policy on Programme Management and Annual Monitoring
Linked Procedures	Procedures associated with Validation of New Programmes Procedures associated with Programme Design and Development Procedures associated with Programme Review and Revalidation Procedures associated with Programme Management and Annual Monitoring

