

Number	CL 16/11
Subject	Publication of <i>Chapter B7: External examining</i> of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education
Publication date	28 October 2011
Recipients	Heads of UK HEIs and FECs; UK HE funding councils and representative bodies; the HEA; HE student representative bodies; PSRBs and sector skills councils
Of interest to:	Individuals with institutional responsibilities for quality assurance and teaching and learning; staff involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes; academic support staff; students and their representative officers; non-specialists with an interest in higher education
Related documents	Chapter B7: External examining of the UK Quality Code and QAA's concerns scheme: guidance for external examiners

Dear colleague

I am writing to inform you that the first Chapter of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, [B7: External examining](#), is now published.

This reference point incorporates the recommendations made in the review of external examining which was led by Universities UK and GuildHE, and published in April 2011. The chapter also revises and updates the former *Code of practice for the assurance of academic quality and standards in higher education, Section 4: External examining*, within the format of the new Quality Code.

Chapter B7: External examining sets out a headline Expectation which higher education providers in the UK are required to meet. This headline Expectation is underpinned by Indicators of sound practice which make explicit how higher education providers in the UK can ensure that the headline Expectation is met. Together these set out a robust approach to external examining which will enable a more consistent and student-centred system. *Chapter B7: External Examining* will be implemented from academic year 2012-13.

We have also published [guidance for external examiners](#), which explains how they may use QAA's concerns scheme if they have a concern about the academic standards and/or quality of the awards, programmes or modules they are responsible for overseeing.

If you would like further information relating to either of these publications, please contact Dr Tim Burton (01452 557159; t.burton@qaa.ac.uk) or Dr Anett Loescher (01452 557106; a.loescher@qaa.ac.uk).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the development of *Chapter B7: External examining*. I look forward to your continued engagement and responses to our ongoing work to develop the UK Quality Code.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony McClaran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive



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