



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

**the National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred - Memorandum) is made between the **National Quality Assurance Agency for Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan** (hereafter referred - **NQAAE**) and the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom** (hereafter referred - **QAA**). NQAAE and QAA are referred to collectively as 'both Parties.'

Whereas

Established in 1997, QAA is a world-leading quality agency with unmatched experience of providing impartial regulatory and collaborative quality assurance and enhancement. QAA's main purpose is to ensure that students and learners experience the highest possible quality of education.

QAA does this by supporting universities and colleges in working with students, learners, governments, funders and regulatory bodies to evidence and enhance the excellent quality and high standards of education they provide. QAA works to secure academic standards in UK higher education wherever it is delivered across the globe and takes a leading role in international developments in standards and quality, maintaining close relationships with many international quality assurance agencies, governments and higher education institutions.

Established in 2025 pursuant to Presidential Decree No. PF-76 of 5 May 2025, the NQAAE is the specially authorised state body responsible for external quality assurance in secondary specialised, vocational, higher and postgraduate education, as well as in the fields of retraining and professional development of personnel and qualifications assessment. The Agency carries out special and comprehensive state accreditation, which is mandatory for state, non-state and foreign educational institutions operating in Uzbekistan. In addition, it

develops methodological guidelines for establishing internal quality assurance, conducts monitoring and evaluation, and prepares policy recommendations to enhance educational quality standards.

The NQAAE compiles rankings of secondary specialised, vocational, higher education and research institutions, as well as organisations for retraining and professional development, assessing such factors as academic reputation, quality of education, employment outcomes, socio-moral and research achievements and the degree of international integration. Through this, it ensures transparency, accountability and international recognition of Uzbekistan's education system.

QAA and NQAAE

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Key principles: QAA and NQAAE

Both Parties understand and mutually acknowledge their respective independent regulatory responsibilities as authorised by the separate national governments and/or as membership organisations recognised by national governments. Both Parties have comparable missions and organisational objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, and now wish to establish a closer professional relationship as equal partners within a collaborative framework. Both Parties envision benefits to be achieved through dialogue and cooperation, with benefits accruing to both agencies and to the institutions under their purview. Both Parties understand the critical necessity of maintaining the confidentiality of information related to institutions, as well as to the agencies themselves as developed through accreditation activities.

Therefore, both Parties agree to the following framework for mutually supportive and collaborative engagement. This Memorandum of Understanding is not exhaustive and is not intended to be legally binding between QAA and the NQAAE, except where specifically stated.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

Both Parties shall pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to external quality assurance in higher education, the respective legal, procedural and strategic frameworks and the key issues relating to academic standards, institutional accreditation and quality enhancement in both countries;

(b) Information exchange

Exchange information, news, updates and professional advice relating to accreditation processes, institutional performance, quality assurance methodologies and developments in the higher education systems of both the UK and Uzbekistan. This exchange shall respect the confidentiality of information and adhere to applicable data protection legislation in both jurisdictions;

(c) Staff development

Where appropriate and possible, support the capacity building of each agency's staff through initiatives such as training workshops, expert-led seminars, study visits, observation of each other's accreditation procedures and short-term staff exchanges;

(d) Use of each other's reviewers

Where appropriate and possible, draw on qualified reviewers, assessors or experts from each other's systems in order to incorporate international perspectives into accreditation activities, particularly in cases of transnational education or collaborative provision;

(e) Recognition

Where appropriate and subject to national legislation, take into consideration the accreditation decisions, quality assurance judgements and institutional reviews carried out by the other party when dealing with institutions or programs originating from the other's jurisdiction;

(f) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, cooperate on mutually agreed projects and joint activities, including the development of quality assurance frameworks, improvement of transnational education quality, promotion of academic integrity, detection of fraudulent institutions or providers, support of bilateral partnerships and research in areas relevant to accreditation and higher education quality.

Confidentiality

Both Parties agree to ensure that any information of a confidential nature ('confidential information') that is shared between Parties is safeguarded and remains confidential. Both Parties agree not to disclose confidential information received from the other without the written consent of the disclosing Party. Both Parties acknowledge that, in appropriate cases, they may reach a separate written agreement about the handling of particular confidential information or classes of confidential information. Both Parties agree that this Article is legally binding.

Retention of information

Information exchanged under this Memorandum shall be held and disposed of in accordance with both Parties retention schedules. For both Parties, this shall be up to five years.

Intellectual property rights

The protection of intellectual property rights shall be enforced in conformity with the national laws, rules and regulations of the Parties.

The use of the name, logo and/or official emblem, trademark (or any variation thereof) or other Intellectual Property (hereinafter referred to as "Brand Materials") of any of the Parties on any publication, document and/or paper is prohibited without the prior written approval of either Party and shall comply with all conditions set by the other Party on the use of its Brand Materials.

Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 1 above, the intellectual property rights in respect of any technological development and any products and services development, carried out:

- jointly by the Party or research results obtained through the joint activity effort of the Parties, shall be jointly owned by the Parties in accordance with the terms to be mutually agreed upon; and
- solely and separately by the Party or the research results obtained through the sole and separate effort of the Party, shall be solely owned by the Party concerned.

Settlement

In the event of a dispute between both Parties, it shall be resolved by friendly consultations.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either Party. It may be extended on mutual agreement via the signature of both parties.

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the written approval of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing, Vicki Stott) and the Director of NQAAE (at the time of signing, Bakhtiyor Yuldashev) shall have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the

Memorandum on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, each Party shall normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

The text of the Memorandum is prepared in two original copies, in English and Uzbek, each having equal legal force, with one copy for each Party.

Signatures of the Parties:



Date: 19 September 2025

Location: Tashkent

Vicki Stott
Chief Executive

**The Quality Assurance Agency for
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Date: 19 September 2025

Location: Tashkent

Bakhtiyor Yuldashev
Director

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