

International Lifelong Learning Network

Activity from January 2018 onwards

NUS Scotland Outward

- NUSUK took part in a students' union study tour **Denmark, Sweden and Norway** visiting the national student organisations of those countries and some of their member students' unions 8 – 12 January. London.
- 12 – 14 January saw the second European Staff Network for staff who support elected officers on the international stage, this took place in **Oslo, Norway**.
- The regular Tri-Lateral meeting between NUSUK, NUS-USI and USI took place on 8-9 February in **Belfast**. The main focus of discussion was the implications of Brexit.
- A toolkit developed in NUS Scotland on developing student representative structures was launched at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in **Fiji**, 20 – 23 February. Unfortunately, no-one was able to attend.
- NUSUK attended the European Students Convention in **Tallinn, Estonia** 12 – 16 March. Delegates presented sessions on Brexit, Quality SU's, the needs of International Students and the NUS Race Matters Report.
- Delegates attended the Union of Students in Ireland Congress 3 – 6 April in Ballinasloe, **Ireland**. There was a panel discussion on the EU and Refugees.
- Delegates attended the Nordic Students Organisation conference in **Stockholm, Sweden**. 7 – 9 April.
- An NUSUK team in partnership with USI and NUS-USI met with MEP's and members the Commission education section to get across key messages on what we wish to see in any final deal on **Brexit**. 11 – 14 April. Alyn Smith MEP (SNP) met with the team and agreed to help with further lobbying activity.

NUS Scotland Inward

- NUSUK in partnership with Student Action for Refugees ran a conference on best practice in incorporating asylum and refugee students into Higher Education with funds from the European Students' Union "**Together Moving Forward**" campaign fund. 31 January 2018.
- NUSUK hosted a study visit from members of the **Dutch national union LSVb** to learn more about the workings of the UK student movement.
- **NUSUK Conference** was held in Glasgow (in Scotland for the first time ever), the opening speaker was Marius Deaconu President of ANOSR (NUS in Romania) who was over to discuss the Romanian EU Presidency and how his organisation can help our lobbying work on behalf of our student members. Also in attendance was Gohar Hovhannisyanyan of the European Students' Union executive who spoke at a Brexit Fringe event on the impact of the policy on students in the rest of Europe. The conference was joined by Michael Kerrigan – President of the Union of Students in Ireland and Síona Mac Cahill, the President elect.

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Outward

- SQA will exhibit our Diploma to Degree offering at NAFSA (Association of International Educators) annual conference and expo, on 27 May–1 June, **Philadelphia, USA**.
- SQA will exhibit at the Oil & Gas, West Asia (OGWA), Exhibition in **Oman** in April. Promoting our range of Oil & Gas qualifications.
- SQA will partner with Scottish Development International (SDI) to exhibit and meet with potential customers at the Offshore Technology Conference in **Houston, USA** in May.
- SQA will attend the Saegis Campus graduation ceremony in **Sri Lanka** in May.
- SQA will exhibit at Going Global a British Council event in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** in May.

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality, Scotland) Outward

- 3 April 2018 – 2-hour skype session with Albanian students in prep for work in May 2018 noted below - per an invite from The National Erasmus+ Office in **Albania** (NEO) to contribute to a 2018 Technical Assistance Mission (TAM) under the framework of the [SPHERE Project](#). The TAMs are missions to support training on specific higher education reform topics and sparqs will deliver on the topic of “Enhancing the student role in HEIs”.
- 23 April 2018 - delivering a seminar in **Bled, Slovenia**, focused on student feedback and communicating its impact at a seminar preceding the ESU board meeting 74. Feedback from this session will be used to support QAA Scotland’s Enhancement Theme work.
- 8-9 May 2018 – National Network meeting in **Letterkenny, Ireland**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme and follow-up support meetings with staff and project chairs.
- 25 May 2018 – invite from The National Erasmus+ Office in **Albania** (NEO) to contribute to a 2018 Technical Assistance Mission (TAM) under the framework of the [SPHERE Project](#).

QAA Scotland

- QAA Annual Conference 2018 - The UK Quality Summit - 24-25 April 2018 - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, **Cardiff** QAA's Annual Conference 2018, the UK Quality Summit, will bring together thought leaders, decision makers, quality experts and students to share insight, inspiration and innovation. Keynote speakers will inspire and challenge thinking on how to create impact through quality assurance and innovation, while exploring the latest developments in a changing higher education policy landscape. Poster submissions on impact and innovation in quality will soon open. For more information, please email conference2018@qaa.ac.uk.
- [QAA Annual Conference 2018](#) Spaces are now limited for our **Annual Conference**, so book now to secure your place. We are offering QAA subscribers the opportunity to showcase the work of their institution as part of our [poster session](#).
- [International Quality Assurance Programme 2018](#) 12-16 November 2018 - **Kings College Venues, London**

This intensive five-day course is designed for Quality Managers from non-UK institutions who would like to learn more about quality assurance in the UK and other countries.

SCQF(Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

- The SCQF Partnership recently hosted its 2018 conference titled “The SCQF: **Linking the Learning Journey**” in Glasgow on 22nd February. The conference was aimed at all sectors, nationally and internationally, involved in the learner journey and attracted 230 participants from 142 organisations from 13 countries. Showcasing all aspects of the Framework, it also focused on how the SCQF supports Scottish Government policy such as The Learner Journey, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and the Commission on Widening Access.

The conference hosted by Paul McKelvie OBE, former Scotland Commissioner to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, featured a variety of inspirational speakers with John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, providing the keynote address. During his speech, Mr Swinney acknowledged the importance of the SCQF to Scottish Government policy saying that, “*The Framework is central to our approach to education.*”

An International Study visit day was held following the conference at the SCQF Partnership Offices in Glasgow, which was specifically designed for international participants, with speakers travelling from as far as **Bahrain and Hong Kong**.

Details on the conference can be found at <http://www.scqf.org.uk/news-blog/news/successful-scqf-conference-linking-the-learning-journey/>

- The SCQF Partnership will be holding an event for International Education Consultants at its offices in Glasgow on 23 May 2018. The event is designed to connect with individuals and organisations currently operating within the area of international education development, to raise awareness of the SCQF and explore how it can be utilised to support **international education development** work. If you would like further information please contact Lydia George L.George@scqf.org.uk or check www.scqf.org.uk.
- SCQFP recently participated in the EQF conference "The European Qualifications Framework: supporting learning, work and cross border mobility" which will take place in **Brussels**, to celebrate 10 years of existence of the European Qualifications Framework. SCQFP, in partnership with Chartered Institute of Bankers, gave a presentation in one of the sessions exploring how the SCQF works with Social Partners.
- Scottish Government have approved SCQFP to participate in a project to re-reference the SCQF to the EQF. Scotland and Wales have made a joint bid to the European Commission and are awaiting confirmation of funding. SCQFP staff will be attending the EQF advisory committee meeting in **Bratislava** 17-18 April.
- SCQFP remain involved with the Erasmus+ project “DAhoy” with project management meetings in France in January 2018 and a further meeting in **Iceland** in June. The SCQFP will be holding a workshop on the “DAhoy” project at the forthcoming CDN Expo in June.
- The SCQFP are in the final stages of the Erasmus+ NQF-in project and will present at the final conference to be held in **Warsaw** in June.
- SCQF Partnership has recently completed a project referencing the **Bahrain** National Qualifications Framework to the SCQF and will be concluding the project in June 2018.

- SCQFP Study visits - The SCQF are making arrangements for hosting 2 Study Visits in September, a group from **Mongolia** interested in developing VET and a repeat visit from a group from Malta who are interested in reviewing the SCQF qualifications database and hearing more about the Framework impact research undertaken in 2017.

RSE

- 17 April 2018 - RSE/**Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)** Workshop: Privacy, Healthcare and Data Science (Brussels) This workshop is the result of a new partnership with the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB). The programme is largely based on two position papers published by KVAB in 2017 and translated to English in 2018.
- 3 May 2018 - RSE-JSPS Joint event The RSE will be holding a joint symposium with the **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science on the topic of Organic Electronics.**
- 7-8 May 2018 Visit from **Royal Society of New Zealand** President elect
- 16-18 May 2018 ALLEA General Assembly and scientific conference (**Bulgaria**)
- 24 May 2018 RSE/SCEN lecture: Myth and Reality in Silk Road History
This information about the Silk Road, vital to understand as we enter the Belt and Road Initiative, will be useful for senior school students with interests in **China and Eurasia**, Economics, History and Modern Studies. Also, of course, HE, FE students and professionals. The speaker is Dr Roger Collins, Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh
- 31 May 2018, **International Exchange Programme** – Bilateral deadline
- 26 June 2018, RSE/CNR Joint Project deadline The RSE – CNR Joint Project scheme is designed to facilitate international collaboration between researchers based in Scotland and **Italy**. A grant is provided to researchers to cover travel, subsistence, and research expenses. The subject areas for the 2018 RSE-CNR Joint Project Scheme are as follows:
 - Quantum Technologies
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Water

Key Activities over past three months

SQA Outward

- SQA hosted its International centres event and exhibited at the EDEX Education Exhibition in Colombo, **Sri Lanka** in January.
- SQA exhibited at the annual Michigan Career Conference in **Grand Rapids, USA** in January.
- SQA met with the **Oman** Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL) and the Specialist centre for Professional training of teachers in January to explore new opportunities.
- SQA visited **Mexico City** and held meetings with senior representatives from the Mexican Institute of Petroleum (IMP), CONOCER (Regulator) and SENER (Ministry of Energy) on the proposed development of National Occupational Standards for the upstream oil and gas sector.

- SQA exhibited at the annual Community Colleges for International Development Conference (CCID) in **Arizona, USA** in February.
- SQA exhibited at the Offshore Technology Asia Conference in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** in March.
- SQA met with the Department for International Development in **India** in March to progress discussions on donor-funded projects for skills development.
- SQA held the annual strategic meeting with its Chinese partner, Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) in **Beijing** in March.
- Senior staff attended the annual meeting of centres in **Beijing** in March.
- SQA hosted the annual China Ambassador Awards in **Beijing** in March.

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland)

- 17-18 January 2018 – Institutional Analysis Workshops at IT Tralee and IT **Sligo in Ireland**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- 19 January 2018 - [NStEP](#) project work at NUI **Galway, Ireland**.
- 22 January 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Dublin Institute of Technology, **Ireland**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- 23 January 2018 - [NStEP](#) project meeting in **Dublin, Ireland**, re project 1 work-stream re the course rep role.
- 24 January 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Griffith College, **Dublin, Ireland** as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- Week beginning 19th February 2018 – visit from a PhD student from **Azerbaijan** – Raziya Isayeva, who is looking at student engagement in University management/governance. As well as a visit to sparqs, we arranged visits for Raziya at Edinburgh University Students' Association and University of Stirling Students' Union.
- 20 February 2018 – hosting above noted **Azerbaijan** PhD student at sparqs' Academic Representation Co-ordinators' Network meeting. Raziya presented at the meeting as part of a session on personal professional development.
- 21 February 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Maynooth University, **Ireland** as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- 26 February 2018 – National workshop on 'Staff Roles and Capacity Building' (project 5) at Cork Institute of Technology, **Ireland**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- 27 February 2018 – [NStEP](#) project leaders' meeting and meeting with Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in **Dublin, Ireland**.
- 20 March 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Dublin City University, **Ireland**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme

- 21 March 2018 – National workshop on ‘Design, Review and Delivery of Programmes’ (project 2) at National University of Ireland **Galway**, as part of the [NStEP](#) programme.
- 27 March 2018 – Team meeting via skype re ‘The Role and Recruitment of Class Representatives’ (project 1) as part of the [NStEP](#) programme in **Ireland**.

Education Scotland Inward activity

- (30 January 2018 – 01 February 2018) – Education department of **Nuremberg** visited Education Scotland to attend digital and STEM Events.
- (30 January 2018) – 2 international visitors from the **Ukrainian** Government Ministry for Education to learn about Education Scotland’s inspection systems and teacher support.
- (05 February 2018) – Group of school leaders from **Estonia and Latvia** visited Education Scotland to learn about and focus on School Improvement.
- (14 February 2018) – International visitors from the **Netherlands** visited Education Scotland to gain knowledge about a structured way of improving leadership in education and maintaining quality of leadership in education to improve student outcomes.

Education Scotland Outward activity

- (08 January 2018 – 12 January 2018) – Education Scotland visited **Singapore** for an International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference.
- (26 January 2018) – Education Scotland visited **Dublin**, Ireland for an EU Project: Cross-language training session.
- (09 February 2018 – 19 February 2018) – Education Scotland colleagues visited **Kuwait** for continued contract work on the Kuwait Training Programme.
- (03 March 2018 – 09 March 2018) – Colleagues from Education Scotland visited **Austria** for a British Council meeting.
- (21 March 2018 – 23 March 2018) – Education Scotland visited **Luxembourg** to attend the SICI Conference.

QAA Scotland

- ENQA Review In February 2018, the **ENQA** review panel visited QAA as part of its review into the agency. Ahead of the review visit, QAA produced and published a self-assessment report, which can be accessed [here](#). The ENQA review report will be published in due course. ENQA is the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- [Concepts of quality - online training from QAA](#)
- QAA has recently launched an online training course, **Concepts of Quality**. It has been designed to explain the concepts that underpin quality assurance in higher education. Using

interactive exercises, it aims to give participants a better understanding of the whole picture of quality assurance and how it works to protect students and maintain standards.

- [International Quality Review Webinar](#) 26 March 2018 QAA recently hosted this **webinar** for HE providers outside of the UK, which are interested in attracting more students and strengthening its global position.
- [TNE Ireland 2017: Follow-up workshop](#) 15 March 2018 - Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London Last year, QAA conducted a review of the transnational education (TNE) in **Ireland**. This follow-up workshop explored the main findings from the review of UK TNE in Ireland, and how to strengthen both the review process and UK TNE provision.

RSE

- Week beginning 5 March 2018 RSE-NSFC-CAS high-level research and innovation forum (**Beijing**) A delegation of 8 speakers in total from the Oil & Gas and Data Lab Innovation Centres along with RSE representatives travelled out to Beijing to take part in the joint Forum

Other major international activity

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland)

- Ongoing – international expert to the **Australian** Advisory Group for HE Fellowship, following contribution to a successful application for an Australian Learning and Teaching Senior National Teaching Fellowship in 2016 entitled *Creating a National Framework for Student Partnership in University Decision-making and Governance*.
- February 2018 – proposal submitted for participation in a project entitled Internal Quality Assurance Mechanisms in Higher Education in **Kazakhstan and Ukraine** (IQAKAUA). sparqs will be one of 17 partners, who are mainly from Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The main objective of IQAKAUA project is to support development of Internal Quality Assurance and quality culture to improve management and operations of higher education institutions in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The specific objectives are:
 1. Development of Internal Quality Assurance Toolkit
 2. Ensuring active students' participation in QA
 3. IQA Capacity building at KZ and UA higher education institutions

RSE

- **IEP Bilateral Exchange Programme** The RSE's International Programme seeks to increase Scotland's research and development connections internationally; and increase the number of world-class science and culture researchers working in Scotland. The RSE administers exchange schemes to provide researchers of at least post-doctoral status with short visit opportunities (normally up to four weeks) to and from Scotland, with a view to developing relationships leading to collaborative projects and leveraging further research funding from other sources. The deadlines for these schemes are quarterly in late February, May, August and November. Between February 2018 and April 2018, 7 applications were supported by the RSE. Following China and Taiwan workshops, 3 RSE-CASS and 2 RSE-MOST Joint Projects were supported.