

International Lifelong Learning Network

Activity from April 2018 onwards

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Outward

- SQA will meet with the Ministry of Advanced Education for British Columbia, **Canada** to discuss on-going activities and opportunities in the province in August.
- SQA will exhibit at the Star Education Fair in Kuala Lumpur, **Malaysia** on 4-5 August. The event is focused on centre and student recruitment.
- SQA will attend the Department for International Development Conference in **London** in September.
- SQA will attend the ICEF Higher Education Partnership Forum in September in **Geneva**.
- SQA will exhibit at the annual European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference and Exhibition on 11–14 September in **Geneva**.
- SQA will meet with the National Qualifications Authority, **Abu Dhabi** in August to discuss possible cooperation.
- SQA will present to the Ministry of Labour in **Kazakhstan** on SQA's capabilities on technical and vocational and education and training (TVET) reform in September.
- SQA will exhibit at the Get Energy Global Event in the **Netherlands**, in September.

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Inward

- SQA will host a visit from the Chairman and other senior representatives of the **Bangladesh** Technical Education Board in July.

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality, Scotland) Outward

- July 2018 – skype meetings with **Albania** Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) around future consultancy work around student engagement in Albania and a potential funding bid.
- 17 July 2018 – hosting a visitor from Ako Aotearoa (very roughly, **New Zealand's** equivalent of the UK's Higher Education Academy) at day 1 of sparqs' That's Quality! Universities event.
- 17 August 2018 – contributing to an induction event for Irish students' union officers and staff about NStEP and the coming year's activities which we will be supporting. Event taking place in Coleraine, **Northern Ireland**, but audience will be from the Republic of Ireland.

- 18-22 August 2018 – Co-delivering “Train the Trainer” training in **Brussels** for ESU student leaders across Europe.
- 29-31 August 2018 – International delegates attending sparqs annual residential Associate Trainer event – hosting delegates from NStEP in **Ireland**, Artestis Plantijn in **Belgium, and Australia**.
- 24-27 September 2018 – contributing to Institutional Analysis workshops and national project meetings and consultancy in various locations in **Ireland**, as part of our support to NStEP.

QAA Scotland

- International Insights Webinar – **Singapore** 3 July 2018 - online
QAA's next International Insights webinar will focus on Singapore. Our MoU partners, the Committee for Private Education (CPE), will provide an update on latest developments in Singapore. We will also provide an introduction to the new Student Forums we will be running in collaboration with a number of our partners including CPE.
- 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 held an event for **International Education Consultants** at its offices in Glasgow on 23 May 2018. The event provided the opportunity for individuals and organisations currently operating within the area of international education development to gain a better understanding of the SCQF and explore how it can be used internationally to support education development work.
- In collaboration with the **Bahrain Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA)**, the SCQF Partnership has completed and published a Referencing Report of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF). Scotland has experience of referencing their Framework to the EQF and also to another regional Framework and used this experience to agree a process with Bahrain.
- SCQFP remains involved with the **Erasmus+ funded project “DAhoy”**. The project aims to investigate innovative educational ideas around decision making and will produce a decision skills Framework that can be integrated into Higher Education and Vocational Education & Training. Project management meetings have taken place in France in January and Iceland in June. The project has successfully delivered year 1 output and is moving into year 2 which will require SCQFP to advise on the development of the decision skills framework. Staff of the SCQFP recently gave a workshop on the “DAhoy” project at the College Development Network Expo in June.
- The **Erasmus+ funded NQF-in project**, which aims to provide evidence based support to national governments, EU agencies and key stakeholders in developing

policies on including non-formal VET qualification into NQFs, is now complete and was concluded at the final conference in Warsaw in June. Staff of SCQFP attended the conference to chair and present on the Scottish findings of the project.

- Scottish Government has approved SCQFP to participate in a **project to re-reference to the EQF** as an update to the referencing carried out in 2009. As part of a joint bid to the European Commission, the SCQF EQF re-referencing project will work alongside National Co-ordination Point for Wales which will update its referencing at the same time. The EC has confirmed funding and the project is moving forward to complete the updated referencing pre Brexit.
- SCQFP staff attended the EQF advisory committee meeting in **Bratislava** 17-18 April.
- SCQFP has met with visitors from **Latvia, Azerbaijan and Pakistan** interested in the work of the SCQFP and is provisionally planning study visits for groups from Malta and Norway.
- Work is underway to produce a **brochure to promote the international work** of the SCQFP, highlighting our consultancy expertise and services for potential clients. It is designed for a wide audience and will be available shortly. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Lydia George l.george@scqf.org.uk

RSE

- 12-14 September 2018 The 2018 RSE/NSFC workshop will be on the topic of **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics** working with the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics.
- 15 October 2018 2018 **MacCormick European lecture** – Addressing climate change and pursuing economic development: reflections from the IPCC The 2018 MacCormick European Lecture will be delivered by Dr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- 17 October 2018 **International Committee meeting**
- Autumn 2018 **RSE/MOST Workshop**: Gravitational Waves The 2018 RSE/MOST workshop will be on the topic of Gravitational Waves.

Education Scotland

- Possible ES **International Student Voice Conference** on 28 November 2018

Key Activities over past three months

SQA Outward

- SQA exhibited at the Oil & Gas, West Asia (OGWA) exhibition in **Oman** in April promoting our range of Oil & Gas qualifications.
- SQA presented on our experience in **Nepal** at the launch of the British Embassy, Kathmandu issued report on Opportunities for UK Businesses in Nepal's Education Sector, in London in May.
- SQA collaborated with Scottish Development International to exhibit and meet with

potential customers at the Offshore Technology Conference in **Houston**, USA in May

- SQA exhibited at Going Global, a British Council event, in Kuala Lumpur, **Malaysia** in May.
- SQA exhibited our Diploma to Degree offering at NAFSA (Association of International Educators) annual conference and expo on 27 May–1 June, **Philadelphia**, USA.
- SQA attended the Saegis Campus graduation ceremony in **Sri Lanka** in May.
- SQA attended the first HN graduation ceremony at MMAC College in **Myanmar** in June.

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland)

- 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.
- 15 May 2018 - **NStEP project 1** – 3rd team meeting via skype.
- 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.
- 5 June 2018 – meeting with Hibernia College in **Ireland** re sparqs Online Distance Learning project.
- 5 June 2018 - Athlone Institute of Technology IAS induction meeting in **Ireland** as part of NStEP programme.
- 6 June 2018 – Galway Mayo Institute of Technology IAS induction meeting in **Ireland** as part of NStEP programme.
- 6 June 2018 - Limerick Institute of Technology IAS induction meeting in **Ireland** as part of NStEP programme.
- 26 June 2018 – Skype interview with Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in **Austria** for a Doctoral Thesis on the Comparison of Higher Education Policies in Austria, Finland and Scotland.

Education Scotland Inward activity

- (04/06/2018 to 04/06/2018) - **New Zealand** Senior Civil Servant and colleagues visit to Education Scotland.

Education Scotland Outward activity

- (13/04/2018 to 15/04/2018) – ES attended the 'Psychology for everyone - the value of psychology education for young people' - Conference of the **European Federation of Psychology Teachers Associations**.
- (24/04/2018 to 27/04/2018) – ES attending the European Agency Bi-Annual Meeting in Zurich, **Switzerland**.
- (27/04/2018 to 27/04/2018) – ES attending Un marco de competencias profesionalis docentes no s. XXI / Teacher competences framework in the 21st century in Galicia, **Spain**.
- (08/05/2018 to 11/05/2018) – ES and East Lothian Council Colleagues visited **Slovenia** to attend the Erasmus+ project Dissemination Event and Partners Meeting.
- (14/06/2018 to 14/06/2018) – ES visited the **Netherlands** for a SICI Meeting.
- (29/06/2018 to 06/07 2018) – ES attending the International Leadership Forum in Melbourne, **Australia**.

SAAS

- Attended the annual meeting of the Network of Student Support Experts in Europe. The meeting was held in **Copenhagen**. The group is a student funding network that shares good practice and policy development across over 25 countries in Europe.

QAA Scotland

- European plaudits for QAA and UK higher education quality assurance The **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)** makes 'valuable contributions to protecting student interests and towards higher education quality advancements internationally'. The panel's report has recently been published by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).
- Welcome to **QAA's brand new website** We are pleased to announce that our new website is now live! You should find that the new site is easier to navigate than before and responds to whichever technology you are viewing it on. For the first time, QAA Scotland also has its own site and, on behalf of the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee, we've also redeveloped the Enhancement Themes website.
- 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, brought together thought leaders, decision makers, quality experts and students to share insight, inspiration and innovation.

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 was the result of a new partnership with the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB).
- 25 April 2018 **International Committee meeting**
- 3 May 2018 **RSE-JSPS Joint event** The RSE held a joint symposium with the **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)** 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** The speaker for this year's RSE/SCEN lecture was 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 call were:
 - Quantum Technologies
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Water

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 April 2018 and July 2018, 4 applications were supported by the RSE. Following China workshop, 4 RSE-NSFC Joint Projects were supported