

International Lifelong Learning Network

Activity from July 2018 onwards

Education Scotland

ES International Student Voice Conference on 04 December 2018.

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

- SQA co-presented with a US credential evaluation body at the annual Association for International Credential Evaluation Professionals Conference, in **Philadelphia** on 'The Educational Systems of Scotland' in October.
- SQA held a workshop at a UK–Vietnam event on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) that was organised by the Department for International Trade and the Department of Labour in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** in October. The aim of the event was to share UK TVET expertise.
- SQA will host a visit from representatives from the **Mexican** Institute of Petroleum in November. The purpose is to progress discussions on developing qualifications for the Mexican energy sector.
- SQA will exhibit at the **Abu Dhabi** International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in November. The aim is to promote SQA's Oil and Gas qualifications and services, and to meet/engage with industry leaders

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality, Scotland)

- 3 October 2018 - [NStEP](#) project chairs' meeting with contacts in **Ireland** – by skype.
- 23 October 2018 – IT Carlow induction meeting as part of the [NStEP](#) project in **Ireland** – by skype.
- 24 October 2018 – Project 3 meeting - as part of the [NStEP](#) project in **Ireland** – by skype.
- 7 November 2018 - Project 5 meeting - as part of the [NStEP](#) project in **Ireland** – probably by skype.
- 10 November 2018 – **Lebanon** - contribution 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”.
- 15-17 November 2018 – EQAF (European Quality Assurance Forum) Annual Conference in **Vienna, Austria**. Presentation of a paper on engaging students diversely (such as postgraduate and distance learners).
- 19 November 2018 – [NStEP](#) project chairs' meeting in Limerick, **Ireland**.

- 19 November 2018 – Institutional Analysis at IT Limerick as part of the [NStEP](#) project in **Ireland**.
- 20 November 2018 - QQI conference: Best Practice in Student-Centred Approaches in Education and Training, in **Dublin, Ireland**. Conference by QQI in partnership with HEA, ISSE, IUA, THEA & USI. Co-presentation of a paper with QAA Scotland on learning from student-led teaching awards
- 21 November 2018 – [NStEP](#) project Network meeting in **Dublin, Ireland**. Facilitating keynote from University of the Highlands and Islands to share practice on student engagement in blended learning.

QAA Scotland

- [Developing international collaborations and partnerships - Part 2](#) 1 November 2018 – Webinar Following on from our popular webinar on 25 September, Part 2 will continue discussions around how different HE providers effectively manage their **international partnership arrangements**.
- [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.
- [International Insights - Dubai](#) 19 November 2018 – Webinar. Our next International Insights focus is **Dubai**. Our MoU partner the Knowledge & Human Development Authority (KHDA) will provide an update on latest developments in Dubai.

SCQF(Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

- The SCQF Partnership is currently working on a project to update the referencing report of the SCQF to the EQF. Supported by Scottish Government and with European Commission funding through a joint bid with Wales, it is planned to deliver the final **SCQF updated report** to the EQF Advisory Group before the end of the year. A Steering Group has been set up to agree and oversee the updating process and it provide consultation with key stakeholders. The Steering Group includes representatives from higher and vocational education, key education bodies, learners, social partners and employers across Scotland, international experts and includes members with a wide range of experience and knowledge. The first Steering Group meeting was held on 26 September, with the second and final meeting planned for 7 November before finalising the project report for submission in mid-November.
- The CEO and Head of Quality and International Development of the SCQFP will present the **final re-referencing report** to member states at the EQF Advisory Group meeting in December. This will mean that the most up-to-date information on the Scottish system, qualifications and the SCQF will have been presented pre-Brexit.
- SCQFP is a member of the EQF Advisory Group project group on **International Qualifications**. This group will examine how countries are including international qualifications into their NQFs.
- SCQFP remains involved with the **Erasmus+ funded project “DAhoy”**. The project aims to investigate innovative educational ideas around decision making and aims to produce a decision skills framework that could be integrated into both higher and vocational programmes.

The project is now in year 2 which will see SCQFP advising on the development of the decision skills framework.

- The SCQFP is expecting to host study visits from **Malta and Norway** in the forthcoming months.
- The SCQFP continues to hold meetings with Colleges, Universities, SQA International and the British Council to explore potential for **collaboration on International projects** and study visits. If you would like discuss what the SCQFP can contribute to your international work please use the contact details below.
- The SCQFP has produced a **brochure to promote its international work**, highlighting consultancy expertise and services for potential clients, it is designed for a wide audience and is now available. If you are interested in receiving a copy or any other SCQF resources, please use the contact details below.

If you would like further information please contact Lydia George on L.George@scqf.org.uk or check our website www.scqf.org.uk.

RSE

- 7-9 November 2018 RSE/MOST Workshop: Gravitational Waves The **2018 RSE/MOST workshop** will be on the topic of Gravitational Waves.
- 1-2 November 2018 **ALLEA-Royal Society Conference** "Flourishing in a Data-enabled Society" RSE participation in the conference.

Key Activities over past three months

SQA

- SQA hosted a visit from the Chairman and other senior representatives of the **Bangladesh** Technical Education Board in July. The visit was to discuss potential co-operation and to gain an understanding of SQA's roles and responsibilities.
- SQA met with the Ministry of Advanced Education for **British Columbia, Canada** in August to discuss on-going activities and opportunities in the province.
- SQA met with the National Qualifications Authority, **Abu Dhabi** in August to discuss possible areas of co-operation.
- SQA exhibited at the Star Education Fair in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** in August. The event was on centre and student recruitment.
- SQA attended the **Department for International Development** Conference in London in September.
- SQA attended the International Consultants for Education and Fairs (ICEF), Higher Education Partnership forum in **Geneva** in September. This annual event allowed SQA to hear current models of partnership working and to meet with higher education institutions, and to explore opportunities for future partnership work.
- SQA exhibited at the annual European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference and Exhibition in **Geneva** in September. This event provided an opportunity for

the sharing of expertise, networking and resources in the internationalisation of higher education. SQA also met with existing progression partners and explored new opportunities for partnership working.

- SQA hosted a visit from a delegation led by the **Ghanaian Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations** in September. Their visit was to gain insights into SQA's approaches to meet the challenges of youth employment through TVET.
- SQA presented to the Ministry of Labour in Kazakhstan in September on SQA's capabilities on TVET reform.
- SQA exhibited at the Get Energy Global event in the **Netherlands**, in September.
- SQA attended the graduation ceremony at Saegis Campus in **Colombo, Sri Lanka** in September.
- SQA attended the official launch of the partnership with London School of Commerce, which is the latest SQA accredited centre in **Sri Lanka** in September.
- SQA attended the Future Minds Expo, in **Colombo, Sri Lanka** in September. This was a higher education event and was an opportunity for SQA to engage and meet with local professional bodies and potential new partners.
- SQA attended an education scoping mission in **Uzbekistan** to explore opportunities with TVET organisations and institutions in September

SCQF(Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

- SCQF Partnership attended the EQF Advisory group meeting in **Brussels** on 2 & 3 October to give an oral presentation on the SCQF EQF re-referencing project.
- SCQFP attended the first meeting of the EQG AG project group on **International qualifications**.
- The SCQF Partnership recently chaired a meeting of the reinstated UK Coordinating Group for European and Vocational Education and Training Initiatives meeting. This group provides a forum for the UK EQF NCPs and the most relevant stakeholders to work together to implement the EQF in the UK and was reinstated have an overview of the **EQF re-referencing project**.
- SCQFP hosted a study visit for a delegation from **Dominican Republic**.
- SCQFP hosted part of a study visit in collaboration with City of Glasgow College for a delegation from **China**.
- SCQFP contributed to a SQA study visit for a **Ghanaian** delegation
- SCQFP continued to contribute to **DAhoy project** and the project has successfully delivered year 1 output in July.
- The NQF-IN project completed in September 2018. This **Erasmus+** funded project examined the policies and procedures for including non-formal VET qualification into NQFs

and involved 7 countries. The final report is published on the project website and can be accessed at <http://www.nqf-in.eu/>

Education Scotland Outward Activity

- (30 August 2018) – Visit to **Reykjavik, Iceland** for Better Relationships, Better Behaviour and Better Learning Conference.
- (12 and 13 September 2018) – Visit to the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECML) in **Graz, Austria**.
- (11 to 13 September) – Visit – European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE) - Structural Reform Support Services Cyprus. Planning Meeting was held in **Brussels**.
- (25 and 26 September 2018) – Visit to **Madrid, Spain** for the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE) Management Board.
- (27 and 28 September 2018) – Visit to **Dublin, Ireland** for an expert meeting with National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

Education Scotland Inward Activity

- (11 July 2018) – Colleagues from GIZ Programme, **Malawi** asked to visit Education Scotland. The purpose of this was learning for GIZ Education as they wanted to find out how inspectors in Education Scotland measure the effectiveness of teaching/teachers and find out how schools are evaluating themselves.

QAA Scotland

- [Enhancing the UK TNE Student Experience in Dubai and Singapore](#) This case study explores ways in which we can find out more about the UK TNE student experience and views; provides detailed insights into what is important to **TNE students**; and illustrates effective ways that quality assurance bodies and agencies can work together cooperatively to generate valuable outcomes and intelligence.
- [New country report: The Republic of the Philippines](#) As part of our series of country reports outlining the landscape and regulatory environment for **transnational education (TNE)** in key countries for UK higher education, our latest report looks at the **Philippines**. Though there are currently only six UK universities offering degrees in the country, with demand for higher education growing among a large university-age population and high English language proficiency, it offers significant potential for UK TNE.
- [International review on Hong Kong](#) QAA's latest international review has found UK transnational education (TNE) in **Hong Kong** to be an essential and embedded part of the higher education landscape that meets the UK's rigorous criteria for academic standards and quality. This review looks at 14 UK TNE arrangements, including branch campus delivery, joint/double degrees, and partnership with local organisations.

RSE

- 10 September 2018 **Connected Scotland partners** meeting (RSE hosted)
- 12-14 September 2018 RSE/NSFC Workshop The 2018 **RSE/NSFC workshop** was on the

topic of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics working with the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics.

- 15 October 2018 MacCormick European lecture – Addressing climate change and pursuing economic development: reflections from the IPCC The **2018 MacCormick European Lecture** was delivered by Dr Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The lecture was recorded and live streamed. A roundtable meeting on the topic of 'Moving towards a low carbon economy' took place during the day. A report of the roundtable meeting and lecture will be available on the RSE website shortly.
- 17 October 2018 International Committee meeting

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality, Scotland)

- 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 – hosted 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 – contribution to content of an induction event in **Dublin, Ireland** for Irish students' union officers and staff about [NStEP](#) and the coming year's activities which we will be supporting.
- 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](#).

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 July 2018 and October 2018, 4 applications were supported by the RSE.