



Notes to Checklist on Key Features for New Quality Assured Learning Programmes on QR by Operators with PAA Status (Notes to New Programme Checklist - PAA)

Purpose

1. The Notes serves to complement the “*Checklist on Key Features for New Quality Assured Learning Programmes on QR by Operators with PAA Status*” (New Programme Checklist – PAA) effective from February 2019. It aims to set out the prevailing working principles that the HKCAAVQ, in its statutory capacity as the QR Authority under Cap. 592, conducts the vetting of programmes uploaded by Operators with PAA Status. This is centrally underpinned by the prevailing version of “*Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance under the HK Qualifications Framework*” or “*Guidelines on Stage 3 – Programme Area Accreditation of Four-stage Quality Assurance Process*” (where deemed appropriate).

Working Principles

2. As for QR vetting work, the QFQR unit of HKCAAVQ (QFQR) primarily focuses on the accuracy and consistency of the data uploaded by operators in order to safeguard the integrity and reliability of QR. Under this context, QFQR conducts vetting of QR records uploaded, making reference to the “*Checklist on Key Features for New Quality Assured Learning Programmes on QR by Operators with PAA Status*” and / or the “*Declaration Statement for the Upload of Collaborative Programmes on the QR by Operators with PAA Status*” provided by the operator and on the basis of programme information thus accessible on the programme web-link of the institution. QFQR will then formulate a recommendation pertaining to entry of the programme into the QR for the purpose of QF-recognition, making a holistic review of all the information obtained and in consultation with the relevant Accreditation unit of HKCAAVQ and the Education Bureau as and when such a need arises.
3. The fundamental working principles thus adopted by QFQR to assure that the new programme(s) fall within the scope of approved programme area(s) are that:
 - (a) The approved programme area and validity period proposed are as stipulated in the Statement of Accreditation Approval (SOA).
 - (b) The proposed programme area of the programme is aligned with the major focus of the programme.

- (c) The proposed QF Level of the programme is aligned with the programme content.
- (d) The title of programme / qualification is aligned with the major focus of the programme.
- (e) For new programme(s) requiring approval from the Chief Executive-in-Council, e.g. local self-financing degree programme(s) offered by Cap. 320 institutions, the operator is required to consult the QF&QR unit of HKCAAVQ (QFQR) before seeking approval from the CE-in-Council. The QFQR will ascertain if the new programme(s) fall within the scope of the approved programme area(s) and in the process seek the advice of the relevant Accreditation unit of HKCAAVQ (as deemed necessary). In case of disagreement between an operator and HKCAAVQ as to whether the new learning programme(s) fall within the scope of approved programme area(s), HKCAAVQ may consult the Panel on PAA Scope.

QFQR/HKCAAVQ

1 February 2019