
New Education QA model approval process – briefing paper for ETP (May 2021)

This paper is intended to provide Committee members with context to inform decision making for the first concluded pilot cases for the approval process in the new Education QA model. We are bringing two recommendations for approval for new programmes at existing education providers (agenda items 3A – 1, 2 and 7; Coventry University and University of Wolverhampton).

Overview of the steps taken to reach a recommended outcome

Detail about the bespoke process undertaken in each case are set out in the relevant reports. A summary of steps taken for both are as follows:

- Request for approval – Existing education provider requested approval for new programmes, and set out why they slot into existing ‘programme clusters’¹
- Stage 1 – Executive judgement that proposals slot into existing programme clusters, and that institution-level standards of education and training (SETs) do not need to be reconsidered for the proposal
- Stage 2 – Registrant visitors’ consideration of documentary submission, and quality activity, resulting in a quality report with a recommendation for approval

Robustness of the process

Fundamentally, the approval process still focuses on whether the 52 SETs are met by the institution and programmes. These standards are assured in two ways:

- Institution level – provider supplied information about how the proposal slots into existing provision considered by the executive. Previous judgements that standards are met relied upon if the provision does slot in
- Programme level – detailed visitor review of the provider’s documentation mapped to standards, framed by institution context, data and intelligence provided by the executive. Quality activity designed and carried out by visitors to reach conclusions

Decision

The Committee is asked to make a decision about whether to approve programmes, based on the process report and any observations supplied by the education provider.

¹ The report was produced when we were using the previous terminology of ‘institution’ which has now been replaced by ‘programme cluster’ This term is used to describe how programmes which share approaches linked to our institution level standards are grouped together.