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# Comparative Quality Assurance

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# Central assumptions of quality assurance process

Performance can be measured,  
Opportunities for enhancement identified,  
Action plan for enhancement,  
and  
Improvement is demonstrated over time

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# Quality assurance process

- Self assessment report – self critical indicating strengths and how weaknesses are being addressed
  - Peer Review visitation to validate the Self Assessment report
  - Peer Review Report – identifying good practice and opportunities for enhancement
  - Accreditation decision by Board
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# Self Assessment Report for degree programmes

- 1. Needs, Aims, and Learning Outcomes
  - 2. Educational Process (Teaching, Learning, Assessment, Guidance)
  - 3. Educational Resources and Partnership
  - 4. Student Progression
  - 5. Student Support (non-educational)
  - 6. Quality Management and Enhancement
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# Quality assurance framework

Categories	Benchmarks
1 Needs, Aims, and Learning Outcomes	1.1 Mission Statement 1.2 Needs of stakeholders 1.3 Aims and <b>learning outcomes of the degree programme</b>
2 Educational Process (Teaching, Learning, Assessment, Guidance)	2.1 Curriculum planning 2.2 Teaching and learning process 2.3 Assessment of learning outcomes
3 Educational Resources and Partnership	3.1 Staffing 3.2 Facilities 3.3 Resource allocation 3.4 Interactions with external organisations (e.g. Industry, professions and other HEI's)

# Quality assurance framework

Categories	Benchmarks
4 Student Progression	4.1 From application to graduation 4.2 Completion rates 4.3 Employability
5 Student Support (non-educational)	5.1 Pre-induction and selection arrangements 5.2 Administrative support 5.3 Induction arrangements 5.4 Welfare support services 5.5 Cultural and social needs 5.6 Financial information and support

# Quality assurance framework

Categories	Benchmarks
6 Quality Management and Enhancement	6.1 Institutional environment 6.2 Decision-making process 6.3 Internal Quality Assurance (QA) and enhancement systems 6.4 Inclusion of the 'student voice' 6.5 Appeals 6.6 Ethics/equal opportunities 6.7 Staff development

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# Summary of ICA's contribution

- Quality assurance of degree programmes conducted by a well defined and accepted process
  - The purpose of the quality assurance process is to lead to the enhancement of degree programmes in the life sciences through international Peer Review
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