

## PRINCIPLES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS AND THE ASSURANCE & ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY FOR UNIVERSITY OF WALES AWARDS

The University aims to operate an integrated system of standards assurance and quality management and enhancement which makes an effective contribution to the achievement of the University's strategic plan and mission. The system must be sufficiently robust to maintain the defined standards of the University's awards, to satisfy internal quality management and enhancement objectives, to be consistent with the published sections of the QAA Quality Code and to ensure that other aspects of the national academic infrastructure are fully addressed.

In relation to **standards** the system seeks to ensure that:

- the academic standards of the programmes of study offered by the University are appropriate to their related awards;
- the University's programme structures accord with the requirements of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) and all awards conform to the approved structure;
- robust processes are in place for programme approval, monitoring and review and that these are working effectively;
- the standards of awards are kept under review to ensure the continued validity of the award and that student achievement is commensurate with these;
- standards are externally benchmarked and validated through, *inter alia*, the input of external experts, external examiners and PSRBs and by reference to relevant subject benchmarks;
- the learning resources provided are appropriate to support students in achieving the award for which they are registered.

In relation to **quality** the system seeks to ensure that:

- the views of students, staff, academic subject peers and the wider community are fully integrated into the process of programme planning, development and change;
- appropriate quality management arrangements are in place to ensure that all aspects of learning resources are working effectively in support of student learning;
- timely and appropriate action is taken where change is necessary or where matters of concern have been identified;
- excellence in teaching is recognised and rewarded;
- excellence in research and scholarship are supported;
- good practice and innovation are recognised and promulgated;
- enhancement of the student learning experience is promulgated, recognised and rewarded.

The key operating principles of the system are that:

- all formal processes are linked to the appropriate point in the management structure at which decisions can be taken about the specific action required within the timescale identified;

- all issues raised through the formal processes and any action taken are recorded and reported appropriately;
- formal processes are applied rigorously to all programmes of study and subjects, including validated provision.

The Principles have been developed by Academic Board and have been approved for adoption by Academic Board. They will be subject to review by the same body on an annual basis.