

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Educational Oversight – Exceptional Arrangements Review

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) conducted a review under the Educational Oversight – Exceptional Arrangements method of INTO University of Stirling on 17 May 2019.

The main purpose of the review was to:

- make judgements about the provider's management of its responsibilities for academic standards, as set out in its contractual arrangements with its academic partner
- make judgements on the provider's management and enhancement of the quality of learning opportunities
- make judgements about the reliability of the information that the provider produces for its intended audiences about the learning opportunities it offers
- report on any features of good practice
- make recommendations for action.

Key findings

The QAA panel considered evidence relating to the educational provision at INTO University of Stirling, both information supplied in advance and evidence gathered during the review visit. The review has resulted in the key findings stated in this section.

Judgements

The QAA panel formed the following judgement about INTO University of Stirling.

- **confidence** can be placed in INTO Stirling's management of its responsibilities for academic standards, as set out in its contractual arrangements with its academic partner
- **confidence** can be placed in INTO Stirling's management and enhancement of the quality of learning opportunities.
- **reliance** be placed on the information that INTO Stirling produces for its intended audiences about the learning opportunities it offers.

Recommendations

The QAA panel made the following recommendations to INTO University of Stirling.

It is **desirable** for INTO University of Stirling to:

1. develop arrangements with the University to review how good practice approaches undertaken by Link Tutors can be applied consistently
2. ensure students are fully informed of the external examiner system and make all external examiner reports available to students.

Action Plan

INTO University of Stirling will address these recommendations through the following actions:

1. The agreed remit for the Link Tutor will be distributed to all faculties to ensure the role is fully understood. The Link Tutor Forum has agreed key activities to ensure consistency of approach and will meet quarterly to monitor progress. This forum will feedback to the Joint Venture Academic Management Board on the outcomes or issues experienced across the Academic Year.
2. The External Examiner reports will be uploaded to the VLE and made available to students.

Sandy Tippet

Centre Director

INTO University of Stirling