

## **Summary of key changes to the Academic Quality Handbook 2023/24**

### **Chapter 1 Institutional Context**

- *Section 1.1:* Inclusion of reference to various regulatory bodies other than the QAA, such as Estyn and OFSTED. Clarification of the statement in relation to the University of Wales Technical Institutes.

### **Chapter 2 Academic Committee Structure**

- *Section 2:* Inclusion of reference to the Senior Leadership Team and removal of reference to the Academic Planning Team and Operational Leadership Team.
- *Section 2.4.2:* Placing the Equalities and Wellbeing Board into abeyance while the structure is being reconsidered.
- *Throughout the chapter:* Changes to terminology/job titles and minor changes to committee membership.

### **Chapter 3 Quality Enhancement**

The chapter has been fully updated to include:

- the University's commitment to the professional development of academic and academic-related staff in relation to academic experience;
- reflection on the establishment of a community of practice and the further enhancement of a culture of collaboration and support for learning and teaching;
- embedding of enhancement priorities in line with the focus of future quality enhancement reviews;
- a number of key new elements of the Nexus Learning and Teaching Framework: the Learning Design Framework; the Collaborative Practice Framework; and Nexus Learning and Teaching Awards.

### **Chapter 4 Programme Design, Approval, Validation, Monitoring and Review**

This chapter has had substantial revisions, mainly in relation to the following sections:

- *Section 4.2:* Further clarification of Programme Approval (Stage 1) regulations and addition of section on approval of microcredentials and non-credit bearing short courses.
- *Section 4.3:* Expansion of information regarding programme design stage.

- *Section 4.8.4:* Updating of section on major modification process to reflect current practice.
- *Section 4.8.6:* Updating of list of minor modifications to reflect the list in Appendix PV9.
- *Section 4.8.10-4.8.15:* Revision of regulations for the Suspension or Withdrawal of Programmes of Study.
- *Section 4.9.1-4.9.22:* Removal of Annual Programme Review process for UWTSD programmes, replaced by Academic Monitoring process.
- *Section 4.9.23-4.9.25:* Revisions to monitoring process at Collaborative Partner Institutions, maintaining elements of the current process but with some revisions to streamline the documentation required.

## **Chapter 5      Student Representation, Engagement and Support**

- *Section 5.2:* Updating the list of strategies linked to the area.
- *Section 5.4:* Updating the section to include a reference to encouraging student-staff collaboration and co-creation.
- *Section 5.8:* Updating the section to refer to engaging with students, seeking student contributions to key quality assurance processes in relation to their programmes of study, and to student-related policy and strategy development, and student voice/feedback mechanisms.

## **Chapter 6      Taught Award Regulations**

- *Section 6.1.2:* Further clarification of definitions for Course, Microcredentials and Blended Learning.
- *Section 6.3.2 (13):* Addition of usual and maximum periods of study for the Master of Architecture (MArch).
- *Section 6.3.3:* Addition of additional specific requirements for the MArch.
- *Section 6.5.3.4 (3):* Clarification in relation to regulations for repeating a level of study, or the majority of a level of study.
- *Section 6.6.2:* Addition of regulations for the MArch.
- *Section 6.6.4.1:* Addition of new section on MA programmes without a Part II (including MArch): Rules for Progression and Award.
- *Section 6.6.7 (12):* Clarification of MArch degree classification regulations.
- *Section 6.7.2.2:* Addition of section on Students on PSRB Accredited Programmes with mandatory non-credit bearing placement hours.
- *Section 6.9:* Procedural clarification to Posthumous Award regulations.

## **Chapter 7      Assessment: Taught Programmes**

- *Section 7.8.(4).iii*: Clarification regarding moderation.

## **Chapter 8      Research Degree Regulations**

- No revisions made to Chapter 8.

## **Chapter 9      Procedural Framework for Collaborative Provision**

- *Section 9.2.2*: Removal of reference to off-campus provision, which is now located in Chapter 10.
- *Section 9.3*: Clarification of responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team and/or the Programme and Client Approval Group for various aspects of approval of new partnerships and/or new partnership programmes, together with other minor changes
- *Section 9.10.4*: Amendment to reflect additional responsibilities of Collaborative Partnerships Office (CPO) in managing (re)validation processes for partners.
- *Sections 9.11.1 and 9.11.2*: Amendments to reflect changes agreed for Chapter 4 (removal of Annual Programme Review process, replaced by Academic Monitoring process).
- *Section 9.12.3*: Amendment to interim partner review process, so that process is only undertaken if risks are identified or where there are complex arrangements (such as dual awards).
- *Section 9.16.2*: Addition to specify that students enrolled on programmes to be terminated are included in the development of teach-out plans.

## **Chapter 10      Short Courses, Professional Practice Framework, Contributing Partners and Accreditation**

- *Change of chapter title to*: Microcredentials, Short courses, Professional Practice Framework, Contributing Partners, Delivery at an external location and Accreditation
- *Section 10.2*: Distinction between credit-bearing microcredentials and non-credit bearing short courses and addition of provision delivered at an external site.
- *Section 10.5*: Fully updated section on microcredentials, reflecting the latest sector guidance.
- *Section 10.6*: New section on non-credit-bearing short courses.
- *Section 10.9*: New section on the delivery of UWTSD provision at external locations.

## **Chapter 11 Working with Others**

- *Section 11.1:* Addition of cross-reference to best practice guidance used to inform the work associated with the chapter.
- *Section 11.4:* Expansion of section on the work of the International Mobility Board.
- *Section 11.7:* Addition of reference of reference to requirements of the Apprenticeship Framework (Wales) or Standard (English) and end-point assessment in relation to Apprenticeships.

## **Chapter 12 Student Policies**

- No revisions made to Chapter 12. However, several policies listed in Chapter 12 have been updated for the 2023/24 academic year.