

Reasheath College STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR 2014/15 following QAA HER.

The points expressed below are formulated from the content of this self-assessment report and organisational aims derived from the curriculum area's strategic plan for the forthcoming academic year:

QAA Compliance and Judgement	Action to be addressed. There were no recommendations made in the QAA report. The following actions are areas identified that the college feels will improve overall quality.	Responsibility	Timeframe for Completion
Expectation (A1): Each qualification (including those awarded through arrangements with other delivery organisations or support providers) is allocated to the appropriate level in <i>The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)</i>.	External Examiner Reports to be made available to students via Moodle, along with Annual Course Monitoring Reports (ACMRs) from the previous year, which identifies the departmental responses in relation to the feedback from external examiners	HE Quality Enhancement Manager / HE Course Managers	Completed October 2014
Expectation (A4): Higher education providers have in place effective processes to approve and periodically review the validity and relevance of programmes.	Progression routes should be identified for all foundation degree provision across all curriculum areas, and specified within programme specifications and course handbooks.	HE Quality Enhancement Manager / HE Course Managers	Completed September 2014
Expectation (B1): Higher education providers have effective processes for the design and approval of programmes.	Staff CVs to be submitted and collated at the start of each academic year in preparation for annual partnership review and potential programme approval processes.	HE Programme Administrator	Completed December 2014

<p>Expectation (B2): Policies and procedures used to admit students are clear, fair, explicit and consistently applied.</p>	<p>Mature students should be provided with a question-and-answer session for mature students in induction week and a mature students' forum to provide on-going peer-to-peer support, plus they will have access to an online version of the forum for advice and networking.</p>	<p>Academic Operations Officer/HE Course Managers</p>	<p>Completed October 2014</p>
<p>Expectation (B3): Higher education providers, working with their staff, students and other stakeholders, articulate and systematically review and enhance the provision of learning opportunities and teaching practices, so that every student is enabled to develop as an independent learner, study their chosen subject(s) in depth, and enhance their capacity for analytical, critical and creative thinking.</p>	<p>Affirmation: Continue to develop and respond to student feedback, with particular emphasis on course organisation and management-NSS</p>	<p>Academic Operations Officer/HE Course Managers</p>	<p>Completed July 2015</p>
<p>Expectation (B5): Higher education providers take deliberate steps to engage all students, individually and collectively, as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their educational experience.</p>	<p>Although the College is recognised as good at communicating with students, the college wishes to develop a deeper engagement of students in decision making processes and quality assurance systems, e.g. involvement in appointing new staff, course development and validations, the enhancement of support for study skills development and the development of social networking.</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager / Academic Operations Officer/HE Marketing/HR</p>	<p>Completed June 2015</p>
<p>Expectation (B6): Higher education providers ensure that students have appropriate opportunities to show</p>	<p>Monitor the volume of assessment across each programme of study and ensure detailed and useful assessment criteria is included in assessment briefs and</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE Course</p>	<p>Completed October 2014</p>

they have achieved the intended learning outcomes for the award of a qualification or credit.	provided to the students when they are launched.	Managers	
	Provide University of Chester-affiliated students with an overarching assessment calendar to avoid bunching where delivery is shared.	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE Course Managers	Completed September 2014
	Provide CPD plans/ training for any curriculum areas where external examiners identify specific issues	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE PLs	Completed January 2015
	Affirmation: Continue to monitor the assessment and returning of student work and course management	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE Course Managers	Completed October 2014
Expectation (B10): Degree-awarding bodies take ultimate responsibility for academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities, irrespective of where these are delivered or who provides them. Arrangements for delivering learning opportunities with organisations other than the degree-awarding body are implemented securely and managed effectively.	HE Employer Engagement (Graduate) Portfolios to be implemented as of 2014/15, as a part of the College's wider commitment to engagement with industry and the provision of opportunities for students.	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE Advanced Practitioner	Completed December 2014
Expectation (C): UK higher education providers produce information for their intended audiences about the higher	Affirmation: To affirm the College's work to improve the consistency and accessibility of information available to students on the VLE, Quality Assurance Reviews for 2014/15 to include minimum threshold standards of what	HE Quality Enhancement Manager	Completed August 2014

education they offer that is fit for purpose, accessible and trustworthy.	should be available to students on the College VLE pages (course documentation, modular information, policies and procedures).		
Enhancement of student learning opportunities	Develop a HE Enhancement Strategy, which demonstrates a commitment to further development of the processes by which the College supports its higher education provision.	Assistant Dean of Higher Education/HE Quality Enhancement Manager	Due for completion December 2015

Good Practice Identified and plans to continue to develop these areas

Good Practice Identified and links to expectations	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe for Completion
The alignment of the higher education portfolio with the colleges mission and values (Expectation: A4, A5 and B1)	All new programme concepts rigorously tested against college mission and vision prior to proposals being introduced to partner HEI's for validation.	Dean of Higher Education	Completed July 2015
The management and use of long term strategic relationships with external stakeholders to enhance the student experience (Expectations A5,B1,B3,B4 and Enhancement)	The undergraduate employability portfolio will be rolled out across all curriculum areas in 2014/15 to assist students in focussing on their career aspirations	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/HE Advanced Practitioner/Course Managers	Completed December 2014
The integrated and coordinated activity of curriculum areas and	All Curriculum areas to provide schemes of work for group tutorials, which cover both academic and	Course Managers	Completed September 2014

<p>student support services to provide, comprehensive support for the student learning experience (Expectations: B2, B3, and B4)</p>	<p>employability skills development.</p> <p>New staff to be supported by a mentoring system which includes co-teaching with mentors, developmental observations and peer review.</p> <p>All HE teaching staff to be encouraged to work towards a HEA qualification, undertaking CPD both at the College as part of a structured CPD programme, and at the awarding institutions.</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Teams</p> <p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Teams</p>	<p>Completed October 2014</p> <p>On going</p>
<p>The full involvement of students in the extensive formal and informal student engagement opportunities (Expectation B5)</p>	<p>Students' views on teaching and learning from the external NSS, the College's own internal student survey and views from meeting with students, are considered at various forums and at the College HE Academic Board. Students are encouraged to actively participate in creating a learning culture. The College provides workshop opportunities for enhancement of academic studies and outside speakers but it also provides opportunities to assist students with employment skills.</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Managers</p>	<p>Completed March 2015</p>
<p>The systematic approach to providing work-based learning opportunities of quality and relevance to students and to the college's mission(Expectations: B3,B4,B10 and Enhancement)</p>	<p>The college provides opportunities for students to study additional qualifications. Success is very high across the curriculum areas who deliver them, with an average of 95% for success rates. However, we also require a stronger uptake of students on HE programmes participating on additional qualification pathways. The intention of the college is also to increase the number and diversity of additional qualifications offered across a wider range of curriculum areas within the college to meet increasing workforce demands and enabling our graduates to be work ready for employment.</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Managers</p>	<p>On going</p>

	<p>Career destination success for both BSc and FdSc graduates across both partner HEIs is Good as are average salary attainment across both award levels for both validating partners. The college will continue to promote and use its extensive external network of employers and stakeholders to secure student opportunities.</p>	Course Managers/HE Advanced Practitioner	Completed June 2015
The consolidation of higher education ethos through investment in Leadership, organisational structures and estate. (Expectations B4 and Enhancement)	<p>To both maintain and further enhance the commendation for the quality of learning opportunities afforded to our students, teaching staff to be made fully aware of exam protocols in relation to DSA students, make the HEST team aware in advance of phase tests and/or study tours throughout the academic year, and are aware of where to find information pertaining to learning profiles for students with identified support requirements/learning needs.</p>	HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Academic Operations Officer/Exams Office/HEST	Completed October 2014
The strategic recruitment and development of the higher education staff. (Expectations: B3,B4 and Enhancement)	<p>HE staff are appropriately qualified for their role. CVs are checked by partner HEIs. All teaching staff at RHC have to have a teaching qualification or be prepared to work towards one. The College also expects staff to engage in continuing professional development and the evaluation of their practice. Teaching staff have the support of the College teaching and learning coach/mentor, whose role ensures that new staff receive the best support possible.</p> <p>To enhance their teaching qualifications, HE staff then engage in acquiring HEA accreditation to meet the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and supporting learning in Higher Education.</p> <p>Teaching staff at RHC have very strong and, in most cases, good current industry experience. In many areas of the College staff engage in running commercial</p>	<p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Teams</p> <p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course Teams</p> <p>HE Quality Enhancement Manager/Course</p>	<p>Completed May 2015</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>

	enterprises with associated strong links with respective industries. Maintaining these links is given high priority and ties in with a structured Continual Professional Development programme. Staff engage throughout their career in continuing professional development with an evaluation of their practice to develop their understanding of their subject and the theory of learning. Scholarly activity is supported alongside CPD.	Teams	
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Signed (Dean of Higher Education):



Date: 25th September 2015

Link to Reaseheath College HER Report page: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/provider?UKPRN=10005404>