

QAA HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW ACTION PLAN

In February 2016, the higher education provision at Cleveland College of Art and Design [CCAD] was subject to a Higher Education Review [HER], conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education [QAA]. The HER report was published on the QAA website on 29 April 2016 and can be accessed at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports/provider?UKPRN=10001503#.V3PfMPkrLIU>

The QAA review team formed the following judgements about the higher education provision at Cleveland College of Art and Design.

- The maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of degree-awarding bodies **meets** UK expectations.
- The quality of student learning opportunities **meets** UK expectations.
- The quality of the information about learning opportunities **meets** UK expectations.
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities is **commended**.

Good practice

The QAA review team identified the following features of **good practice** at Cleveland College of Art and Design.

- The thorough and detailed integration of the College's reporting mechanisms with awarding body requirements for the monitoring and maintenance of academic standards (Expectations A2.1 and B7).
- The comprehensive support offered to staff for personal development and scholarly activity (Expectations B3 and Enhancement).
- The fully integrated and effective approach to employability that ensures students are prepared for professional practice in the creative industries (Expectations B4, A3.4, B10 and Enhancement).
- The strategic approach to enhancement which has developed a shared ethos of continuous improvement, empowering staff and enabling students to realise their full potential (Expectation B4 and Enhancement).

Recommendations

The QAA review team makes the following **recommendation** to Cleveland College of Art and Design.

By September 2016:

- provide clear guidance to all students on the strategies in place to support the completion of an academic module while on work experience (Expectation B10).

Affirmation of action being taken

The QAA review team **affirms** the following action that Cleveland College of Art and Design is already taking to make academic standards secure and/or improve the educational provision offered to its students.

- The steps being taken to involve students in all quality assurance and enhancement mechanisms (Expectation B5).

The action plan

The following action plan outlines how the College aims to build on the good practice and respond to the recommendation and affirmation outlined in the HER report.

The action plan was written in consultation with the Lead Student Representative and has been agreed by the Principal and senior managers. It will be formally monitored and reviewed through the College's HE Academic Committee and progress on its implementation will be reported to the Academic Board.

Good practice	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Progress	Date completed
The thorough and detailed integration of the College's reporting mechanisms with awarding body requirements for the monitoring and maintenance of academic standards (Expectations A2.1 and B7).	Review of institutional approval with degree-awarding body and full review of Memorandum of Understanding	May 2017	Head of HE (Quality)		
	Implementation of Operations Agreement	Introduce in September 2016 and review annually	Head of HE (Quality) Academic Registrar		
The comprehensive support offered to staff for personal development and scholarly activity (Expectations B3 and Enhancement).	Develop strategies to measure the impact of scholarly activity and research on learning and teaching	June 2017	Scholarly Activity & Research Committee [SARC]		
	Appointment of Head of Creative Research	October 2016	Principal		
	All HE staff to achieve HEA Fellowship	July 2017	Head of Creative Research		
	Continued investment in staff higher qualifications, including PhD	2016-2018	Principalship		
The fully integrated and effective approach to employability that ensures students are prepared for professional practice in the creative industries (Expectations B4, A3.4, B10 and Enhancement).	Clarify the formal processes for the involvement of employers and external partners in curriculum development through the Programme Design, Development and Approval Procedure	September 2016	Head of HE (Quality)		
	Develop centralised systems to collate professional and industry contacts and to measure the impact of links with the creative industries	June 2017	Head of Employability & External Relations		

<p>The strategic approach to enhancement which has developed a shared ethos of continuous improvement, empowering staff and enabling students to realise their full potential (Expectation B4 and Enhancement).</p>	<p>Development of the College's HE deliberative structure and committees reporting to the Academic Board to further enhance the decision-making processes which govern academic business</p> <p>Revision of the HE Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy [LTAS] to incorporate strategies for technology-based learning and employability and revision of aims to further enhance the student learning experience</p>	<p>Introduce revised structure in September 2016 and evaluate in June 2017</p> <p>June 2017</p>	<p>Principal Head of HE (Quality) Head of HE (Academic)</p> <p>HE Academic Committee [HEAC]</p>		
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Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Progress	Date completed
Provide clear guidance to all students on the strategies in place to support the completion of an academic module while on work experience (Expectation B10).	Revision of the Undergraduate Work Experience Policy and related procedures regarding release from academic study during periods of term-time work experience and strategies for completion of modules – information also to be clearly highlighted in Programme Handbooks and disseminated to students and staff	September 2016	Head of HE (Academic) Head of HE (Quality)		
		September 2016	Head of HE (Quality) Head of HE (Academic)		
Affirmation	Action	Date for completion	Responsibility	Progress	Date completed
The steps being taken to involve students in all quality assurance and enhancement mechanisms (Expectation B5).	Approval, implementation and monitoring of the Undergraduate Student Engagement Policy and its associated Strategy	September 2016 (approval and implementation)	Head of HE (Quality) Student Liaison Officer		
		June 2017 (monitoring and review)	HE Academic Committee [HEAC]		

Signed: MARTIN RABY

Date: 4 July 2016

Martin Raby
Principal and Chief Executive
Cleveland College of Art & Design