QAA

Current trends in Quality Assurance in the UK

Dr Stephen Jackson: Associate Director International
Outline

• HE policy developments
• Risk-based approaches to quality assurance
• Focus on enhancement
• Transnational education
• MOOCs
HE Policy Developments

- Tuition fees – student loans
- White Paper (2011) ‘Students at the heart of the system’
- Higher Education Bill (postponed)
- New entrants to the HE sector
- Relaxation of student number controls
- Education strategy – Transnational Education
- Quality Assessment Review
Risk-based approaches to quality assurance

“We will introduce a risk-based quality regime that focuses regulatory effort where it will have the most impact and gives powers to students to hold universities to account. All institutions will continue to be monitored through a single framework but the need for, and frequency of, scheduled institutional reviews will depend on an objective set of criteria and triggers, including student satisfaction, and the recent track record of each institution.”

BIS 2011
Quality Enhancement

Every student should benefit from the best learning experience possible:

• Judgments on institutional strategies for enhancement
• Guidance on quality improvement
• Highlight and disseminate good practice
• Overviews of review findings
• Thematic enquiries
A snapshot of UK TNE

Students studying for UK awards in over 200 different countries

638,850 students (2013-14): +7% on the previous year

131 (78%) UK higher education institutions now involved in some form of TNE.

Top 10 countries for UK TNE (2012-13, student numbers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>77,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>50,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>50,070</td>
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<td>iv</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>43,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>28,455</td>
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<td>iv</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>28,395</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ix</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>15,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>14,715</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source of data: HESA (2013-14)
UK TNE review activity
QAA perspective on MOOCs

QAA Statement

• securing quality
• recognising potential
• promoting good design

MOOC toolkit

• Information, knowledge and resources
• Sharing of best practice [case studies]
• MOOC network – community of practice
• new approaches to quality assurance

A QAA MOOC?
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