

QA of micro-credentials: reflective questions for internal and external QA

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

IMINQA WORKING GROUP MEETING

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Background to the document

- Content informed by the desk research
- Originally conceived as three separate documents – decision of writing group to combine
- Originally conceived as guidance or guidelines – decision of writing group to reformulate as reflective questions
- Sections for HEIs, agencies, and alternative providers
- Each question is followed by explanation of key issues to consider

Key principles

- Reflective rather than prescriptive
- Focus on fitness-for-purpose
- Short and sweet

Reflective questions for HEIs

What are the reasons for offering micro-credentials?

How can the special characteristics of micro-credentials be captured in the internal quality assurance approach?

What are the specific considerations for quality assuring micro-credentials that are originally conceived as part of an existing programme?

What are the specific considerations for micro-credentials not part of an existing degree programme?

What are the specific considerations for micro-credentials developed and/or offered in partnership with other organisations and providers?

What other factors might be considered at institutional level?

Reflective questions for QA agencies

What is the role of quality assurance agencies in supporting micro-credentials?

To what extent might existing external quality assurance procedures need to be adjusted to address institutional approaches to quality assurance of micro-credentials?

How can quality assurance agencies support alternative providers that offer micro-credentials?

Reflective questions for alternative providers

What are the reasons for offering micro-credentials?

What connection, if any, does the alternative provider have with the higher education sector?

What tools can alternative providers use to quality assurance the education or training offer?

What would be the benefits for an alternative provider of engaging with higher education external quality assurance processes?

What other factors might be considered by the provider?

Reflective questions for our working group

Are any questions missing?

Are any important topics/issues missing?

Is the style and tone of the document appropriate?

Any other improvements to be made?

Thank you

Questions? Contact us: IMINQaproject@gmail.com

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The logo for IMINQA, featuring the letters 'I', 'M', 'I', 'N', 'Q', and 'A' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'I' and 'M' are dark blue, while the 'I', 'N', and 'Q' are green. The 'A' is dark blue.