QAA Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice explains how The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education ("QAA", 'we', 'us' or 'our') gathers and processes your personal information in compliance with the relevant data protection regulation and laws. This notice provides you with information regarding your rights and our obligations, and explains how, why and when we process your personal data.

We act as data controller and/or data processor when processing your data. QAA is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) with registration number (Z570112X).

Our Data Protection Officer is responsible for overseeing data protection compliance at QAA and can be contacted at governance@qaa.ac.uk or by telephoning +00 44 (0)1452 557000.

What is personal data?

Personal data is any information which directly or indirectly identifies an individual, for example, your name, email address or telephone number. Special category personal data is personal data that we look after more carefully because it is sensitive, such as details about your race or ethnicity, religious or philosophical beliefs, sexual orientation, political opinions, trade union membership, information about your health and genetic or biometric data. Where we collect such information, we will only request and process the minimum necessary for the specified purpose and identify a compliant legal basis for doing so.

What information we collect

QAA processes personal information to meet our legal, regulatory, statutory and contractual obligations and to provide you with information, either about our products and services or about matters of public interest. We will not collect any unnecessary personal data from you and will not process your information in any way other than as specified in this notice without telling you first.

QAA collects personal information from the following:

Visitors to our websites, which include:
- qaa.ac.uk
- qaa.ac.uk/Scotland
- accesstohe.ac.uk
- enhancementthemes.ac.uk
- membershipresources.qaa.ac.uk
- the Reviewer Extranet.

Our members
- Staff from QAA Member institutions
- Staff and students from QAA Member institutions who subscribe to membership updates
- Staff and students from QAA Member institutions who attend a QAA event
- Staff and students from QAA Member institutions who contribute to a QAA advisory group or collaborative working group
• Staff and students from QAA Member institutions who access member resources via the Membership Resources Site
• Staff and students from QAA Member institutions who contact us with enquiries related to membership.

Enquirers, visitors and survey respondents
• People who email QAA or use our contact us forms
• People who telephone QAA
• People who contact QAA via social media
• People who respond to a QAA survey or consultation
• Visitors to QAA offices.

People exercising a statutory right
• People who contact QAA in relation to a data protection subject access request
• People who contact QAA about the processing of their personal data
• People complaining about QAA
• People requesting information in alternative formats.

Our customers
• People who use our services, attend a QAA event or an event we are delivering on behalf of another organisation
• Subscribers to QAA News, Quality Enhancement Newsletter, Membership Update or other marketing campaigns and newsletters
• People who have given us their permission to contact them with information and updates
• People who have given their permission to share their story through a case study in either video or written content.

We also collect personal data to enable us to carry out our statutory duties or regulatory or other responsibilities. This can include personal data about:
• People submitting Concerns about providers of higher education
• People taking CPD awards offered by QAA
• The staff, governors, associates, students and external examiners at providers of higher education that we review
• Learners registered for an Access to Higher Education Diploma
• Access to Higher Education complaints.

Why we need your data

We process personal information to meet our legal, regulatory, statutory and contractual obligations and to provide you with information, either about our products and services or about matters of public interest. We will not collect any unnecessary personal data from you and will not process your information in any way other than as specified in this notice without telling you first.

How we use your personal data

QAA takes your privacy very seriously and will never disclose, share or sell your data without your knowledge, unless we are required to do so by law. Where you have consented to us providing you with promotional offers and marketing, you are free to withdraw this consent at any time. The purposes and reasons for processing your personal data are detailed below:
| Members |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| **Purpose of the processing** | To enable QAA to deliver membership services and provide information effectively. |
| **Legal basis of the processing** | **GDPR Article 6(1)(b)** performance of a contract  
Processing is necessary to provide membership benefits so that we can keep you informed about QAA news, membership activities and events.  
**GDPR Article 6(1)(f)** legitimate interest  
We use legitimate interest as the lawful basis for processing the data of our members including staff and students of Member institutions. |
| **Categories of personal data collected or processed** | Name  
Job title  
Email address  
Telephone number  
Language preference  
Photographic, film or video images of individuals  
**Special Category Data**  
Data concerning disability information or dietary requirements. |
| **Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data** | QAA uses Intuit Mailchimp and JiscMail (the national academic mailing List service) to conduct some of its mailout communications (such as newsletters) and will share recipients’ email addresses with Intuit Mailchimp.  
QAA uses Salesforce to conduct mailout communications and will share recipients email addresses with Salesforce.  
Survey respondents’ personal details will be processed by the provider of the survey software used to collect their responses. We ensure that the agreements we have in place with such processors contain adequate provisions for the protection of your personal information, and/or that your personal data is only processed in accordance with our written instructions, and you may ask us to see these at any time.  
QAA’s events management software platforms for events are supplied by Eventsforce and EventsAir. We share the following data with [Eventsforce](#) and [EventsAir](#).  
**Mandatory**  
- Email  
- First name  
- Last name  
- Job title  
- Institution  
- GDPR questions |
| Details of transfers to third country and safeguards | We conduct mailout communications using Intuit Mailchimp, a service provided by The Rocket Science Group LLC, a company based in the United States of America. To receive QAA News or QAA Membership Updates, your contact information may be transferred to Intuit Mailchimp in the USA. Read Intuit Mailchimp’s Privacy Statement along with Mailchimp and European Data Transfers | Mailchimp for details of Intuit Mailchimp’s measures for protection of European customer data processed outside of Europe. |
| | We also conduct mailout communications using Salesforce, a service provided by Salesforce UK Limited, a company based in Bishopsgate, London. When you sign up to QAA Membership, your contact information may be transferred to Salesforce in the USA. Read Salesforce privacy terms. |
| | For the Eventsforce event management software that QAA uses, Eventsforce have Internal Third Parties, namely other companies in their corporate group acting as joint controllers or processors and who are based in the United States of America for provision of IT and system administration services and leadership reporting. Events force also have External Third Parties, namely service providers acting as processors, based in the United States of America who provide IT and system administration services. Read Eventsforce Privacy Notice. |
| | QAA uses the services of Buzzsprout for the hosting of QAA’s Membership Podcast resources. Buzzsprout is a company that is based in the United States of America. The Buzzsprout Privacy Policy is available here. |
| The source of the personal data | Provided by data subject or their authorised representative. |
| Retention period | Membership institution - life of membership institution
Inactive contacts - 3 years
Event delegates - 2 years. Any special category data such as dietary requirements or disability information is deleted as soon as the event has ended
Podcasts through the Buzzsprout platform – 5 years. |

- Contact telephone number (only in-person events)
- Address

Where we are running an event on behalf of another organisation, we will share the names of delegates attending the event with that organisation.

QAA also collects names, email addresses and IP addresses for the purpose of podcasting of membership resources activities.
Photographic, film, video or podcast images that are published or printed in hard copy are retained on a permanent basis. All other photographic, film, video or podcast images are retained for 3 years from end of use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data</th>
<th>Processing is necessary as part of an institution’s Membership Agreement. If you do not provide us with your personal data, we may not be able to fulfil our membership obligations to you.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences.</td>
<td>None.</td>
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| **Enquirers, visitors, survey respondents and interested parties** |  |
| Purpose of the processing | To respond to enquiries from the public, provide services, inform our products and services and ensure the safety of our visitors. |
| Legal basis of the processing | **GDPR Article 6(1)(f) legitimate interest**  
Processing is necessary for the purposes of providing information to the public; responding to enquiries from individuals; recording these responses; providing consistent and accurate information and advice; ensuring the personal safety of individuals attending our premises. |
| Categories of personal data collected or processed | Name  
Address  
Job title  
Personal email address  
Employer  
Telephone number  
Language preference  
Business email  
Car registration (visitors)  
Proof of identity for subject access requests  
Personal data that a data subject forwards to QAA when raising an enquiry. |
| Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data | We do not share the personal details of enquirers.  
Survey respondents' personal details will be processed by the provider of the survey software used to collect their responses. We ensure that the agreements we have in place with such processors contain adequate provisions for the protection of your personal information, and/or that your personal data is only processed in accordance with our |
written instructions, and you may ask us to see these at any time.

QAA uses Intuit Mailchimp to conduct some of its mailout communications (such as newsletters) and will share recipients' email addresses with Intuit Mailchimp.

We will share visitors' details with the security/reception providers at our offices.

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<tr>
<th>Details of transfers to third country and safeguards</th>
<th>We conduct mailout communications using Intuit Mailchimp, a service provided by The Rocket Science Group LLC, a company based in the United States of America. When you sign up to receive QAA News and the Quality Enhancement Newsletter your contact information may be transferred to Intuit Mailchimp in the USA. Read <a href="https://mailchimp.com/legal/privacy/">Intuit Mailchimp’s Privacy Statement</a> along with <a href="https://mailchimp.com/legal/europe/">Mailchimp and European Data Transfers</a> for details of Intuit Mailchimp’s measures for protection of European customer data processed outside of Europe.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The source of the personal data</td>
<td>Provided by data subject or their authorised representative.</td>
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Personal data of enquirers - 3 years for enquiries to Membership and Access to HE |
| Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data | The provision of personal information may be part of a contractual requirement if you are visiting our offices on behalf of a supplier. Provision of personal information may also be a statutory requirement, as it will enable us to discharge our health and safety duties to people attending our offices.

In such cases, if you do not provide us with your information, you may be refused entry to our premises. |
| The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences. | None. |

**People exercising a statutory right**

<p>| Purpose of the processing | To give effect to the individual's statutory right, for example: |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Legal basis of the processing</th>
<th>GDPR Article 6(1)(c) Compliance with a legal obligation.</th>
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| Categories of personal data collected or processed | Name  
Personal address  
Personal email address  
Telephone number  
Business email address  
Form of identification (where required) |
| Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data | We will only share your data where we are required to do so by law, or by the Information Commissioner's Office. |
| Details of transfers to third country and safeguards. | None. |
| The source of the personal data | Provided by the individual. |
| Retention period | Up to 3 years from closure of request. |
| Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data | The provision of data is part of a statutory requirement.  
If you do not provide us with your data, we may not be able to give you the information you request, unless it is already available in the public domain. |
<p>| The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences. | None. |</p>
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<th><strong>Our customers and international partners</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose of the processing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal basis of the processing</strong></td>
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| **Categories of personal data collected or processed** | Name  
Personal email  
Business email  
Telephone number  
Language Preference |
| **Special Category Data**                   | Data concerning disability information or dietary requirements. |
| **Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data** | QAA uses Intuit Mailchimp and JiscMail to conduct mailout communications and will share recipients' email addresses with Intuit Mailchimp and JiscMail.  
For events where fees are payable to QAA, payments are collected via PayPal. To complete the transaction, QAA will access personal data, such as name and email address. |
| **Details of transfers to third country and safeguards** | We conduct *mailout communications* using Intuit Mailchimp, a service provided by The Rocket Science Group LLC, a company based in the United States of America. When you sign up to receive QAA News or the Quality Enhancement Newsletter, your contact information may be transferred to Mailchimp in the USA. Read [Intuit Mailchimp’s Privacy Statement](#) along with [Mailchimp and European Data Transfers | Mailchimp](#) for details of Intuit Mailchimp’s measures for protection of European customer data processed outside of Europe.  
For event payments, we may access personal data relating to transactions via PayPal. PayPal operates in many countries and may move data outside of the EU. PayPal use third-party service providers to process and store information in the United States and other countries. PayPal has taken specific steps, in accordance with EU and UK data protection laws, to protect personal data. The [PayPal Privacy Statement](#) provides further information about international transfers of personal data. |
| **The source of the personal data**         | Provided by the individual or by his/her authorised representative |
| **Retention period**                        | 6 years from completion of the contract  
Event delegates - 2 years. Any special category data such as dietary requirements or disability information is deleted as soon as the event has ended. |
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<th><strong>Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data</strong></th>
<th>The provision of personal information may be part of a contractual requirement if you are visiting our offices on behalf of a supplier. Not providing us with your information may lead to you being refused entry to our premises.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences.</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
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</table>
| Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data | We may share information obtained in the course of our review or other activity with other bodies, including:  
- the Department for Education  
- the Student Loan Company  
- the Office for Students  
- the Higher Education Statistics Agency  
- the Scottish Funding Council  
- the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales  
- the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland  
- the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland.  
Any personal information shared in this context will only be shared, if necessary, to give effect to the intention of the sharing. Information sharing is normally covered by an information sharing or non-disclosure agreement. |
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<td>Details of transfers to third country and safeguards</td>
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| The source of the personal data | Provided by data subject or their authorised representative.  
Collected in the course of QAA Review. |
| Retention period | Any personal information gathered during the course of these activities is securely deleted and/or destroyed 3 months after publication of review report to which it relates.  
Photographic, film, video or podcast images that are published or printed in hard copy are retained on a permanent basis. All other photographic, film, video or podcast images are retained for 3 years from end of use. |
| Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data | Processing is necessary for the performance of our statutory and regulatory duties.  
Failure to provide data compromises QAA’s ability to complete the necessary review. |
| The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences. | None. |

**Personal data collected in the course of our statutory and regulatory responsibilities for Learners registered for an Access to Higher Education Diploma**

| Purpose of the processing | To monitor learner registration, achievement and awards across approved Access to Higher Education |

This document becomes UNCONTROLLED if printed or when held in any other location other than the Policies and Procedures page on Fresh.
To monitor the success of Access Validating Agencies' strategies to promote equality of opportunity between people of different ethnic or racial backgrounds, or different states of physical or mental health.

To feed into QAA annual publications on Access to Higher Education participation and achievement.

Processing may be necessary for the purposes of preventing fraud.

**Legal basis of the processing**

| GDPR Article 6(1)(e) | Public interest or exercise of official authority. |

**Categories of personal data collected or processed**

- Student name
- Date of birth
- Age
- Unique Learner Number
- Learner Reference
- Post code
- Achievement data
- Grade information
- Transcript
- Qualification information
- Destination
- Source of funding/funding status
- Benefit status
- Employment/prior employment status
- Language competency
- Language preference
- Photographic, film, video or podcast images of individuals

**Special Category Data**

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Disability information
- Learning Difficulty information

**Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data**

QAA uses Salesforce to conduct mailout communications and will share recipients email addresses with Salesforce.

Survey respondents' personal details will be processed by the provider of the survey software used to collect their responses. We ensure that the agreements we have in place with such processors contain adequate provisions for the protection of your personal information, and/or that your personal data is only processed in accordance with our written instructions, and you may ask us to see these at any time.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Details of transfer to third country and safeguards</strong></th>
<th>We conduct mailout communications using Salesforce, a service provided by Salesforce UK Limited, a company based in Bishopsgate, London. When you sign up to QAA Membership, your contact information may be transferred to Salesforce in the USA. Read <a href="#">Salesforce privacy terms</a>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **The source of the personal data** | Provided by [Education and Skills Funding Agency](#), [Department for Education](#).  
QAA-licensed [Access Validating Agencies](#) Providers that are registered on the [UK Register of Learning Providers](#).  
QAA has a Data Sharing Agreement with Portico Consulting Ltd for Access to HE student data that is needed for QAA’s role as regulator of the Access to Higher Education Diploma. Read [Portico Consulting Ltd’s Privacy Statement](#). |
| **Retention period** | Maximum 12 months from receipt, or on completion of purpose.  
Photographic, film, video or podcast images that are published or printed in hard copy are retained on a permanent basis. All other photographic, film or video images are retained for 3 years from end of use. |
| **Whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement or obligation and possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data** | Processing is necessary for the performance of our statutory and regulatory duties.  
Failure to provide data compromises QAA’s ability to complete the necessary review. |
| **The existence of automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences.** | None |

**Retention of your personal data**

We retain your personal information in accordance with the GDPR, which obliges us to keep it only for as long as is necessary. QAA has policy on information retention. If we do not have any requirement to retain personal information for business, regulatory, or legal reasons, we will delete.

**Use of Cookies**

Cookies are small text files that are placed on your computer by websites that you visit. They are widely used in order to make websites work, remember your individual settings and preferences, and to measure how you use websites to ensure they meet your needs.
Details about which cookies QAA uses, why we use them and what you need to do if you do not wish to accept some or all of them are available in QAA’s Cookies Statement.

How we protect your personal data

We have appropriate security measures in place to prevent personal data from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. We limit access to your personal data to those who have a genuine business need to know it. Those processing your personal data will do so only in an authorised manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We also have procedures in place to deal with any suspected data security breach. We will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected data security breach where we are legally required to do so.

Your rights

If QAA processes personal information about you, you have the right to access that information, and to request information about the following under data protection law:

• what personal data we hold about you
• the purposes of the processing
• the categories of personal data concerned
• the recipients to whom the personal data has/will be disclosed
• how long we intend to store your personal data for
• if we did not collect the data directly from you, information about the source.

In some cases, if you believe that we hold any incomplete or inaccurate data about you, you have the right to ask us to correct and/or complete the information and we will strive to do so as quickly as possible; unless there is a valid reason for not doing so, at which point you will be notified.

You may also have the right to request erasure of your personal data or the right to restrict processing (where applicable) in accordance with data protection law; as well as to object to any direct marketing from us. Where applicable, you have the right to data portability of your information and the right to be informed about any automated decision-making we may use.

To exercise any of these rights, you can do so by contacting us:

• By email: governance@qaa.ac.uk
• By telephone: +00 44 (0) 1452 557000
• By post: Governance Team, QAA, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB.

If we receive a request from you to exercise any of the above rights, we may ask you to verify your identity before acting on the request; this is to ensure that your data is protected and kept secure.

Making a complaint

QAA only processes your personal information in compliance with this Privacy Notice and in accordance with the relevant data protection laws.

If you have any concerns about our use of your personal information, you can make a complaint to us by contacting:

This document becomes UNCONTROLLED if printed or when held in any other location other than the Policies and Procedures page on Fresh.
You can also complain to the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) if you are unhappy with how we have used your data. The ICO’s address is:

**Information Commissioner’s Office**
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Helpline Number: 0303 123 1113
Website: [https://ico.org.uk/concerns/handling](https://ico.org.uk/concerns/handling).