

QAA

15/12/99
Response sheet

written by Jim Longhurst

Questionnaire response sheet

QAA consultation on National Qualifications Frameworks

Principles

The main principles of the National Qualifications Frameworks have already been established through previous consultations including that on postgraduate qualifications (paragraphs 25).

Respondents are invited to express any further views on these if they wish.

Comment

No further comments.

Proposals

Respondents are invited to indicate agreement or otherwise with the following proposals and to comment as they see fit.

1 The particular qualifications proposed for inclusion within the NQFs (paragraph 48).

agree disagree

2 The numbers of HE levels proposed (paragraphs 49 and 50).

agree disagree

3 The phasing-out of those degrees (generally called 'pass' degrees) that are awarded to students on an honours programme who marginally fail to achieve the requirements for the award of an honours degree (paragraphs 52 - 54).

agree disagree

4 The development of a new, positively defined 'General degree' in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) (paragraphs 55 - 59).

agree disagree

Comment

Broadly welcomed; particularly the proposal to apply the principle that no qualification should be awarded as compensation for failure or by default.

Definitions of qualifications

Please indicate agreement or otherwise with the proposed definitions of qualifications and comment as you see fit.

5 The definition of the Bachelors degree with Honours in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) (paragraph 62)

agree disagree

and in Scotland (paragraph 63) agree disagree

6 The definition of the proposed General degree in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) (paragraph 65)

agree disagree

7 The definition of the Ordinary degree in Scotland (paragraphs 60 and 64)

agree disagree

8 The definition of the Diploma of HE (and similar Diploma titles in general use) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (paragraph 66)

agree disagree

and in Scotland (paragraph 67) agree disagree

9 The definition of the Certificate of Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (paragraph 68)

agree disagree

and in Scotland (paragraph 69) agree disagree

Comment

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.....
.....

Specific questions of terminology

Please indicate agreement or otherwise with the following questions and comment as you see fit.

10 Would it be desirable to distinguish generic and specific qualifications? (paragraph 76)

agree disagree 11

If so:

We are not convinced of the argument for change.

11.1 What should be the criteria for distinguishing between them?

11.2 What titles should be used to distinguish them?

12 Would it be desirable to agree a limited number of ways of describing the subject focus and purpose of major HE qualifications and to establish means by which these should be employed consistently? (paragraph 77)

agree disagree

13 If so, what should be the main formulae for specification? (paragraph 77)

credit at specified levels

14 What titles should be used for qualifications that are postgraduate in time but not in level? (paragraph 78)

15 What titles should be used for 'extended' and 'enhanced' first degrees that currently bear a masters title but do not satisfy the future requirements for the use of that title (paragraph 78)?

Extended or enhanced would be suitable

16 Is there a need for a 'low-volume' qualification, or qualifications, at doctoral level (fewer than 540 units at EWNI HE level 5 or Scottish HE level 6) (paragraphs 79 and 80)?

agree disagree If so: *We are not convinced of the need*

16.1 How could they be distinguished clearly from doctoral degrees?

16.2 What title(s) should they carry?

17 Should the title MPhil be reserved (like the PhD/DPhil title (see paragraph xiv in the boxed section)) for programmes of work at masters level and requiring a minimum of the equivalent of two years' full-time study that are assessed solely by a final dissertation (or by published work, artefact or performance that is accompanied by a written commentary placing it within its academic context).

agree disagree

18 If so, should all such programmes at masters level also adopt this title?

agree disagree

19 Should certain titles be reserved for earned higher doctorates? (paragraph 82)

agree disagree

20 If so, what should these be? (paragraph 82)

DSc or equivalent.

21 Should other distinctive titles be reserved for honorary awards? (paragraph 82)

agree disagree

22 If so, what should these be? (paragraph 82)

DUniv has attractions.

Any other matters

Please make any further observations here:

No further comments

Name of respondent

Dr. R.A. Fuller

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In what capacity are you responding? Please tick one of the following boxes

- 1 In a personal capacity
- 2 On behalf of part of an institution or organisation (eg a department, faculty, campus, section, etc)

Please state which

- 3 On behalf on a whole institution or organisation

Please state which Institution of Environmental Sciences

- 4 In another capacity

Please state which

It would be helpful for the analysis of results to have the following information.

This response is sent from:

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| HE Institution | <input type="checkbox"/> | FE Institution | <input type="checkbox"/> | Government Department | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Statutory Body | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subject Association | <input type="checkbox"/> | National Training Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Funding Body | <input type="checkbox"/> | Research Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | Examining or Awarding Body | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Professional Body | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Student Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Employer or Employees' Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (Please specify)

in England Wales Northern Ireland Scotland

Please attach continuation sheets if needed and return the questionnaire by Monday December 20 1999 to:

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The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Southgate House
Southgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1 UB

(Please mark the envelope 'NQF CONSULTATION').