

7 OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

This section refers to the quality assurance of collaborations with other providers. Institutes of technology must have procedures to approve collaboration arrangements with other providers and monitor and review the effectiveness of those arrangements. Institutes of technology should apply due diligence and be aware of any reputational risk to themselves and the sector and/or national qualifications system associated with particular, prospective providers with whom they are considering entering into collaboration arrangements.

Institutes of technology should have due regard to the quality assurance arrangements set out in the *QQI Policy for Collaborative Programmes, Transnational Programmes and Joint Awards (Revised 2012)*.

The following is a summary of indicative areas that institutes of technology should consider when determining whether to enter into a collaborative arrangement with another provider or when determining to continue an existing collaborative arrangement with another provider.

1) Legal, reputation and compliance requirements

- Is the provider a legal entity, with education and training as a principal function?
~ Is the legal entity a clearly identified legal person, having rights and responsibilities under law?
- Has the provider clearly specified its dependencies, collaborations, obligations, parent organisations and subsidiaries?
- Has the provider declared any third-party relationships and partnerships?
- Does the provider comply with applicable regulations and legislation in all jurisdictions in which it operates?
- Is the provider in good standing in the qualifications systems and education and training systems in any jurisdictions in which it operates (or in which its parents or subsidiaries operate) or enrolls learners, or in which it has arrangements with awarding bodies, quality assurance agencies, qualifications authorities, ministries of education and training, professional bodies and regulators?

2) Resource, governance and structural requirements

- Is the provider stable and in good financial standing?
- Does the provider have a reasonable business case for sustainable provision?
- Does the provider have fit-for-purpose governance, management and decision-making structures?
- Does the provider have arrangements for providing required information to the institute of technology?
- Does the provider have capacity to deliver education and training as demonstrated through experience and track record in providing education and training programmes?
- Does the provider have sufficient resources, as well as corporate, structural and internal quality assurance systems in place, to sustainably provide education and training programmes submitted for programme approval to the institute of technology?

3) Programme development and provision requirements

- Has the provider demonstrated its ability to design, develop, provide and review programmes as appropriate and comply with the standard conditions for programme approval specified by the institute of technology?

- Does the provider have a fit-for-purpose and stable complement of education and training staff?
- Does the provider have fit-for-purpose premises, facilities and resources?
- Does the provider have structures and resources to underpin fair and consistent assessment of learner achievement?
- Does the provider have arrangements for the protection of enrolled learners?

4) Significant changes to requirements

Has the provider notified the institute of technology of any significant changes to the requirements set out in 1) to 3) above.

Institutes of technology may choose to adopt the following guidelines for their collaborative providers, *QQI Sector Specific Quality Assurance Guidelines, Statutory QA Guidelines for Independent/Private Providers coming to QQI on a Voluntary Basis, April 2016.*