

1.3 To whom do these guidelines apply?

These core QA guidelines are applicable to all types of providers and the programmes of education and training, research and related services they offer. They are produced for the attention of, and use by, providers establishing quality assurance procedures under the 2012 Act. The legal context varies between providers as follows:

- Previously established universities and the National University of Ireland (NUI) are recognised as autonomous and must have regard to QA guidelines in the development of their internal QA procedures.
- Other awarding bodies, namely the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and other institutes of technology, must have regard to the QA guidelines prior to the approval of their QA procedures by QQI.

- Education and Training Boards, SOLAS and Teagasc must have regard to the QA guidelines prior to the approval of their QA procedures by QQI.
- Independent or private providers of higher, further and English language education and training come voluntarily to QQI to seek approval of their QA procedures and access to QQI awards. Such providers must have regard to the QA guidelines prior to the approval of their QA procedures by QQI.
- Linked providers must have regard to the QA guidelines prior to the approval of their QA procedures by a designated awarding body.