



# Statement on UCD Accreditation

(last updated September 2022)

University College Dublin (UCD) is a leading, public, research-intensive university and is Ireland's largest university with over 37,000 students (including overseas operations) and 3,900 (FTEs) faculty and staff. Around 10,000 awards are conferred each year.<sup>1</sup> UCD is an autonomous institution, accountable through its President to the UCD Governing Authority,<sup>2</sup> and is accredited under Irish law via the *Universities Act, 1997*<sup>3</sup> and the *Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012*.<sup>4</sup>

UCD is a Designated Awarding Body (DAB)<sup>5</sup> as determined by the 2012 Act. Designated Awarding Bodies are those bodies with the authority in law to make awards for programmes of education and training. At a central government level, UCD reports to the Irish Higher Education Authority (HEA)<sup>6</sup> on governance and regulatory matters; it is also a member of the Irish Universities Association (IUA).<sup>7</sup>

In fulfilment of its statutory obligations, the programmes of education and training provided by UCD are mapped to and recognised by the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)<sup>8</sup> which is managed by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI),<sup>9</sup> an independent state agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland. The primary role that QQI plays in ensuring the quality of Irish educational provision, as articulated in its *Policy on Quality Assurance Guidelines*,<sup>10</sup> is to 1) issue guidelines for the establishment of a providers' quality assurance procedures, and 2) subsequently review the effectiveness of those procedures.

In relation to this function, QQI published its *Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines*<sup>11</sup> in 2016. The Core Guidelines themselves are informed by the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (known as ESG)<sup>12</sup> which have been developed (and were published in 2015) by European Ministers responsible for higher education following a proposal prepared by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), in co-operation with the European Students' Union (ESU), the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) and the European University Association (EUA).

UCD has formal quality review procedures to ensure that it meets its statutory obligations and is aligned appropriately to the QQI Core Guidelines. UCD also underwent Institutional Review by QQI in 2019<sup>13</sup> to review the effectiveness of its quality assurance procedures.

Further information is available via [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie).

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ucd.ie/about-ucd/>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.ucd.ie/governance/governanceandmanagementcommittees/governingauthority/>

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/24/enacted/en/html>

<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/28/enacted/en/html>

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/28/section/2/enacted/en/html>

<sup>6</sup> See <https://hea.ie/>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.iua.ie/>

<sup>8</sup> See [https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/National-Framework-of-Qualifications-\(NFQ\).aspx](https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/National-Framework-of-Qualifications-(NFQ).aspx)

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/About-Us.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2021-11/qp-10-policy-on-quality-assurance-guidelines.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> See [https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines.pdf](https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/Core%20Statutory%20Quality%20Assurance%20Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.enqa.eu/esg-standards-and-guidelines-for-quality-assurance-in-the-european-higher-education-area/>

<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.ucd.ie/quality/institutionalreview/>