

Internationalisation Register

Adjudication Process

Introduction

The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) currently administers the Internationalisation Register on behalf of the Department of Justice and Law Reform and of Education and Skills. The purpose of the Register is (a) to ensure that education and training for overseas students meets nationally consistent standards and (b) to provide a listing of programmes which support access to employment by students who are citizens from outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland

Ireland gains significant benefits from its export of education and training services. The social and economic benefits flow to individuals, institutions and the wider community, both in Ireland and in other countries. International engagement in education and training can transform individuals, widening their intellectual horizons, opening them up to new ideas and experiences, and extending their friendships. Overseas students also contribute intellectually to Ireland's education and society, and provide diverse social and cultural perspectives that enrich the educational experience for many Irish students.

The benefits of international education and training depend on the service provided to overseas students, and on public confidence in the integrity and quality of that service. An industry servicing students who travel to Ireland to study requires a consistent national approach to the registration of providers permitted to offer those services. A quality reputation for Ireland's international education services underpins the long-term benefits for trade and foreign relations and is imperative to domestic acceptance of growth in trade in education services. All of this can be jeopardised by education and training providers who do not deliver a quality service, or overseas students who breach the conditions of their student visa. The ongoing realisation of the benefits of international education and training requires maintenance and enhancement of Ireland's reputation as a provider of high quality education and training not overseas students.

Adjudication Process

- Providers of programmes included on the Internationalisation Register are selected for adjudication inspection/spot check at random or where issues have been identified.
- A letter is issued informing the selected providers of programmes that an inspection/spot check of the school will be carried out within 3-4 weeks of the date of the letter.

- The selected providers will be requested to complete a quality assurance data collection form and to return the completed form to the NQAI within 5 working days of receipt of the letter.
- Two adjudicators will carry out a site visit within the 3-4 week period. The adjudicators' report is to be received by the NQAI within 10 working days of site visit.
- As soon as possible thereafter, the adjudicators report is sent to the provider inviting the school to consider the report and confirm the factual accuracy of the contents of the report. The provider is requested to return any response within 10 working days of receipt of the letter. In the event that a claim is made on factual inaccuracies in the report a further site visit may be necessary (to be held within 1 month).
- A meeting of the Adjudication Review Panel will be held within 15 working days of receipt of all relevant documentation including the provider response (if any).
- The Review Panel will, in each case,
 - determine compliance with the criteria for eligibility for inclusion on the Internationalisation Register having regard to the adjudication inspection/spot check report and any other relevant documentation;
 - reach a decision resulting in one of the following outcomes:
 - (i) Confirm provider eligibility for inclusion on the Register
 - (ii) Conditions to be met by the provider within a specified timeframe for continued inclusion on the Register
 - (iii) Removal of the provider programmes from the Register.

See following page for information on the Adjudication Appeals Process

Adjudication Appeals Process

1. A provider will appeal in writing to the Chief Executive of the Authority using the adjudication appeals form within 1 month of receipt of the Adjudication Review Panel decision.
2. Information must be supplied by the appellant provider explaining and supporting how the appellant provider considers that one or more grounds for appeal arise.
3. The Chief Executive of the Authority will put in place a committee of no fewer than three people external to the NQAI plus an executive Secretary.
4. The Chief Executive of the Authority will ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the membership of the committee
5. The committee will review the appeal and the response of the provider and may seek further information or views from the provider.
6. The committee will make a decision on the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
7. The provider and the Chief Executive of the Authority will be informed of the decision.

Appeal Case

Please give details of your appeal case explaining how you consider that one or more of the grounds of appeal arise.

If you are not completing this on-line and cannot fit all the information you wish to in the box above, please write it on a separate piece of paper and include with this appeals form.

Please include any documents to support your appeal.

Signed: _____

Date: _____