

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ)

**Register Committee**

3-4 April 2024

**Ref.** RC42/C116

**Ver.** 1.0

**Date** 2024-04-16

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<b>Decision of:</b>	2024-04-04
<b>Result:</b>	Take note
<b>Report received on:</b>	2024-02-29
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2020-12-01
<b>Last external review report:</b>	2020-12-10
<b>Registration until:</b>	2025-12-31
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	n/a
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2024-02-29</a>

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2024-02-29.
2. The Register Committee noted that Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) has revised the methodologies of the following external QA activities:
  - Appraisal of applications for degree-awarding powers
  - Institutional reviews of the HEIs quality assurance
  - Programme evaluations
  - Thematic Evaluations
3. The Committee took note of the changes in the UKÄ's methodology of external QA reviews and expects that the next review looks into whether all aspects of ESG Part 1 are covered in practise, also taking into account that ESG 1.4 is covered by non-ESG aligned activity(ESG 2.1), how the agency validates its evidence in the external reviews that do not include site visits (ESG 2.3), and if the agency has made any improvements in its appeals and complaints procedures (ESG 2.7).
4. The Committee expects that these activities will be analysed in full as part of UKÄ's next renewal of registration.

## EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Swedish Higher Education Authority (Universitetskanslersämbetet)
Agency acronym	UKÄ
Expiry date #1	31/12/2025
Contact #1	Ulf Hedbjörk
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Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)
Description new/changed	Case 2: After the ENQA Agency Review 2020 and a government commissioned external evaluation of the national QA framework 2017-2022, UKÄ has revised the methodology of the framework to ensure our reviews are both resource-efficient and more quality-driven than before. There are reasons to raise the level of ambition and expectations in the reviews. First, having undergone the previous review cycle, HEIs now have enough mature QA systems to take greater responsibility for the quality of their activities, and second, the national QA framework needs to be able to contribute to further improving quality and promoting excellence in Swedish higher education.
2. Changed EQA activity	

1	Appraisal of applications for degree-awarding powers
2	Institutional reviews of the HEIs' quality assurance processes
3	Programme evaluations
4	Thematic evaluations
<b>ESG 2.1</b>	<p>Institutional reviews are the core EQA activity of the national QA framework and cover all ESG except 1.4 (this standard is assessed by UKÄ's legal supervision, an activity outside the scope of the ESG; in Sweden this concerns HEI responsibilities laid down in HE legislation and thus checked as such). Please refer to the revised Guidelines via provided links below.</p> <p>A mapping of UKÄ assessment criteria against the ESG 1.1-1.10 is to be found in the attached document 'UKÄ mapping of EQA against ESG part 1'.</p> <p>The other three EQA activities of the national QA framework cover various subsets of the ESG (cf. example of programme evaluations in the attached document UKÄ mapping of EQA against ESG part 1).</p>
<b>ESG 2.2</b>	<p>To be more resource-efficient and precise, we refined the four components of UKÄ's quality assurance system so that they better complement each other. This has resulted in fewer assessment criteria, fewer overlaps, and the elimination of a previous superstructure with assessment areas.</p> <p>Throughout the revision process, HEIs, students and other stakeholders have been continuously consulted, in order to ensure their involvement and acceptance of the revised methodology and criteria.</p>
<b>ESG 2.3</b>	
1	<p><a href="https://www.uka.se/download/18.355c901e18d828b9b761a27d/1707381645139/">https://www.uka.se/download/18.355c901e18d828b9b761a27d/1707381645139/</a></p>

Improving%20quality.pdf

2	<a href="https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/appraisal-of-applications-for-degree-awarding-powers">https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/appraisal-of-applications-for-degree-awarding-powers</a>
3	<a href="https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/institutional-reviews-of-the-heis-quality-assurance">https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/institutional-reviews-of-the-heis-quality-assurance</a>
4	<a href="https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/programme-evaluations">https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/programme-evaluations</a>
5	<a href="https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/thematic-evaluations">https://www.uka.se/swedish-higher-education-authority/for-higher-education-institutions/thematic-evaluations</a>
6	<a href="https://www.uka.se/download/18.1ea16fc318d54e3687280941/1707138311888/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Evaluation%20of%20Third-Cycle%20Programmes%202024.pdf">https://www.uka.se/download/18.1ea16fc318d54e3687280941/1707138311888/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Evaluation%20of%20Third-Cycle%20Programmes%202024.pdf</a>
<b>ESG 2.4</b>	Same as before.
<b>ESG 2.5</b>	Same as before.
<b>ESG 2.6</b>	
1	<a href="https://www.uka.se/vara-resultat/hogskolekollen">https://www.uka.se/vara-resultat/hogskolekollen</a>
<b>D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG</b>	No
<b>File #1</b>	<a href="#">UK_mapping_of_EQA_against_ESG_part_1.pdf (98 KB)</a>
<b>Submit form?</b>	I am ready to submit the change report form