

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Register Committee

Ref. RC50/C172

Ver. 1.0

Date 2026-06-25

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Decision of:	2026-06-17
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2026-06-04
Agency registered since:	2013-07-01
Last external review report:	06/2023
Registration until:	2028-06-30
Absented themselves from decision-making:	/
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2026-06-04

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-06-04.
2. The Register Committee noted that its QE-TNE scheme will be replaced with the UK TNE Quality Scheme.
3. From the evidence presented, the Register Committee understood that this activity remains to be beyond the scope of the ESG. **The Register Committee, however, inquired that the next review looks into whether QAA's updated methodology is clearly separated from agency's ESG aligned activities (i.e. ESG 3.1).**

EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	British Accreditation Council
Agency acronym	BAC
Expiry date #1	28/02/2025
Contact #1	Lucy Fox
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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	4. Not applicable, no new activities/no changes
D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG	Yes
Context	<p>BAC has an ongoing commitment to supporting quality assurance across a broad spectrum of education providers, using principles aligned to those of the ESG. Recently we introduced a pilot scheme to explore the institutional accreditation of micro-credential providers.</p> <p>Drawing on our experience of working with a range of providers, both in the UK and internationally, and given our long-standing history of accrediting providers that deliver short courses, including those that do not lead to formal qualifications, as well as our experience from chairing the ENQA Working Group on the Quality Assurance of Micro-credentials, BAC has a valuable insight into how micro-credentials are developing.</p>

BAC decided to develop a specific scheme designed to provide a quality assurance framework for providers of short, modular courses that are structured, assessed, and based on clear learning outcomes and offered their provision as a micro-credential.

We have been piloting the scheme that is particularly relevant for providers offering flexible learning opportunities that do not meet the eligibility criteria for BAC's existing accreditation schemes, especially where advanced-level learning is delivered outside the traditional higher education system and offer courses that fall outside traditional academic programmes, such as professional development, industry led, and standalone modules focused on specific skills or competencies.

The pilot of accreditation for micro-credentials follows our established methodology as used across all schemes, but tailored specifically for micro-credential provision...

... and focuses on the provider's capacity to design, develop, deliver and review its micro-credentials provision, maintain their currency, validity and accuracy, or initiate timely closure procedures, as necessary. The scheme does not result in a discipline- or subject-specific evaluation, and no judgement on the discipline or subject content is issued.

To date, two providers have completed the pilot phase and BAC is now reviewing the outcomes in detail. Interest in this scheme is limited compared to the interest in our other schemes. We may choose not to proceed with the scheme, or to significantly revise its scope and eligibility based on the results of the pilot.

As part of our review, we are considering whether further refinements to the eligibility criteria are necessary to ensure the scheme is appropriately positioned in relation to higher education provision.

Any future decision to integrate the scheme into our suite of schemes will be made with a clear understanding of the implications. We will complete further EQAR substantive changes forms as our work progresses.

Submit form?

I am ready to submit the change report form
