

THE CIQG QUALITY PRINCIPLES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation/International Quality Group (CHEA/CIQG) issued its [International Quality Principles](#) and an accompanying [collection of essays](#) in May 2015 and January 2016. The Principles are presented as a basis for international deliberation of quality in higher education. The interest expressed by college, university and quality assurance leaders has been great. This Policy Brief addresses a number of the questions that CHEA has received about the use of the Principles.

HOW CAN WE USE THE PRINCIPLES?

The *Principles* may be used, first, as a foundation, a framework, for quality assurance and accrediting bodies to examine the fundamentals of their own practices. Second, the *Principles* may be used as a basis to examine the extent to which an individual organization's standards, policies and practices align with common international practice. Third, as has been done by several quality assurance and accrediting bodies in various countries, the *Principles* may be used to map standards and policies to determine the extent to which the quality assurance or accrediting body is addressing the fundamental intent and values of external quality review as presented by the *Principles*.

CAN WE MODIFY THEM?

Yes. The *Principles* are intended as a guide, a helpful set of ideas, an effort to frame the commitments that we all make when addressing academic quality in higher education. They are to be modified and used as an agency or a ministry may wish. The *Principles* are not rigid standards or requirements.

IF NATIONAL STANDARDS INCLUDE ALL OF THESE PRINCIPLES, DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED?

No. There is no single "international recognition" of quality assurance and CIQG has not addressed whether or not there needs to be such recognition. This is a major topic for future consideration by CIQG and all of us in the international quality assurance community.

WHAT IF I REVIEW MY NATIONAL STANDARDS TO ASSURE THAT THEY MATCH THE QUALITY PRINCIPLES?

It is up to an individual quality assurance or accrediting body to decide whether matching the *Principles* is desirable or important. The only additional consideration from CIQG is whether an organization decides to sign on to the CHEA/CIQG [Memorandum of Affiliation](#) that is based on the *Principles*.

CAN CIQG REVIEW A NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY (QAA) AND PRODUCE A REPORT THAT IS INTERNATIONALLY ALIGNED, APPROVED OR RECOGNIZED?

No. The *Principles* were not created nor are intended to create a form of “international approval” from CIQG.

CAN YOU PROVIDE MORE DETAIL AND ELABORATION FOR EACH PRINCIPLE?

CIQG has, quite deliberately, not provided detail and elaboration for each principle. Each of the seven principles is intended as a description of a key feature of effective quality assurance. It is up to an individual quality assurance or accreditation body to decide whether to use the principle and how. The [CIQG International Quality Principles: Toward a Shared Understanding of Quality](#), published by CHEA/CIQG, is intended as exploration and examples of what applying the *Principles* could mean, but only as determined by each organization. The essays serve as suggestions that may help with how the *Principles* may be used.

CAN WE HAVE SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT THESE PRINCIPLES AT A NATIONAL LEVEL? WHO CAN GIVE US THIS SUPPORT? WHAT IS THE COST?

CIQG does not have a program or resources to provide financial support for implementation of the *Principles*. However, CIQG is available to work with quality assurance colleagues and ministries to implement the *Principles* through, e.g., Webinars, conference calls or expert group meetings. Information about these activities will be available on the [CHEA/CIQG Website](#).

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES?

As has been undertaken by several quality assurance organizations, mapping current standards and policies can be a first step to implementation. In addition, a quality assurance or accreditation body might use the *Principles* as a screen or grid by which to examine the basis for its quality review standards, policies or practices. For example, please review the presentations by [Nadia Badwari](#), Professor/Vice President, Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and [Concepcion Pijano](#), Executive Director, Philippine Accrediting Associations of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the [2016 CHEA Annual Conference](#).

IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF "ACCREDITING THE QAA"?

The *Principles* are not intended to review or judge country-based quality assurance agencies nor is there any plan to use them in this way from CIQG. However, an individual agency may choose to review itself using the *Principles*.

ARE WE GOING TOWARD RANKING OF QAAs?

The *Principles* are not a form of ranking nor is there any plan to use them as a form of ranking from CIQG.



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