

Policy Identifier: Quality Policy Statement

Policy Title:	Quality Policy Statement
Description:	MIE has responsibilities under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012 to “establish procedures in writing, for quality assurance for the purposes of establishing, ascertaining, maintaining and improving the quality of education, training, research and related services”
Author (Position):	President
Version:	2
Approved By:	MIE Governing Body
Policy Approval Date:	January 2019
Date of Next Policy Review:	April 2027 (or as necessary)

Quality Policy Statement

1 Context

Established in 1905 and recognised as a centre for teacher education in 1929, Marino Institute of Education (herein referred as ‘The Institute’ or MIE) has a proud tradition of serving the needs of the Irish educational community. It has been an Associated College of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (herein referred to as Trinity) since 1976; and in 2011 the Board of Trinity collaborated with the Christian Brothers European Province to establish the joint-trusteeship of MIE.

All academic awards and degree programmes at MIE are accredited by Trinity, and as a Linked Provider of Trinity, MIE has responsibilities under the [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) Act, 2012](#) (Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Act, 2012, §28(1)) to “establish procedures in writing, for quality assurance for the purposes of establishing, ascertaining, maintaining and improving the quality of education, training, research and related services the provider provides”. §33 (1) of the Act further requires that “a linked provider shall submit a draft of the proposed procedures to the relevant designated awarding body for approval”. The [QQI Act, 2012](#) and the [Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines](#) place the responsibility with the MIE for the development of mechanisms and procedures to achieve and maintain a desired level of quality. As an Associated College of Trinity, MIE has an abiding commitment to quality, and the Institute strives for continuous improvement through honest, transparent and critical reflection of all activities undertaken in the pursuit of its mission. MIE gladly embraces the opportunity to demonstrate that all procedures are fit-for-purpose and compliant with legislation, regulation and good practice.

2 Governance of Quality

2.1 MIE’s quality assurance procedures are informed by the following as they apply to the scope of education provision on the [National Framework of Qualifications](#) (NFQ levels 6-9): foundation, undergraduate, and postgraduate taught programmes:

- i. [QQI Act, 2012](#) and the [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) \(Amendment\) Bill, 2018](#).

- ii. [QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines \(April, 2016\)](#), applicable to all Higher Education Institutions and incorporating the [European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(ESG May, 2015\)](#).
- iii. Relevant QQI Policies for example the [Admission, Access and Transfer Policy](#), [Academic Assessment and Academic Progression](#) and the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).
- iv. The MIE [Instrument of Governance](#) (Revised June 2016)
- v. The [QQI Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Education and Training to International Learners](#).
- vi. The [QQI Topic-Specific Quality Assurance Guidelines](#) e.g. [Blended Learning Guidelines \(March 2018\)](#).

2.2 The [Instrument of Governance](#) provides for the setting up of an Academic Council, a sub-committee of the Governing Body¹, to which it is immediately responsible.

2.2.1 The MIE Academic Council² has a key role in overseeing quality assurance and enhancement, in monitoring the discharge of quality assurance responsibilities and in reviewing and reflecting on the outcomes and processes of quality assurance. Reports on Academic Council meetings are included on the agenda for the subsequent Governing Body¹ meeting.

2.2.2 The MIE Associated College Degrees Committee³ is a joint committee comprising members of both Trinity and MIE, chaired by the Trinity Registrar. This committee links MIE quality assurance processes and those of the university. The [Trinity University Council](#) approves quality assurance procedures. The MIE Associated College Degrees Committee oversees the new programme approval process and annual programme reviews, nominates external examiners for appointment and oversees action plans emanating from those reports and of changes to programme regulations.

¹ See Terms of Reference in [Code of Governance](#) and [Matters Reserved for the Governing Body of MIE](#)

² See [Academic Council Terms of Reference](#)

³ See [MIE Associated College Degrees Committee Terms of Reference](#)

- 2.3 As an Associated College of Trinity, the quality assurance procedures, practices and policies of the Institute give regard to the quality procedures of Trinity.
- 2.3.1 As the Institute is a Linked Provider to Trinity, it is responsible as a separate legal entity for its own internal quality assurance procedures. Trinity as a Designated Awarding Body is required to approve Linked Provider Quality Assurance Procedures under [§31.1 of the QQI Act, 2012](#).
- 2.4 In the context of teacher education programmes, MIE's quality assurance processes and procedures are also informed by the [Teaching Council Acts, 2001-2015](#), in particular *Part 4 Section 38* which empowers the Teaching Council to review and accredit programmes of teacher education and training. [The Teaching Council's Initial Teacher Education: Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers \(2011\)](#) have informed the ongoing review and revision of the teacher education programmes at MIE to ensure compliance with regulatory and professional policies. External review reports by the Teaching Council inform ongoing monitoring and periodic review.
- 2.5 A multi-layered approach is used to ensure that the development of quality assurance procedures and processes in the Institute is informed by a spectrum of internal and external stakeholders, feedback processes, and programme reviews. These include student feedback and evaluation ([StudentSurvey.ie](#), module feedback, programme review boards); external examiner reports; feedback from professional placement providers; and accreditation body reviews.
- 2.6 The Institute places student experience at the centre of its approach to quality assurance procedures and processes. Student representatives sit on fora and committees throughout the Institute, including Governing Body⁴. Additionally, the [Staff-Student Liaison Council](#) and the [MIE Students' Union](#) ensure that the student body is consulted and informed and that the student perspective is recognised.

3 Benefits

The Institute recognises quality assurance as an evidence-based process that supports the continuous review and improvement of the Institute's programme-related and non-

⁴ See Terms of Reference in [Code of Governance](#) and [Matters Reserved for the Governing Body of MIE](#)

programme related activities. The Institute recognises the value of applying rigorous, transparent and continuous quality assurance processes and procedures in order to inform the Institute's activities.

4 Responsibility

- 4.1 Overall responsibility for quality assurance systems and the promotion of a commitment to quality rests with the President.
- 4.2 Policy development and review, including self-evaluation and external evaluation of academic processes and standards, is overseen by the Registrar in collaboration with the [Registrar's Office](#).
- 4.3 A climate and culture of quality is fostered across MIE, promoting a commitment to quality assurance, through the engagement of the offices of the Vice President for Finance & Professional Services and the Vice President for Education & Strategic Development and their teams in policy formulation, implementation and review.

5 Related Documents

- 5.1 [Qualification and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) Act, 2012](#)
- 5.2 [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) \(Amendment\) Bill, 2018](#)
- 5.3 [QQI Core Statutory | Quality Assurance Guidelines \(April, 2016\)](#)
- 5.4 [QQI Code of Practice for the Provision of Programmes of Education and Training for International Learners](#)
- 5.5 [European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(ESG May, 2015\)](#)
- 5.6 MIE [Instrument of Governance](#) (Revised June 2016)
- 5.7 [Academic Council Terms of Reference](#)
- 5.8 [MIE Associated College Degrees Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- 5.9 MIE [Code of Governance](#) 2017
- 5.10 [Matters Reserved for the Governing Body of MIE](#)

- 5.11 [The Teaching Council Initial Teacher Education Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers](#)
- 5.12 [Quality Assurance Procedure for Review of Validated Programmes](#)
- 5.13 [Quality Assurance Handbook](#)
- 5.14 [Procedure for Quality Review of MIE Corporate and Student Support Services](#)
- 5.15 [Staff-Student Liaison Council Policy](#)
- 5.16 [Admission, Access and Transfer Policy](#)
- 5.17 [Academic Assessment and Academic Progression](#)
- 5.18 [Recognition of Prior Learning](#)