

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(OCT 2022)



Who selects the Review Panel?

The Review Panel is selected by the Unit under Review; this may be done in consultation with the relevant PVC and/or Dean. Once the Panel has been selected the Review Proposal Form is submitted to the DVC (Academic) for final approval (in the case of Reviews in the Operations Group the Chief Operating Officer also approves the Review Proposal Form). The DVC (Academic) may challenge Panel Members or recommend changes and/or additions to a Panel.

QAU can also provide a list of academic and general staff that have expressed interest in participating in Reviews.

Who sets the dates of the Review?

The dates of the Review are decided by the Unit under Review. This may be done in consultation with the Unit's proposed Convenor and Panel Members.

Where is the Review held?

The Review takes place on the campus of the unit under review. Panel members are expected to attend in person. Participating via Zoom, whilst not ideal, may be an option if needed (e.g., For COVID related needs).

Does QAU invite the prospective Panel Members or do I?

The Unit under Review makes initial contact with the prospective Panel to confirm their willingness to participate and their availability. At this time the Unit under Review must also confirm with the Panel Members the three days over which the Review is to be held. Panel Members must be aware that the commitment is for three full days. There is often a pre-review dinner the evening before which is an important part of the process. Panel members should ensure that they arrive in time for this if possible.

Once all of the proposed Panel have agreed to participate the Review Proposal Form should be completed and sent to the PVC/Director/Dean as required for authorisation. Following authorisation by the DVC (Academic) an official letter of invitation from the DVC (Academic) will be sent to the Panel Member with the confirmed Review dates, information pertaining to the Review and their role on the Panel.

What value does a Graduate Panel Member have?

The graduate member of the Panel is the only person who has an intimate knowledge of the unit under Review. If this is a departmental review they have often been through a programme and experienced the teaching and research environment of the department. As a graduate they are also in the unique position of knowing how prepared they felt when they entered the workforce.

We prefer a recent graduate rather than a student as there can be issues raised during a Review that it is difficult for a student to hear or for staff to feel comfortable speaking about freely and candidly in front of a student. Consistent with this, we prefer that the graduate member is not employed by the Unit, even in a part-time capacity nor should they be supervised (if they are postgraduate students in another department) by any staff members in the unit under review.

How many Panel Members should I have?

Although we do not require you to fill all seven positions available there are key roles that must be filled such as the Convenor and an External Representative. The number of Panel Members that the Unit selects will reflect what the Unit wishes to achieve in the Review. Each position has a distinct focus in terms of expertise that can be utilised by the Unit.

Who sets the Terms of Reference?

QAU has generic Terms of Reference for all styles of review but we strongly recommend that the Unit being reviewed amend these in order to make the Review as relevant as possible to them. If there are specific matters that the Unit would appreciate advice on or they wish to focus the Panel's attention on then add these to the Terms of Reference. Although QAU would recommend that the Unit retains the Framework for the Review the Unit may simply write Terms of Reference as a short list of points for investigation.

What about the Self Review?

The Self Review is a confidential document produced by the Unit and provided to the Panel. We strongly encourage staff to contribute to this document and, regardless of who produced this document, all staff should have the opportunity to view the final version of the Self Review prior to its submission to the Review Panel. There is no requirement to provide a copy of the Self Review to the PVC/Director of the Unit being reviewed; however, a Unit may choose to do this if they wish to.

Questions?

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