



**Quality Assurance Committee
Quality Assurance Unit**

Visit by Prof. Chris Haslam Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate Development and the Student Experience, University of Chester

A. Background

The foundations for a quality culture were established by the 2006 Education (Amendments) Act, which places the onus of ensuring quality in teaching and learning on the providers through their internal developmental processes. The University has a long history of ensuring quality, such as with the participation of external examiners, the validation of new programmes and the periodic review of existing ones, and the gathering of student feedback. The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) of the University was set up by Senate in May 2015 to review the current QA structures of the University so as to ensure that the quality culture of the University is further enhanced, also as a result of the first pilot external quality audit that the University undertook in April 2015. Quality Assurance is about fostering an academic community of reflective practice that engages, both internally and externally, in an ongoing cycle of quality as an integral component of its striving for excellence in teaching, learning, research and outreach.

The Quality Assurance Unit was set up in November 2015 to support the QAC. Further information is available at: <http://www.um.edu.mt/qualityassurance>.

B. Purpose of the Visit

The QAC has invited Prof. Haslam to support its work during a visit to the University on the 28th and 29th April 2016. Prof. Haslam has long experience in quality assurance in higher education. The purpose of Prof. Haslam's visit is:

- a) to contribute to the raising of awareness of QA and quality culture in HE, and
- b) to support the QAC in its first year deliberations.

C. QA Events

Two main QA events will be organised during Prof. Haslam's visit:

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Theme</i>
28 April 2016 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon <i>Venue TBA</i>	QA Seminar for Deans, Directors and Heads of Department	Developing a University Quality Culture post Yerevan 2015
29 April 2016 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. <i>Venue TBA</i>	QA Seminar for Senior Administrative Personnel and Officers in Charge	Developing a University Quality Culture at the University: the role of administration



Chester University

Pro-Vice Chancellor Corporate Development and the Student Experience

Prof. Haslam joined the University of Chester in 2006 as Dean of Corporate Planning and Development and was appointed as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 2008.

Chris studied Physical Geography at Newcastle University and completed a Government Natural Environment Research Council funded doctorate in climate modeling at the University of Southampton. He started his academic career as a lecturer in Biological Sciences and Physical Geography at the University of Southampton.

Following a period working in industry with the UK British Coal Corporation where he held various appointments including Deputy Director of Environmental Management, Deputy Head of Corporate Relations, and then successively the Deputy Chairman's and Chairman's Personal Private Secretary, Chris worked at the University of Wolverhampton in the University's Senior Executive as the strategic and academic development adviser to the Vice-Chancellor.

Chris then moved to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and, as an Assistant Director, was involved with managing over 100 UK and international higher education institutional audits. During this period he was also responsible for the QAA's work in relation to postgraduate education and wrote the QAA's *Guidelines on the Quality Assurance of Research Degrees* and various sections of *Learning from Audit* publications.

In 2003, Chris was appointed a Deputy Director at the QAA. In addition to his role as Deputy Director, between 1998 and 2006 Chris had responsibility for managing the Agency's extensive work for the UK Government relating to the grant of degree-awarding powers, university title and higher education institution designation. In this capacity, Chris drafted both the 1998 and 2004 UK Government criteria governing the grant of degree-awarding powers and university title and oversaw the provision of advice to Government Ministers. In this capacity, he was appointed as a specialist advisor to the New Zealand Government in relation to the development of the country's higher education sector.

As Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Development and the Student Experience) at the University of Chester, Chris currently has involvement with the University's business planning; performance monitoring; student experience and risk management activities and has senior management responsibility for the University's Student Support and Guidance Service; Careers and Employability Service; Learning and Teaching Institute; Academic Quality and Standards Service; and International Development Office. He has previously had senior management team responsibility for the University's second campus in Warrington, Corporate Communications, institutional Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions, and Business and Innovation activities.

Chris is currently the Chairman of the UK North West Universities European Unit, a Member of the Royal Northern College of Music's Academic Board, a Governor at West Cheshire Further Education College, and a member of a working group set up by HEFCE's Financial Sustainability Strategy Group looking at the sustainability of English higher education institutions.