



EUSA LLP

Recognition Scheme for Educational
Oversight Review by the Quality Assurance
Agency for Higher Education

March 2020

About this report

This is a report of a review under the Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) at EUSA LLP. The review took place on 5 March 2020 and was conducted by a review team, as follows:

Professor Christopher Maguire
Brenda Eade.

The main purpose of the review was to:

- produce a commentary on how effectively the provider discharges its responsibilities for academic standards
- make judgements about the provider's delegated responsibilities for the management of quality and improvement of learning opportunities
- report on any features of good practice
- make recommendations for action.

A summary of the key findings can be found in the section starting on page 2. The context in which these findings should be interpreted is explained on page 3. Explanations of

Key findings

The QAA team considered evidence relating to the educational provision at EUSA LLP, both information supplied in advance and evidence gathered during the visits of the review itself. The review has resulted in the key findings stated in this section.

Judgements

The QAA team formed the following judgement about EUSA LLP.

Confidence can be placed in EUSA's management of its responsibilities for the quality of the learning opportunities

The QAA review team also concluded that EUSA **satisfactorily** manages its responsibilities for academic standards, as set out in its contractual arrangements with its academic partners.

Good practice

The QAA team identified the following **feature of good practice** at EUSA.

The development and embedding of 'Growth Tracker' from the Personal Learning Objective Toolkit (PILOT) initiative to systematically identify and monitor achievement of professional competences.

Recommendations

The QAA team makes the following advisable recommendation to EUSA.

Ensure documented oversight of actions taken and systematic evaluation at institutional level by all stakeholders.

Context

EUSA LLP designs the courses in conjunction with its partners. The overseas university is responsible for awarding credit. EUSA does not award credit or have a registrar function in the UK. A formal agreement is drawn up with each university.

The overseas institutions are all universities linked to one of seven regional awarding bodies in America. The awarding bodies are recognised by NARIC.

EUSA implements common standards across all programmes to ensure quality and compliance with local laws. The partner universities act as reference point. The volume and level of credit awarded for EUSA programmes is determined by the partner universities. The credit awarded contributes to the overall credit for the degree.

QAA undertook a review for the Recognition Scheme for Education Oversight in 2012 and 2016 followed by monitoring visits in 2017 and 2019 with positive outcomes. Partner universities visit EUSA for monitoring purposes.

Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight:

8 EUSA has an Advisory Committee which brings together its partner institutions and provides a platform for sharing best practice in academic internship programming. The Committee acts as an external reference point for new developments.

9 Since 2012, EUSA has used QAA as an external reference point through the Recognition Scheme for Educational Oversight and has received successful outcomes from the reviews in 2012 and 2016 and the subsequent monitoring visits in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

How effectively does EUSA use external scrutiny of assessment processes to assure academic standards (where applicable)?

partnership with EUSA is formalised through letters of agreement. EUSA is subject to such levels of oversight and scrutiny as each of its partners determine, but in each case, it actively seeks to facilitate engagement through transparency in the programme design process and through inspections, site visits and meetings where these are requested. EUSA's partners do not provide formal written feedback but EUSA seeks to capture oral and informal feedback through its internal report forms. The programme design process determines the blueprint for the quality of the students

not compile a formal, synoptic, quality oversight report or a recorded and updated action plan. The review team considered such an approach **advisory** and would provide a useful oversight tool that would record issues and developments, systematically track actions and identify trends and patterns.

24 There is evidence of actions and enhancements arising from the monitoring of the quality of teaching and learning, which include improvements to delivery and enhancement to syllabus development.

25 EUSA continues to implement its longitudinal study, introduced in 2016, of alumni who graduated from the programme five years previously. The survey seeks to elicit information on the impact of the international internship on employability and competency acquisition. The results are shared with the wider study abroad community and used to inform the work of the Academic Committee, for example, in the development of Growth Tracker (see below) which enables students to set and measure their achievement of professional competencies.

26 In 2019, EUSA introduced a further survey: the Student Engagement Survey, which provided EUSA with additional insight into the background, motivation and needs of its students. The EUSA Management Team is determining whether to continue with the survey annually.

How effectively does EUSA assure itself that students are appropriately supported?

27 Students remain well supported through the provision of

31 EUSA has used a standalone Personalised Learning Objective Toolkit (PILOT) to assist students in identifying their learning objectives for the programme. Based on an assessment of participation rates and feedback from students, programme managers and partner universities, EUSA has redeveloped PILOT as 'Growth Tracker', which will be launched in summer 2020. It is intended that Growth Tracker will ena

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