



中国教育国际交流协会
CHINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE



QQI
Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éirean

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**the China Education Association for International Exchange,
People's Republic of China**

and

**Quality and Qualifications Ireland,
Republic of Ireland**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the **China Education Association for International Exchange**, of Yifu Conference Center, No. 160 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Beijing 100031, P.R. China, hereafter referred to as CEAIE.

and

Quality and Qualifications Ireland, of 25-27, Denzille Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland, hereafter referred to as QQI.

Whereas

CEAIE is China's nationwide not-for-profit organisation conducting international educational exchanges. It works with educational and research institutions, academic bodies, exchange organisations, schools, as well as organisations, enterprises, foundations and individuals in other countries and regions who are engaged in the promotion of educational development and quality assurance on the basis of equality and friendship. CEAIE is committed to promoting collaboration between Chinese and foreign institutions, and ensuring and enhancing the quality of cooperative operations. CEAIE develops accreditation standards and procedures as per China's laws and regulations as well as internationally recognised best practices, and accredits Chinese-foreign joint institutions and programmes implemented by universities, colleges and high schools in China.

QQI is an independent state agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland. It was established in 2012 with a remit for all sectors of post-secondary education. QQI's mission is to promote

the enhancement of quality in Ireland's further, higher and international education and training sectors, provide external quality assurance for providers, and safeguard and promote a qualifications system that benefits learners and other stakeholders. It does this through the development of awards standards, the validation of programmes and the regular review of providers. To support this remit, QQI publishes a range of policy and procedural documents which provide reference points and guidance for providers, learners, related government agencies and both national and international stakeholders. In addition, the agency is responsible for the guardianship and development of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), and provides advice on the status of foreign qualifications in relation to the framework.

CEAIE and QQI

Having similar objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in post-secondary education, both participants wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

CEAIE and QQI agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to:

- cooperate for the benefit of both parties
- work towards establishing an amicable, collaborative partnership to enhance quality assurance in their respective jurisdictions
- support the improvement of the quality of post-secondary education in China and the Republic of Ireland.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party.

It does not prevent either parties establishing relationships or working on projects with other organisations/ agencies which deal with Quality Assurance in each other's countries. Other partners will be treated on an equal basis.

Both parties have regard to previous inter-ministerial agreements between the PRC and Ireland, particularly that on mutual recognition of Higher Education qualifications (23rd February 2006).

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, CEAIE and QQI, in accordance with the framework of Chinese and Irish laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

- a) exchange non-confidential policy documents about their respective approaches to quality assurance
- b) enable dialogue and information sharing about accredited courses and providers
- c) initiate activities that allow the staff of the respective agencies to understand how the other party operates
- d) cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities related to quality assurance, such as observing review/ accreditation practices and engaging in capacity building, joint research and joint events, for the benefit of both parties
- e) consider the feasibility of cooperating in quality assurance activities of Sino-Irish programmes (or institutions)
- f) develop means through which providers operating in both China and Ireland can be made aware of the quality standards set by the relevant authorities, in an effort to protect the rights of students and encourage a sustainable post-secondary education sector
- g) share expertise by recommending Irish reviewers for CEAIE's accrediting service, and vice versa
- h) share information on good practice in post-secondary education quality assurance.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for three years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on the mutual agreement of both parties.

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the two parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Secretary-General of CEAIE (at the time of signing Mr Sheng Jianxue) and the Chief Executive of QQI (at the time of signing Dr Pdraig Walsh) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on a yearly basis.

Day-to-day liaison on the matters pertaining to this Memorandum will occur between the CEAIE Deputy Director, Department of Quality Assurance in Cross-border Education (at the time of signing Ms He Pei) and QQI's Director of Quality Assurance (at the time of signing, Dr Bryan Maguire). These responsibilities may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to undertake particular activities, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the

Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Schedule of projects and activities

Specific details on any projects or other activities, such as joint events and research, and joint accreditation of Sino-Irish programmes or providers (procedures and agendas), that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum shall be negotiated and agreed by both parties and will be described in work plans to be annexed to the Memorandum.

Language of Memorandum

This Memorandum is duly signed in English and Chinese, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed in **Dublin, Ireland** on **29 May 2017**.



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Dr Padraig Walsh
Chief Executive, QQI

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