Australian Government

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA
International Strategy
2013-15

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INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2013-15

Principles

TEQSA's International Strategy sets out directions and objectives to ensure a coordinated approach to the development and management of TEQSA's international work. TEQSA's international work informs wide international understanding of, and confidence in, Australian higher education regulation and quality assurance, and supports the recognition of qualifications, employability of graduates and mobility of students.

The International Strategy encompasses all international activity and engagement, including transnational delivery, engagement with other countries, higher education provision to international students and internationalisation of Australian education and TEQSA's policies and processes. TEQSA's primary engagement through this strategy is with overseas quality assurance agencies and government bodies or related bodies with a focus on countries where Australian institutions are active.

The International Strategy should not be read in isolation – TEQSA's core regulatory and quality assurance work supports the quality of Australian higher education providers and their education delivery thus protecting and enhancing Australia's reputation for quality higher education and training services.

TEQSA's International Strategy takes into consideration overall Australian Government objectives and policies.

Vision

TEQSA's international vision is to:

► Be an active participant in regional and global policy development and activities in higher education regulation and quality assurance

► Work with international organisations, networks and countries in quality assurance developments and activities

► Be a source of advice and expertise for international government and quality assurance bodies.

Objectives and Strategies

There are three overarching objectives under the International Strategy. Each is supported by strategies that give effect to and deliver outcomes under the objective.

Objective 1   TEQSA strategic and targeted international engagement informs and contributes to TEQSA's performance of its role and functions

Strategy 1.1   Engagement with other regulators/governments

In order for TEQSA to undertake regulation of offshore provision by Australian providers and to be able to regulate and assess overseas institutions operating in Australia, TEQSA will develop relationships with overseas higher education regulators and quality assurance agencies/governments and other related organisations.

Activities under Strategy 1.1 include establishment of:

► mutual assistance arrangements with well-established sister agencies in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia where Australian institutions are most active, for example, through branch campuses and offering awards through partnerships and other arrangements

► arrangements for contact with other countries where there is a need for dialogue and communication primarily about international students

► a TEQSA practice for keeping up to date with developments in other countries which have long established quality assurance frameworks and agencies

► TEQSA principles for determining the standing of an overseas quality assurance agency.

Performance against Strategy 1.1 Indicators

► Arrangements and practices established.

Strategy 1.2   Engagement with international networks/organisations

Australia has played a strong role in quality assurance in higher education, particularly through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation/ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (UNESCO/OECD) and in regional forums. TEQSA will also work with international networks in the Asia Pacific region and global networks in promoting the quality and integrity of Australia's higher education sector, and will be a policy leader in higher education regulation and quality assurance. Collaboration with international networks/organisations will:

► support and inform international understanding and recognition of the quality of Australian higher education and standards

- ► enhance and sustain the international reputation of TEQSA

- ► embed international dimensions in TEQSA's policies, processes and work

- ► assist TEQSA to identify best practice in other countries, and new practices in quality assurance.

Activities under Strategy 1.2 include:

- ► Membership of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE); the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), International Quality Group (CIQG); and the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

- ► Strategic targeting of effort to participate in the global development of international policies and codes of practice, for example, through UNESCO and OECD fora and projects

- ► Active participation in conferences for the above fora.

Performance against Strategy 1.2 Indicators

- ► A mechanism has been established to identify and engage in international fora and projects of relevance to TEQSA.

Objective 2   TEQSA is regarded as a leader in higher education regulation and quality assurance

Strategy 2.1   Undertaking capacity building

TEQSA will engage in capacity building activities by:

- ► providing advice and targeted assistance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region to develop higher education quality assurance and regulatory systems which also support the strategic goals of helping Australian institutions to work offshore, student mobility, employability of graduates and qualifications recognition

- ► developing TEQSA staff by involving them in international activities.

Activities under Strategy 2.1 include:

- ► Engagement in strategic capacity building activities, including participating in reviews, hosting quality assurance agency and government delegations, providing speakers at significant international conferences, shadowing/mentoring projects, hosting scholarship recipients who may be undertaking relevant projects, and providing policy advice.

Performance against Strategy 2.1 Indicators

► Principles have been established to identify and support the engagement in capacity building activities of relevance to TEQSA.

Strategy 2.2   Communication and information exchange

► In order for TEQSA to undertake its regulatory and quality assurance role, it will need to access information from a variety of sources, including overseas agencies, and communicate with relevant international stakeholders. TEQSA will develop a communication strategy relating specifically to its international role and activities. TEQSA will also develop (with due consideration of its legislative and confidentiality requirements and responsibilities to providers) policies on providing and requesting information.

Activities under Strategy 2.2 include:

► Establishment of a mechanism to monitor information in other countries and organisations, for example, through Australian Education International (AEI), Austrade and the Asian Development Bank

► Development of an international information exchange policy

► Development of an international communication strategy, including communicating the value and quality of Australian higher education.

Performance against Strategy 2.2 Indicators

► TEQSA has a mechanism in place to monitor information in other countries

► TEQSA has developed an information exchange policy and international communication strategy.

Objective 3   TEQSA registration is seen as recognition of the quality of Australian higher education

Strategy 3.1   Approach to offshore provision

► Australian higher education has a lengthy history of international arrangements, with offshore delivery occurring through branch campuses, partnerships and other arrangements. Australia contributed to the development of, and adheres to, the *UNESCO/OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education*.

► In order to protect Australia's reputation and the interests of students, TEQSA will, building on previous experience, develop a rigorous approach to offshore provision, including overseas site visits where necessary, and developing cooperative relationships with overseas quality assurance agencies/governments regarding offshore issues.

Strategy 3.1 will address:

- ► Further development of TEQSA's regulatory and quality assurance approach to offshore provision

- ► Alignment with the quality assessment of third party arrangements (which will include domestic and international arrangements)

- ► Participation in relevant projects, such as the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) project on transnational education.

Performance against Strategy 3.1 Indicators

- ► TEQSA has developed and implemented its regulatory approach to offshore provision.