

Kickstarting UM's Academics for Quality Assurance (A4QA)



The University of Malta has in place a robust [internal quality assurance](#) mechanism for the [ongoing monitoring and review of programmes](#). The peer-review model approach stands as a cornerstone for [quality assurance at UM](#) fostering a rigorous and collaborative process of reflective practice and evaluation. Within this framework, academics and experts within the same field critically review the educational practices and overall quality and standards of programmes.

Through this method, a culture of continuous improvement is cultivated, ensuring that educational provision meets the highest standards of excellence. Peer review not only validates the credibility of academic institutions but also encourages innovation and best practices, ultimately enriching the educational landscape and ensuring that students receive a high-quality learning experience.

Following the recent launch of the [Quality Assurance Committee](#) (QAC)'s **Academics for Quality Assurance (A4QA)** initiative, over 60 academics expressed their interest to participate in this pool of peer reviewers that will be assisting the QAC in the [Annual Programme Review](#) (APR) process. On 11 April 2024, in collaboration with the [Office for Human Resources Management & Development](#), a first workshop took place with the first group of applicants.

Following an introduction by [Professor Frank Bezzina](#) (Pro-Rector for International Development & Quality Assurance, and QAC Chair) and [Dr Jacqueline Vanhear](#) (Senior Executive of the Quality Support Unit), the workshop was led by [Professor Nikolai J Attard](#) (Dean of the [Faculty of Dental Surgery](#)), and supported by [Professor Victor Buttigieg](#) (Associate Professor at the [Faculty of Information & Communication Technology](#)), both members of the QAC. The workshop included a vibrant groupwork session which served to collect exceptionally useful feedback on the digital rubric that reviewers will be using throughout the reviewing process. A second workshop will be organised shortly for the second group of applicants.

Academics who wish to register their interest to join the A4QA initiative at this stage are invited to do so through the registration [Google Form](#). Further information on future training workshops will then be supplied in due course.

Through peer-review mechanisms such as the A4QA, the University seeks to [create dynamic frameworks which provide holistic learning](#), as one of the main commitments of the [Learning and Teaching](#) strategic theme of the [Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#).

Through this [Quality Mailshot Initiative](#), the [QAC](#) aims to disseminate best practices at UM that align with both national and European standards for quality in higher education. If you have an example of good QA practice which you would like us to share, please get in touch with us at gac@um.edu.mt