

Quality Assurance & Good Teaching

Collaboration of professional and academic quality leading to excellence of practice: the mechanics of making it happen

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some key points

UK HEIs are autonomous .. they are responsible for setting the standards of their awards (degrees etc) and the quality of their provision

The various devolved national funding councils have similar but different requirements of HEIs in relation to receipt of public funding

From 2002 no systematic external 'subject review' in HEIs .. but external audit looks at internal measures re standards and quality management (of study programmes)

**An Academic infrastructure has been established (by QAA) as a shared set of reference points for:
describing academic standards
providing guidance on management of quality assurance**

QAA audits result in public reports on standards and QA



approaches to QA range from ..

professional inspectorates ..

**to ... producer sampling
and the market**



The Academic Infrastructure

for setting and describing standards:

framework for HE qualifications .. national agreement

subject benchmark statements .. discipline communities

programme specifications .. institutional perspective

for managing quality assurance:

Code of Practice (for the assurance of academic quality and standards in high education) .. sector's view of good practice



the framework for HE qualifications .. EwNI

D	all doctoral degrees		
M	Masters degrees	Postgraduate Certificates, and Postgraduate Diplomas	2nd cycle
H	Bachelors degrees (with honours)	Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates	1st cycle
I	Degrees (Ord.; Found.) Dip HE		
C	Cert HE		

- to identify expectations and achievements
- provide a 'common language'..
the qualification descriptors



one view of their relationships

**Framework for HE qualifications
(national agreement)**



**Programme specification
(institutional staff)**



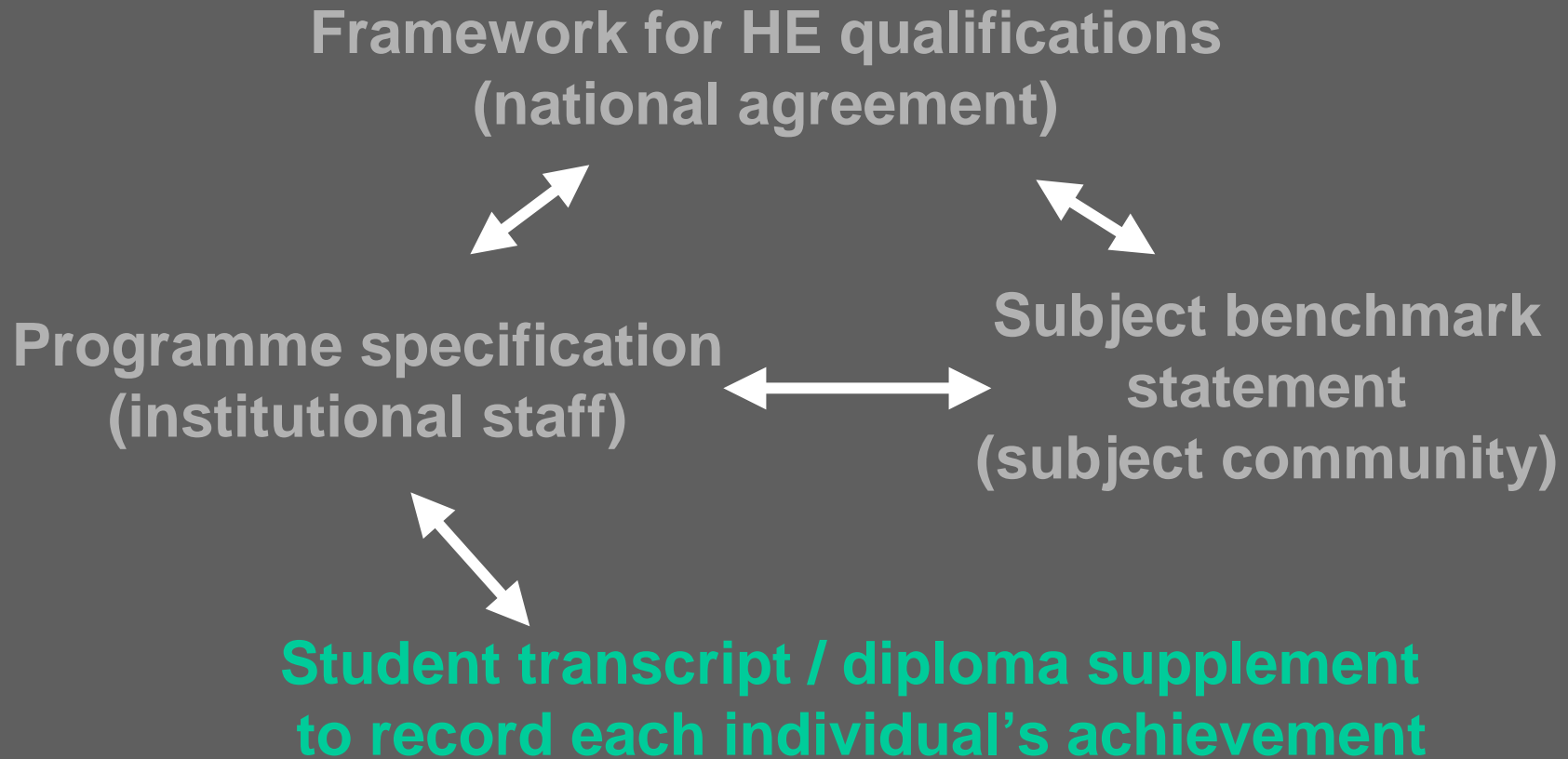
**Subject benchmark
statement
(subject community)**



setting academic standards



one view of their relationships



an implicit agenda ..

.. developing a basic 'toolkit'

initially (just) an 'umbrella' ?

it needs to be:

- **understandable**
- **sufficiently generic to:**
 - **accommodate disciplines;**
 - **respect institutional autonomy;**
 - **inform stakeholders**
- **rigorous enough to secure
respect and trust**



an implicit agenda ..

identifying the necessary and the sufficient and avoiding ... !!

