

# Quality in Scotland: enhancement-led

Currently undergoing development *but* key features include:

- Cyclical review of institutions focusing on how institutions are using quality processes to drive enhancements to quality & robust/evidenced self-assessment
- Sector-wide enhancement themes stimulating institutional and collaborative activity around shared challenges
- Grounded in trust and mature relationships between institutions and regulators (QAA Scotland; Scottish Funding Council) – a “no surprises” ethos on both sides
- Student engagement and participation in quality within institutions and as external reviewers and interlocutors in national quality agenda

(This all happens against a backdrop of a VERY constrained HE funding model)



# Some views

“Quality needs to be prospective – it needs to **look at what’s coming up, and look ahead**...How is the student body adjusting, what is the strategic direction, what is impact you need to have on quality and standards arrangements to make sure you are still delivering for students, and external stakeholders?”

“It’s the idea of quality as never finished – when I first started working here, one of interesting things I discovered when I did a report to the funding council was that it was **legitimate to identify poor outcomes, as long as you reflect and explain and evaluate the year following.**”

“What the enhancement themes mechanisms allows us to do is to decide on a topic where we’re going to put some energy and resources and work with students - and **meaningful resources emerging** at the end of that [three-year] period.”

“Collaborative project bids are helpful – it is small money but direct funding is helpful and ensures that there is a reporting process and accountability - but it can **generate new partnerships and value added that wouldn’t occur otherwise** and in that way it acts as a catalyst. There’s also the effect that it **de-risks innovation** - the whole is better than the sum of the parts.”

“There’s a coherence to what’s going on – a process that surfaces useful changes and **gives government evidence of positive sector activity** and helps unite the sector. National badging really enables much more than money does...if you have the badge you can persuade people of the value.”

“It’s very collaborative, everybody is willing to share, and open about issues, asking **how can we work together, how can we solve problems together?**”

“It is a huge investment in time and people resource - the money is nothing compared to the amount of people resource. But **there are benefits in working together in terms of efficiency and impact**, and in creating career development opportunities for staff.”

