

Validation Panels: Jargon Buster

Academic Quality

Whether courses are well-designed, provide a high-quality academic experience for students and reliably measure students' achievement

Academic Standards

Whether courses meet the requirements of national qualifications frameworks, to ensure that e.g. a BA or MSc means the same thing in all Higher Education institutions

Applicants

Potential students who are in the process of applying for a course at University

Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)

The government body that checks whether Higher Education institutions are carrying out their responsibilities under consumer protection law, e.g. making sure new students get the right information about course costs

Curriculum Consultant

A student, usually an academic rep, who has been invited to share their expertise on validation panels

Learning outcomes

The knowledge, understanding and skills that students should have at the end of their course/module

Pastoral support

Non-academic support given to students to help them with their personal and emotional needs

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)

External bodies that set requirements courses have to meet to make sure that graduates are appropriately qualified to work in certain professions e.g. some courses in Psychology have accreditation from the Health Care and Professions Council

Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

The independent body that makes sure all Higher Education institutions across the country are following the same rules and standards

Quality Code

The set of documents that outline the expectations for a University's academic standards and academic quality

Validation

The process that checks whether a new course meets all the expectations of the QAA and the University's internal policies, or whether a current course continues to meet them