

ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan was produced in response to the report of a Higher Education Review (Alternative Providers) conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) at Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust). The review took place from 28 to 30 November 2016. The full report can be viewed at <https://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/quality-assurance-agency-report> or on the [QAA website](#).

The main purpose of the review was to investigate the higher education provided by Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust) and to make judgements as to whether or not its academic standards and quality meet UK expectations. These expectations are the statements in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code) setting out what all UK higher education providers expect of themselves and of each other, and what the general public can therefore expect of them. **In Higher Education Review (Alternative Providers) the QAA review team:**

- makes judgements on
 - the maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of the degree-awarding body
 - the quality of student learning opportunities
 - the information provided about higher education provision
 - the enhancement of student learning opportunities
- makes recommendations
- identifies features of good practice
- affirms action that the provider is taking or plans to take.

A check is also made on the provider's financial sustainability, management and governance (FSMG) with the aim of giving students reasonable confidence that they should not be at risk of being unable to complete their course as a result of financial failure.

The [QAA website](#) gives more information about QAA and its mission. A dedicated section explains the method for Higher Education Review (Alternative Providers).

QAA's judgements about Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust)

The QAA review team formed the following judgements about the higher education provision at Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust).

- The maintenance of the academic standards of awards offered on behalf of the degree-awarding body **meets** UK expectations.
- The quality of student learning opportunities **meets** UK expectations.
- The quality of the information about learning opportunities **meets** UK expectations.
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities **meets** UK expectations.

Plans to meet the recommendations identified by the QAA HER

The QAA review team makes the following recommendation to Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust). By September 2017:	Action to be taken	Date for completion	Action by	Success Indicators
- extend the peer observation process across and between all programmes to facilitate the sharing of good practice (Expectation B3).	Peer observation process to be shared across postgraduate programmes during the 2017-18 academic year.	<u>Planning of observation timetable:</u> August 1 st 2017. <u>Introduction:</u> From September 2017. <u>Peer to Peer reports due for completion</u> by Friday 13 th April 2018.	Programme Coordinators	- Successful timetabling and Introduction of Peer to Peer Reviews cross programmes. - Final Peer to Peer report submissions to the Head of College by 20 th April 2018 to feed in to staff Continuing Professional Development . - Good Practice shared and discussed at the Teaching, Learning and Research Group (informal group) and report given to the Postgraduate Quality Committee in May 2018 (feeding in to Action Plan due for the Postgraduate Committee Meeting in June 2018)

Plans to capitalise on good practice

The QAA review team identified the following features of good practice at Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust):	Action to be taken	Date for completion	Action by	Success Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the well-embedded and mutually supportive partnership between the College and University of Plymouth which enables a distinctive student experience (Expectation A2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continued development of collaboration on approaches to, and support for, research 	April 2018	Programme Coordinator - Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative research methods seminar held between University and College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the extensive involvement of visiting UK and international experts who enhance student learning opportunities (Expectation B3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open access to the audio and visual archives of visiting UK and international experts from the past 25 years 	Phase one (core digitisation) due for completion August 29 th 2017	Digital Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First 90 videos digitalised and catalogued - Comprehensive plan for digital roll out; including timeline.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the community ethos which provides a highly effective network of informal support structures that enhances students' academic, personal and professional potential (Expectation B4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earlier confirmation and improved timetabling for 2017-18 to allow cross programme opportunities, community events and student support (including NMH, and English Language Group seminars). 	August 29 th 2017	Programme Coordinators & Community Coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advance timetable of community group sessions available from August 29th 2017. - Advance timetable of English Language group seminars agreed with the English Language Support Centre, Plymouth University.

Affirmation of action being taken

The QAA review team affirms the following actions that Schumacher College (The Dartington Hall Trust) is already taking to make academic standards secure and/or improve the educational provision offered to its students:	Action to be taken	Date for completion	Action by	Success Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the steps taken to produce a definitive handbook for the design and development of programmes (Expectation B1) 	Complete Design and Development Handbook	Draft to be completed by September 29th 2017 . To be brought to the Quality Committee for Review in October 2017 . Final amendments and sign off to be complete by latest December 14 2017	Head of College, & Postgraduate Quality Coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handbook published on the Quality Store (College Virtual Learning Environment) by December 2017 for use from January 2018. - Handbook utilised in the design and development of any new programme developed after January 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the action being taken to formalise the link between assessment criteria and intended learning outcomes to enable students to fully understand the academic requirements of their programme (Expectation B6). 	Marking Rubric trialled in 2016-17 Academic year to be utilised across all postgraduate programmes.	Marking rubrics completed for all modules by August 25th 2017 . Marking rubric introduced across all postgraduate modules from September 2017 .	Programme Coordinators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marking rubrics produced for all Modules by August 25th 2017 - Marking rubric utilised in all marking during 2017-18. - Positive student feedback concerning their understanding of the link between assessment criteria and intended learning outcomes.

Action Plan Agreement:

A draft of this Action Plan was circulated to the student body for consideration. The final version was brought to the Postgraduate Programme Group on 10th April 2017 for final review and sign off. All parties responsible for actions or overview signed their agreement.