

Ráðstefna um gæðamál á háskólastigi verður haldin í hátíðarsal Háskóla Íslands, 16. – 17. apríl næstkomandi. Starfsmenn menntamálaráðuneytis eru sérstaklega hvattir til að skrá sig og mæta.

Á ráðstefnunni verða fimm málstofur um mál sem eru í deiglu varðandi gæði skólustarfs á háskólastigi á norðurlöndunum. Er ein málstofa tileinkuð samnorrænu meistaraþrófnámi sem komið var á fót með styrk Norrænu ráðherranefndarinnar. Samtök Norrænna gæðaeftirlitsstofnanna, NOQA hafa haft umsjón með ytra mati á þessum verkefnum undanfarið ár. Þá er ein málstofa sérstaklega tileinkuð viðmiðum um hæfni (Learning Outcomes) og hvernig hægt sé að nýta sér þau í innra og ytra gæðamati. Þá verður fjallað um úttektir á sjálfsmatskerfum háskóla á Norðurlöndum og ein málstofa mun taka til umræðu hvort Norðurlöndin séu til fyrirmyndar hvað varðar gæðamál og hvaða áhrif aukið flæði nemenda á milli skóla og gagnkvæm viðurkenning á námi milli háskóla muni hafa á gæði og gæðaeftirlit. Ráðstefnunni lýkur svo með pallborðsumræðum um hvort æskilegt sé að gera Norðurlöndin að einu sameiginlegu gæðaeftirlitssvæði.

Katrín Jakobsdóttir menntamálaráðherra mun setja ráðstefnuna. Meðal fyrirlesara má finna Norman Sharp, yfirmann QAA og alls gæðaeftirlits á háskólastigi í Skotlandi, Josep Grifol frá Spáni sem hefur verið framarlega í skipulagningu á samstarfi Evrópuþjóða á sviði gæðastarfs og Iréne Häggström, gæðastjóra Karolinska Institut sem er samkvæmt alþjóðlegum mælingum talinn besti háskólinn á Norðurlöndum. Auk þess taka allir helstu yfirmenn gæðaeftirlits háskóla í Finnlandi þátt í ráðstefnunni.

Starfsmönnum menntamálaráðuneytis er bent á að hægt er að skrá sig á ráðstefnuna á vefslóðinni www.yourhost.is/QNHE2009 og eru þeir undanþegnir skráningargjaldi.

Dagskrá ráðstefnunnar má finna hér að neðan:



Quality and Development in Nordic Higher Education

A Nordic conference organized by:
The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in Iceland
Nordic Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education (NOQA)
The University of Iceland

During the last couple of years, the Nordic Council of Ministers has been profiling the Nordic Region as a dynamic, international region in higher education as a part of its Globalization Project. This task fits well with recent developments in the world of quality assurance in higher education in

the Nordic countries. Stakeholders from higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies have made efforts to stand out as good examples for the rest of Europe.

The aim of the conference is to bring together the combined efforts of experts from Nordic higher education institutions and Nordic quality assurance agencies to create a forum to discuss the quality of higher education in the Nordic countries and the methods used to ensure the quality of the higher education systems. The conference emphasises not only the experience of the past but also future challenges that Nordic higher education is facing with the fulfilment of the Bologna-process and the realization of the European Higher Education Area. Among these challenges are the globalization of the higher education, the emergence of joint degrees and the implementation of learning outcomes.

The conference is not only to serve as a common venue for the Nordic countries but also as a forum for the European higher education area in general to get together and learn and shape the Nordic higher education.

Date: 16th - 17th of April

Venue: University of Iceland, Main building

Programme

Thursday, 16 April

08.30 – 09.30 – Registration

09.30-10.30 - Opening ceremony

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Iceland

Christian Möller, The Nordic Council of Minister

Kristín Ingólfssdóttir, Rector of the University of Iceland

Tove Blytt Holmen, Head of Office, NOKUT - The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education – Moderator for the Conference.

Coffey break

10.45 -13.00 -Nordic Masters - and quality assurance for joint degrees in general

Joint masters programmes between higher education institutions in the Nordic countries have existed only for a relatively short time, but it is not until recently that a special attention

has been paid to them in a national or supranational context. This development creates a general need for both HE institutions, QA agencies and governments for a common Nordic way to ensure the quality of these joint degree programmes as a whole and not only as detached parts offered in different countries that at the same time satisfy local legislative framework and ensures pan-Nordic legitimacy.

The aim of the session is to stress the problems and solutions for Quality assurance of joint masters programmes in general and ultimately the quality of such programmes.

Speakers: Staffan Wahlén: **Project Manager of the NOQA** – project of 2008-2009.
Sigrún Jónsdóttir, Project Manager, University of Iceland – Joint Nordic Masters Project in Gerontology
Josep Grifoll, ENQA Board Member, Head of the Quality Assessment Area of AQU Catalonia, Quality Assurance of Joint Degrees

13.00-14.00– Lunch at Háman

14.00-17.45 - Learning outcomes as a tool for quality assurance

The demands of the Bologna-process influence higher education in the Nordic countries. This session aims to explore what the implementation of learning outcomes means for quality assurance in higher education and what opportunities it offers for both internal and external evaluation.

Speakers: Guðrún Geirsdóttir, Assistant professor, University of Iceland
Lena Anderson, Project manager, Swedish National Agency for Higher Education
Julia Holte Sempler – Adviser - University of Tromsø
Riitta Pyykkö, prof. Chair of FINHEEC
Arne Kjær, Denmark

17.45-18.00 Round up of day one

20.00 Dinner

Friday, 17 April

09.00-12.15 - Quality Audit in Nordic higher education Institutions – Practices and experiences

During the winter 2006-2007 NOQA, the Nordic Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education, conducted a project, resulting in a report on Quality Audit in the Nordic Countries. The report was based on the experience of on-going projects including auditing of

HEIs in each country. The aim of this session is to reflect on these projects and their results. Representatives of stakeholders in all the Nordic countries - the HEIs, the agencies and the expert committees - will share their experiences of the projects.

Speakers: Ásta Bjarnadóttir, Director, Reykjavik University
Irene Häggström, Quality director, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm
Sirpa Suntioinen, Quality Manager FINHEEC.
Gro Hanne Aas, Acting deputy director general, NOKUT, Head of Quality Audits Unit

12.15 – 13.15 - Lunch at Háma – Háskólatorg

13.15 – 17.00 Quality assurance of Higher Education in a Globalized World – The Nordic countries as the good example?

Higher Education Institutions are responsible for developing and offering world-class education. The institutions are also responsible for establishing mechanisms for controlling the quality of the education. A global market for higher education poses increased demands on transparency, demands the individual institutions can not meet on their own. There is therefore a need to develop transparent instruments that document the quality of the degrees offered by each institution but there is also an increased demand for an international acceptance of quality assurance. This need could be met by internationally based quality assurance followed by automatic international or regional accreditation. Automatic accreditation could be based on quality assurance conducted by any internationally recognised quality assurance agency. The aim of the session is to discuss areas where there is a need for international accreditation and where the Nordic countries could take a lead.

Speakers: Magnús Diðrik Baldursson, - Director of QA, University of Iceland
Ulf Ölund – Adviser, Sweden
Mogens Hørder, Dean of Faculty of Health Science, South Denmark University.
Emmi Helle, Secretary General of ENQA

17.00-18.15 - Panel discussion: Is it time to make the Nordic Countries a common Area for Quality Assurance?

Jón Atli Benediktsson, professor, Vice-Rector of Science and Teaching and chair of UI Quality Board.
Helka Kekäläinen, Secretary General FINHEEC
Norman Sharp, Director, QAA Scotland.
Clas-Uno Frykholm, Vice- University Chancellor, Swedish National Agency for Higher Education.
Tine Holm, EVA

A farewell cocktail and a happy gathering