Quality Beyond Boundaries Group

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Knowledge and Human Development Authority (Dubai, UAE)
Dubai

- Over 200 nationalities; 90% expatriate.
- Very young population: Nearly 45% is aged 29 years or younger, while 80% is less than the age of 40 and 95% is under the age of 50.*
- 35% increase in population to 2.16 million, since 2008.


An Ideal Location

Two-thirds of the world’s population is within an 8 hour flight of Dubai.
Working towards UAE’s vision for a Knowledge Based economy

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) of the Government of Dubai works toward achieving this goal for the Emirate of Dubai

KHDA Vision
Lifelong learning to fulfill Dubai’s aspirations

KHDA Mission
To assure quality and to improve accessibility to education, learning and human development, with the engagement of the community
Education in Dubai: A Model of diversity
Higher Education framework

- Producing graduates that are skilled, professional and happy.
- More options for students, local and international, diversification of programmes.
- Better links with industry and community.
- Emphasis on high quality higher education.
- Improving research and innovation activity.

Happy students

Quality

Access

Research

Links with business
Purpose
Provide KHDA with reputable, independent and international input and guidance on the quality of higher education provided in Dubai Free Zones.

Scope
Review all new and existing institutional and programme applications and make recommendations to the Regulation and Compliance Commission at KHDA on accepting or rejecting the application, along with reasons to support the recommendation.

Objective
To validate that the HEP Branch provides a learning context equivalent to that at the HEP Home; and that the programs achieve equivalent learning outcomes to that at the HEP Home. This is called the Equivalency Validation Model.
Higher Education landscape in Dubai

59 Higher Education Institutions

28 international campuses from 10 different countries
# Students in Higher Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>24,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>26,212</td>
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</tbody>
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Annual growth in student enrolment

Over 10% average growth rate

Year | Number of students
--- | ---
2008 | 36,714
2009 | 38,281
2010 | 39,127
2011 | 43,212
2012 | 48,058
2013 | 52,586
2014 | 59,801
2015 | 60,310
Programme choice

- Business: 54.30%
- Engineering: 14.80%
- Media and Design: 7.50%
- Information Technology: 6.90%
- Architecture and Construction: 5.60%
- Foundation: 2.90%
- Humanities: 2.50%
- Tourism and Hospitality: 1.80%
- Education: 1.60%
- Law: 1.10%
- Natural and Physical Sciences: 0.90%
- Health and Medicine: 0.04%
Our Journey – Quality Beyond Boundaries Group

- Concept
- Guiding Principles
- Power of Partnerships
- Future
- Connecting Minds
- Quest for Quality
What led to the QBBG Group?

- Growth in internationalization of higher education
- Increased student mobility
- Multiple layers of accreditation and quality assurance
- Drive to increase the quality of TNE provision
- Reducing burden and increasing efficiency
The Power of Partnerships

Bilateral agreements in place across agencies.

Move to multi-lateral partnership approach.

Move from simply cooperating with each other to a more comprehensive understanding of common standards across the member agencies and form a zone of trust.
QBB Group core members

Provider Countries

- WASC – US
- NEASC - US
- QAA – UK
- CPE - Singapore
- TEQSA – Australia

Host Countries/Cities

- KHDA – Dubai
- HKCAAVQ – Hong Kong
- MQA – Malaysia
Vision:

• A trusting alliance of international quality assurance agencies implementing a collaborative and innovative future for transnational quality assurance to ensure that today’s global students are tomorrow’s global citizens.
What makes this group different?

A platform for QA agencies to **Connect, Collaborate** and **Communicate** on global challenges of Quality Assurance in TNE to address:

- Student mobility and degree recognition
- Data provision for informed decision making
- New global university structure
- Tackle real QA challenges through collaboration
- Increase efficiency and reduce burden
The QBBG story so far...

A Dubai initiative; brings together selected members of the QA bodies from Provider and Host countries/city-states to begin a dialogue in March 2014.

Dialogue continues; looking at concrete ways in which existing cooperation could be taken further to facilitate the QA of TNE provision. Formal adoption of QBBG Group.

Hub Workshop; discussion on the common challenges for HE hubs with representatives from IBCs in Malaysia. 3 pillars – Connect, Collaborate and Communicate

Student Voice; direct contribution from students on their experience in transnational higher education

Collaboration; case studies on global campuses, collaboration in quality assurance of online education and the issue of academic integrity

Significant differences in practice between the QA agencies however common themes:

• Responsibility lies fully with the home.
• Programme equivalency requirement with adaptation to content within local context.
• Identified the need to collaborate and share information on a regular basis.
QBBG Aspirations for the future

- Improve **trust** and increase **communication** through bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements
- **Sharing information** to enhance quality
- Enabling **student mobility** and **recognition of degrees**
- Invent **next best practice** for an interconnected higher education sector without boundaries
Students – at the heart of what we do
Thank you