

Become an Active Contributor to our Interactive Forum



The INQAAHE 15th Biennial Forum 2026 *Quality Assurance as an impactful tool for Tertiary Education today and tomorrow*

3-6 February 2026

Sun City, Northwest Province, South Africa

Hosted by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) of South Africa

The 2026 INQAAHE Forum will be held in Sun City, South Africa, from 3 to 6 February 2026 under the theme “**Quality Assurance as an Impactful Tool for Tertiary Education Today and Tomorrow**”. The INQAAHE Forum provides the global tertiary education and quality assurance (QA) community with a unique opportunity to explore impactful dimensions of quality assurance in the context of the globalized landscape of 21st-century higher education.”

The INQAAHE Forum, a space for collaborative discussion

While both the INQAAHE Forum and the INQAAHE Conference welcome a similar number of participants – with the 2026 Forum in South Africa aiming for over 300 attendees from around the globe – their formats, intentions, and energy are intentionally distinct.

- An INQAAHE Conference typically showcases academic-style presentations, where experts share insights and findings through formal sessions.
- **The INQAAHE Forum**, by contrast, is conversation-driven and practice-oriented. It is designed as a collaborative space where interaction takes precedence. The Forum aims to spark dialogue, foster co-creation, and provide participants with tangible tools, frameworks, and ideas they can apply in their own contexts. For this reason, participants are expected to facilitate engaged and interactive presentation sessions.

At the Forum, we value shared experience over formal expertise. Whether you are an academic, a QA professional, a student, an employer, or a policymaker, you are invited to contribute your perspective and actively engage in shaping collective solutions.

Who can be a Forum Contributor?

We invite facilitators, quality assurance practitioners, thought leaders, and stakeholders from within and beyond academia to apply to lead interactive sessions at the 2026 INQAAHE Forum in South Africa. This is a call for collaborative minds ready to share practices, moderate dynamic discussions, and engage in mutual learning of best practices with an international audience.

We are especially keen to receive proposals that:

- Use **concrete, real-life examples** from quality assurance work
- Encourage **participation, co-creation, and problem-solving**
- Involve **stakeholders beyond academia**, such as students, professional bodies, employers, non-government organisations, and government agencies
- Highlight **transferability** of QA practices across regions and contexts
- Demonstrate **facilitation skills** and foster open dialogue

This Forum will not only amplify your voice but also help you **expand your network, test the relevance of your ideas, and enhance your own professional practice** through dialogue with peers from around the world.

The Forum themes and sub-themes

This Forum will examine the impact of QA in ensuring quality amid expanding access to tertiary education, particularly across the African continent. It will specifically:

- Reflect on how QA frameworks and practices can uphold standards in systems under upwards or downwards demographic pressure, and balance access and attraction goals with meaningful quality outcomes for diverse learners,
- Delve into how QA can act as a driver of innovation, inclusion, and sustainability—both within higher education and across broader societal contexts.

As tertiary education faces unprecedented global, political, technological, and social shifts, quality assurance must rise to meet the challenges—not only to maintain standards but to lead the change in shaping more equitable, resilient, and future-ready systems. This Forum invites quality assurance professionals, policymakers, educators, students, institutional leaders, professional bodies and employers to engage in a forward-looking dialogue on the impact of QA in diverse and dynamic contexts.

❖ **Subtopic 1: Building trust in quality assurance systems across stakeholders.**

This subtopic will examine how trust in QA can be fostered at multiple levels: governments, institutions, students, and employers. It will consider how QA can enable responsible autonomy, build confidence in internal and external processes, and counteract credential mills and superficial accountability mechanisms. Particular attention will be paid to how QA bodies can earn legitimacy through transparency, maturity, and stakeholder engagement, and to the role QA bodies can play in respect to the increasing prevalence of fraudulent qualifications, misuse of honorary titles, and to threats to academic integrity in higher education.

❖ **Subtopic 2: Enhancing the social and labor market relevance of macro and micro-credentials through QA.**

This subtopic will explore the intersection of qualifications, micro-credentials, quality assurance, and social and labor market needs. It will address how QA can ensure the value and recognition of higher education learning through qualifications and micro-credentials, not only for learners but also for employers and industry actors and for responsiveness to

critical social challenges at local and global level. Discussions will spotlight international collaborations, consortium models, and emerging practices including cross-border accreditation or recognition across Africa and beyond.

❖ **Subtopic 3: Leveraging technology and AI to strengthen impactful quality assurance.**

This subtopic will assess how technological advancements, including generative AI, can improve QA practices, enable data-driven decision-making, and support agile responses to educational innovation. It will explore the digitalization of QA systems, the integrity of online learning, and how new tools can enhance both monitoring and learning outcomes as well as the integration and responsible use of AI tools in QA processes.

❖ **Subtopic 4: Widening access and growing participation while safeguarding quality.**

This subtopic will examine the impact of QA in ensuring quality amid expanding access to tertiary education, particularly across the African continent, and to growing participation in contexts where the higher education system is challenged through rapidly decreasing participation. It will reflect how QA frameworks can uphold standards in systems under demographic pressure, and balance access goals with meaningful quality outcomes for diverse learners.

Forum Guidelines: how to apply?

INQAAHE invites prospective presenters to be protagonists of the Forum by submitting proposals focused on any one of the subtopics presented in the introduction to this call. The proposal may aim to address a practical problem or approach recently or currently being considered by a QA agency or a higher education institution, or another organization engaged in QA and higher education.

The format for the presentations should enable interaction and engagement, such as round tables discussions, fish-bowl discussions, panel discussions, workshops, or posters. Each proposal should be suitable for a session of 90 minutes.

There is a limit to the number of proposals that can be selected. Therefore, INQAAHE will only select those proposals that clearly address topics relevant to one of the sub-topics and are appropriate to the intended session format.

Each proposal should set out the following:

- The intended session format;
- The selected Forum sub-theme;
- The specific topic covered under the Forum sub-theme;
- The moderator (s);
- The organization(s) to which the moderator(s) is/are affiliated;
- An outline description of up to 1,000 words, including:
 - The alignment between the session and the sub-theme.
 - The expected takeaways for the participants.
 - The approach adopted for the session and how participants will be engaged (methods and tools) to ensure dynamic interactions in the 90 minutes that are allocated.
 - How the moderator (s) will pay attention to multicultural and linguistic background and contexts, and diverse capacities, interests and expectations, to enable an engaging session with an international audience.
 - A 100 – 150-word abstract should be included.

- Each proposal must be labelled as follows: Type of proposal format (i.e. workshop, round table...), number of the subtheme, last name of the author/co-authors (i.e., 1,2_martin-jara, which means it is a #1 proposal under subtheme 2, submitted by Martin and Jara).

Deadline And Timelines

Launch of call for papers and posters	July 16, 2025
Deadline for submission of presentations and posters proposals	August 31, 2025
Proposals review process	September 1-15
Results of selection process	Mid-September 2025

This call is intended to allow participants to facilitate sessions on 4 and 5 February 2026. Prior to the actual Forum, four pre-Forum workshops will be organized on a fee-paying basis on February 3, 2026. They will address the following topics:

- Quality Assurance of Microcredentials
- Higher Education Learning and Teaching Futures
- Foundational QA training
- Use of AI tools in Quality Assurance processes

Forum presenters and other participants will be able to separately register to attend the workshops.

Forum Registration

Please note that in submitting a proposal, all authors are accepting that, if selected, it is their responsibility to register for the Forum. Information on registration fees will be available on the INQAAHE as well as Forum website shortly.

Proposals should be sent to the INQAAHE Secretariat at secretariat@inqaahe.org.

CONTACT US

For further information and questions regarding the submission of proposals, please contact the INQAAHE office at:

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