

## Become an Active Contributor to our Interactive Forum



### The INQAAHE 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Forum 2026 *Quality Assurance as an Impactful Tool for Higher 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 Higher education Today and Tomorrow**”. The INQAAHE Forum provides the global higher 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 subtopics

This Forum will examine the impact of QA in ensuring quality amid expanding access to higher 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 higher 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 higher 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.

## Proposal Submission Guidelines

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.

Each proposal should set out the following:

- The intended session format;
- The selected Forum subtopic;
- The specific topic covered under the Forum subtopic;
- 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 subtopic.
  - 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.

Proposals should be submitted on the [INQAAHE Forum 2026 website](#). To submit a proposal for presentation:

1. Click on the **Submit Proposal** button above and create an account.
2. Login to the system and answer the questions.
3. Click on the tab **Abstract Submission** and follow the steps.

4. In the box provided for the abstract, do not include the title of the proposal or the moderator's information.
5. The proposal should not exceed 1,000 words.
6. Once all sections have been completed, click on the **Submit** button. A confirmation email will be sent to you.
7. You will not be able to amend the submission once you have submitted. For any changes or withdrawal of the submission, please email [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org).

\*Any proposals that have already been submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat will be taken into consideration and manually uploaded to the website by INQAAHE staff. Applicants are not required to resubmit their proposals.

## Proposal Acceptance/Rejection

The review panel will review all submitted proposals and reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, based on the criteria for selection. The decision of the review panel is final, and no appeal is possible. The authors will be notified of the decision of the review panel within one (1) month of the proposal submission.

If the proposal is accepted subject to revisions, the revised proposal must be submitted within the stipulated timeframe; otherwise, it will be deemed as rejected.

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 subtopics and are appropriate to the intended session format.

## Deadline And Timelines

Launch of call for papers and posters	July 16, 2025
Deadline for submission of presentations and posters proposals	<del>August 31, 2025</del> September 30, 2025
Proposals review process	<del>September 1-15, 2025</del> October 1-15, 2025
Results of selection process	<del>Mid-September</del> Mid-October 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 accept that, if selected, it is their responsibility to register for the Forum.

## Contact Us

For further information and questions regarding the submission of proposals, please contact the host, the Council on Higher Education (CHE), at [inqaaheforum2026@che.ac.za](mailto:inqaaheforum2026@che.ac.za), and/or the INQAAHE office at:

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