Artificial intelligence for quality assurance in higher education: A policy-to-practice model from Qatar with global relevance

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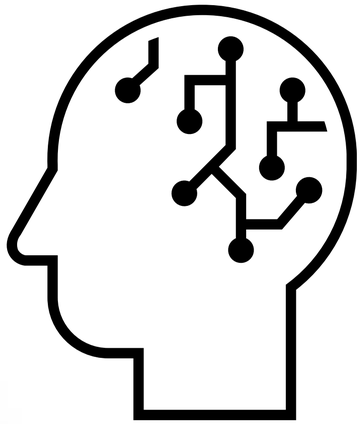
February 4th , 2026
INQAAHE Forum 2026
Suncity, South Africa

Content



- AI Use in Education/Higher Education Institutions
- Benefits, Applications, & Challenges of AI in HE
- Emerging Quality Risks and Accreditation Dilemma
- Core AI Governance Principles for QA
- The Policy-to-Practice Model
- Alignment with Global QA Frameworks
- Strategic Concluding Remarks

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AI in Education and Higher Education

What do numbers say?

2022

Several AI tools released to public

- **ChatGPT** — OpenAI
- **Bard** — Google
- **Claude** — Anthropic
- **Bing Chat** — Microsoft

2023

Growing prevalence of AI-generated content → corresponding decline in traditional plagiarism, source: (Copyleaks 2024)

2024

UK

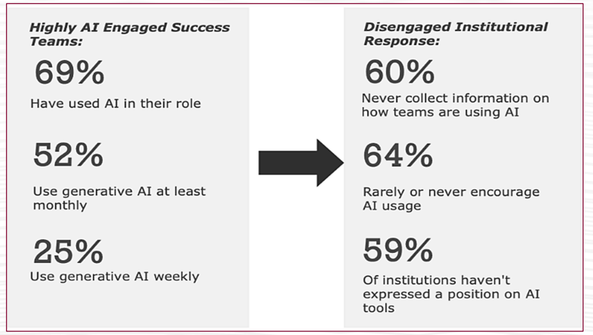
Research

Survey: 86% of Students Already Use AI in Their Studies

By Rhea Kelly | 08/28/24

In a recent survey from the **Digital Education Council**, a global alliance of universities and industry representatives focused on education innovation, the majority of students (86%) said they use artificial intelligence in their studies. And they are using it regularly: Twenty-four percent reported using AI daily; 54% daily or weekly; and 54% on at least a weekly basis.

https://campustechnology.com/



Mismatch between AI adoption by higher education professionals and institutional governance responses, source: (Zirkel 2024)

2025

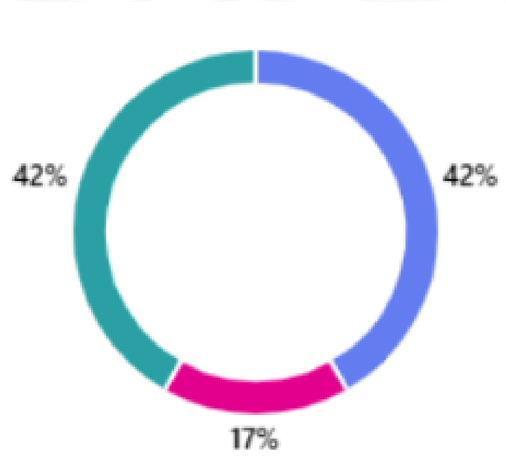
GLOBAL

UNESCO survey: Less than 10% of schools and universities have formal guidance on AI

A new UNESCO global survey of over 450 schools and universities found that fewer than 10% have developed institutional policies and/or formal guidance concerning the use of generative AI applications.

QATAR

Does your HEI currently have a formal strategy on AI adoption?



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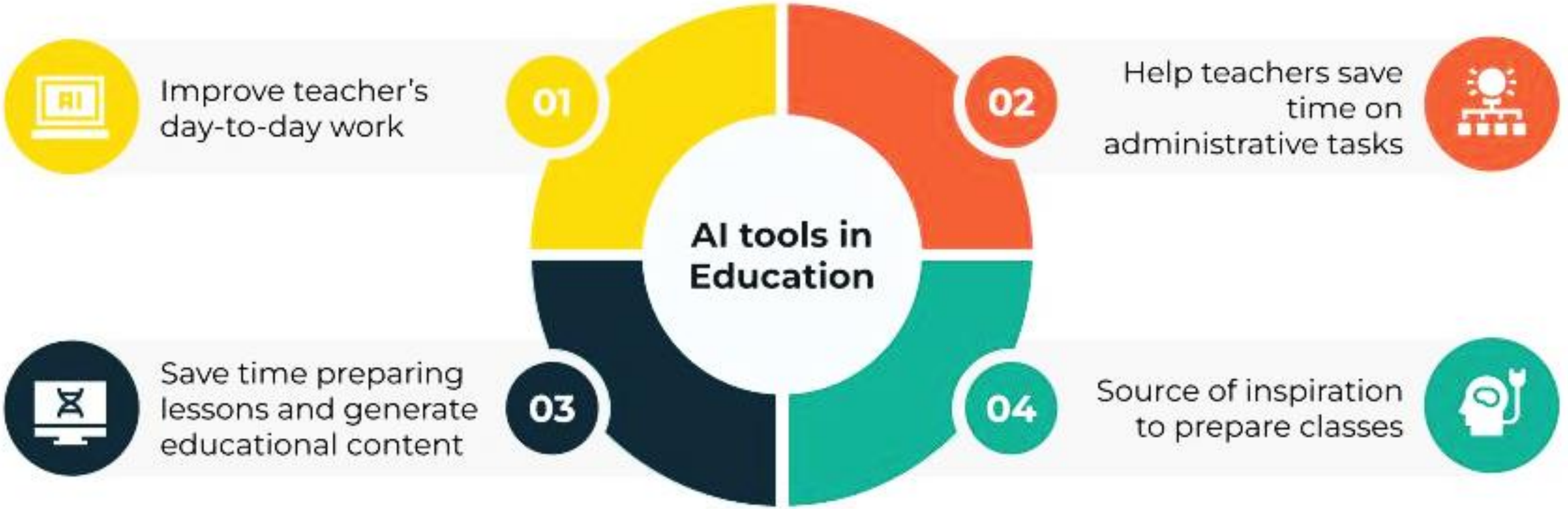
Benefits, Applications, & Challenges of AI use in Education

Main benefits of AI tools in Education

AI tools are helping teachers to prepare classes



Source: **Slidesgo** AI in Education Survey

Main AI Applications in Higher Education

Academic Integrity Monitoring	Detects plagiarism and assessment misconduct
Adaptive Learning Platforms	Dynamically adjusts content to learner need
AI-Based Career Guidance	Matches skills with career pathways
AI-Driven Feedback Mechanisms	Generates rapid assignment feedback

Main AI Applications in Higher Education

AI-Powered Research Assistance	Supports literature search and data analysis
Automated Administrative Processes	Streamlines enrolment, scheduling, and records
Automated Grading and Assessment	Grades objective assessments efficiently
Intelligent Tutoring Systems	Provides personalised AI tutoring support

Main AI Applications in Higher Education

Personalized Learning	Customises pace and learning pathways
Predictive Analytics for Student Success	Identifies at-risk students early
Student Performance Analytics	Tracks progress for timely intervention
Virtual Assistants and Chatbots	Delivers real-time academic support

Challenges of AI Use in Education

Challenges

- Data Privacy & Security
- Ethical Concerns
- Bias in AI
- High Implementation Costs
- Lack of AI Literacy
- Dependence on Technology

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Trust me bro, I'm an AI : r/meme

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Emerging Quality Risks and Accreditation Dilemma

Why AI Matters for Quality Assurance

Evidence shows a growing misalignment:

AI adoption by higher education professionals is accelerating rapidly

Institutional governance and QA frameworks are responding slowly

Academic integrity risks have shifted from traditional plagiarism to AI-generated content

The Accreditation Dilemma

- An institution submits its self-evaluation report
  - Large sections are AI-assisted
  - Learning analytics dashboards are AI-generated → no real reflection
  - Academic integrity is monitored by automated systems → challenges to detect AI content precisely

- There is no AI disclosure policy
  - No governance framework
  - No clarity on human oversight

➢ **As a QA agency — what do you accredit in this case?**

The Global Gap
What is missing in the Current QA Systems

01 Fragmented AI use at institutional level

02 Lack of QA-specific AI governance

03 Over-reliance on ad hoc institutional policies

04 Weak alignment with accreditation standards

From AI Use in Higher Education to AI-Embedded Quality Assurance

AI in Higher Education Institutions

- Students: Learning support
- Faculty: Teaching, grading, research
- Administration: data analytics, operations

Quality Risks & Pressures

- Academic integrity
- Equity & bias
- Transparency
- Human oversight

Accrediting & QA Bodies

- Evaluation of AI use
- Monitoring & follow-up
- Governance & accountability
- Public trust

AI Embedded Across Accreditation Standards

Governance & Leadership | Teaching & Learning | Faculty Competence | Data, Ethics & Integrity | Internal QA & Continuous Improvement

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Core AI Governance Principles for QA- *The base for our Proposed Model*

Core AI Governance Principles Across QA and Policy Bodies

unesco
United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

- Data privacy & bias prevention
- Protect human agency & authorship

CHEA Council for Higher Education Accreditation
CHEA International Quality Group CIQG

- AI supports, not replaces, human judgment
- Transparency, data integrity & security

WASC
Senior College and University Commission

- Approved AI tools only
- Human oversight & confidentiality

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
ACCREDITED INSTITUTION
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES
SM

- No AI-only decisions
- Security, accuracy & limited reliance

European Commission

- Ban manipulative & biometric AI
- Rights-based AI governance

grammarly

- Transparent, secure & reliable AI
- Trust through ethical use

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Qatar as a Policy Testbed

National Vision **2030**

National AI Strategy **2019**

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NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY FOR QATAR 2019

National Committee for Qualifications & Academic Accreditation **2024**

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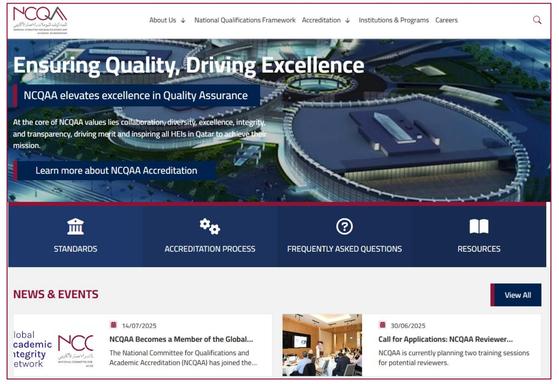
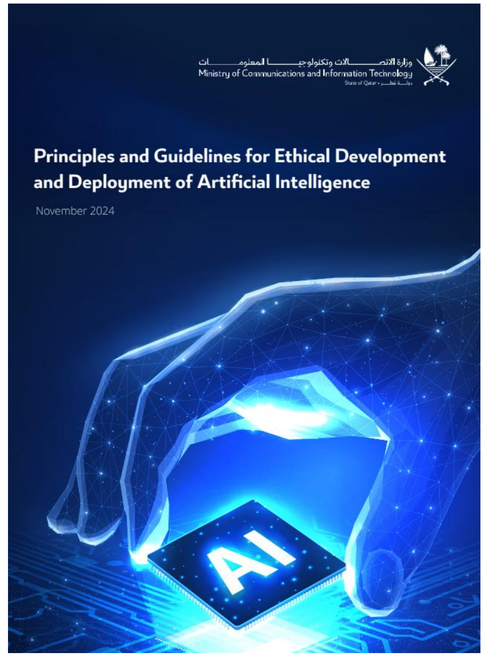


Explicit alignment with Qatar & UNESCO AI use ethics **2024**



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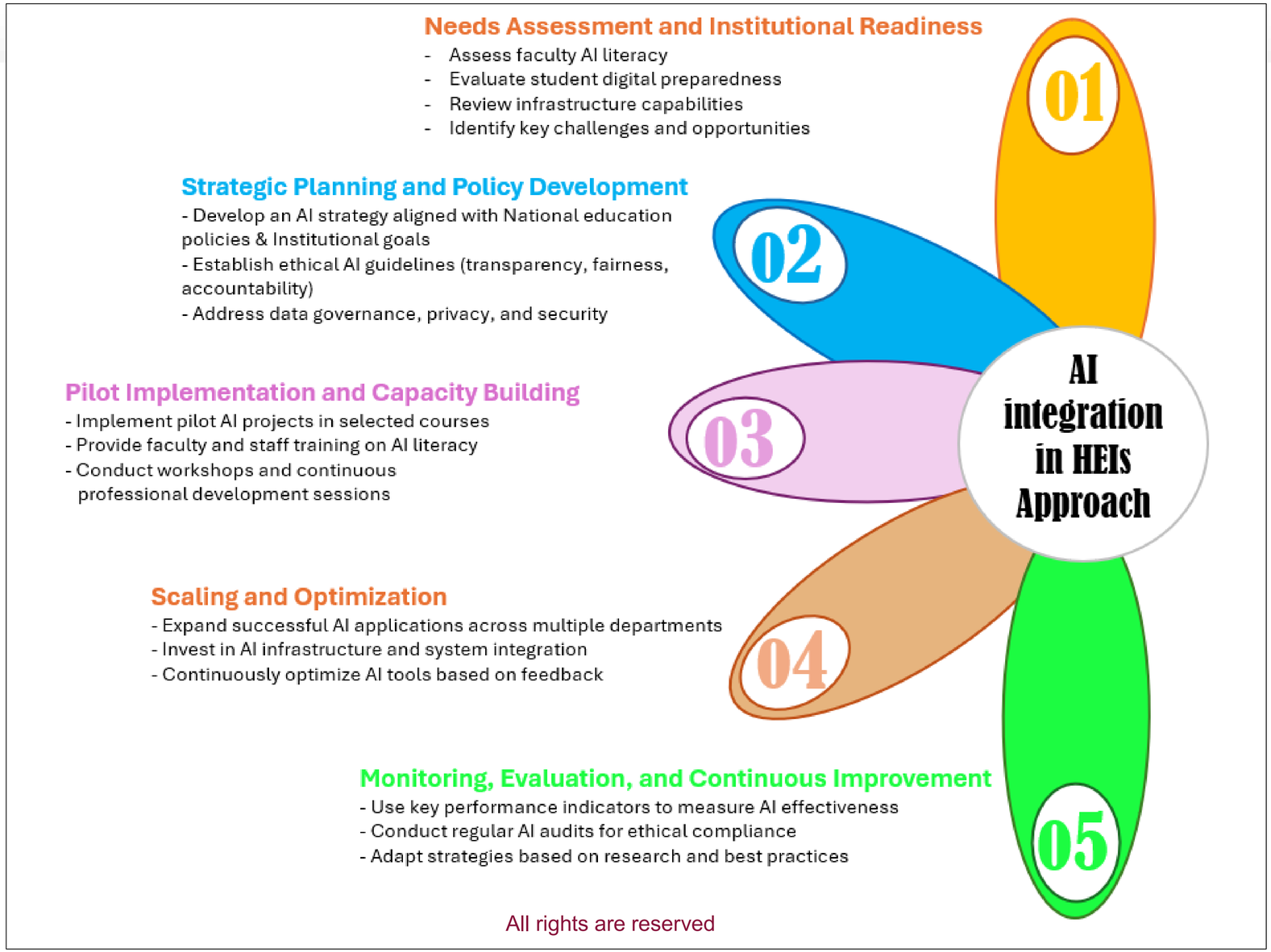
The Policy-to-Practice Model

The Policy-to-Practice Model (5 Pillars)



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A Human-Centred AI Framework for Quality Assurance

Where can AI add value in Quality Assurance?

Before Review
Readiness & Compliance Check

During Operation
Integrity & Evidence check

Ongoing performance
& Decision Support

Data input

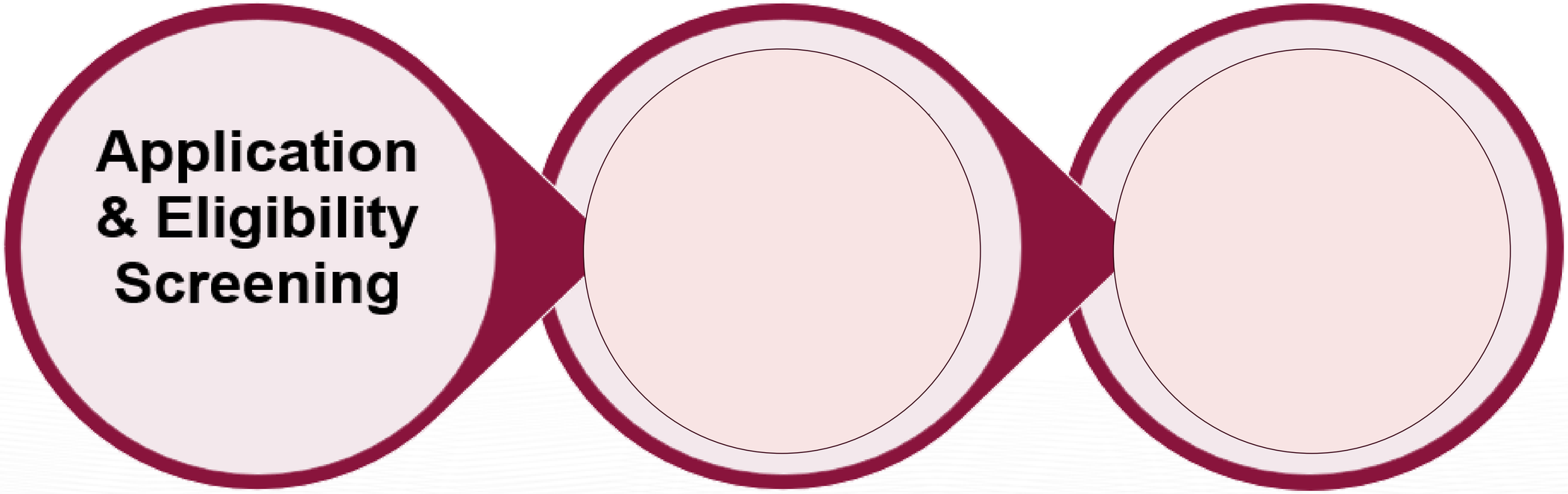
QA input

Ethical and Governance

AI analysis, screenin g& risk flags

Human Expert Review & Decision

Accreditation Process Flow with Safe AI Integration



Human-led
-Institution submits application
-Eligibility, scope, and legal status checked

AI – SAFE USE
✓ Automated completeness check of submitted documents
✓ Detection of missing sections or inconsistent data
❌ No eligibility decisions

Human-led
- Institution prepares SER aligned to accreditation standards
- Evidence mapping to standards

AI – SAFE USE
✓ Evidence–standard mapping assistance
✓ SER structure validation against template format
✓ Language clarity, duplication, and internal consistency checks
❌ Reference management and citation integrity
❌ No evaluative scoring or judgments

Human-led (Review Panel Secretariat / Agency Analysts)
-Initial reading of SER and evidence
-Identification of areas of concern

AI – SAFE USE
✓ Risk flagging based on predefined indicators
✓ Cross-checking data consistency across documents
✓ Highlighting gaps or weak evidence
✓ Trend comparison with historical accreditation data
❌ No conclusions, recommendations, or compliance decisions

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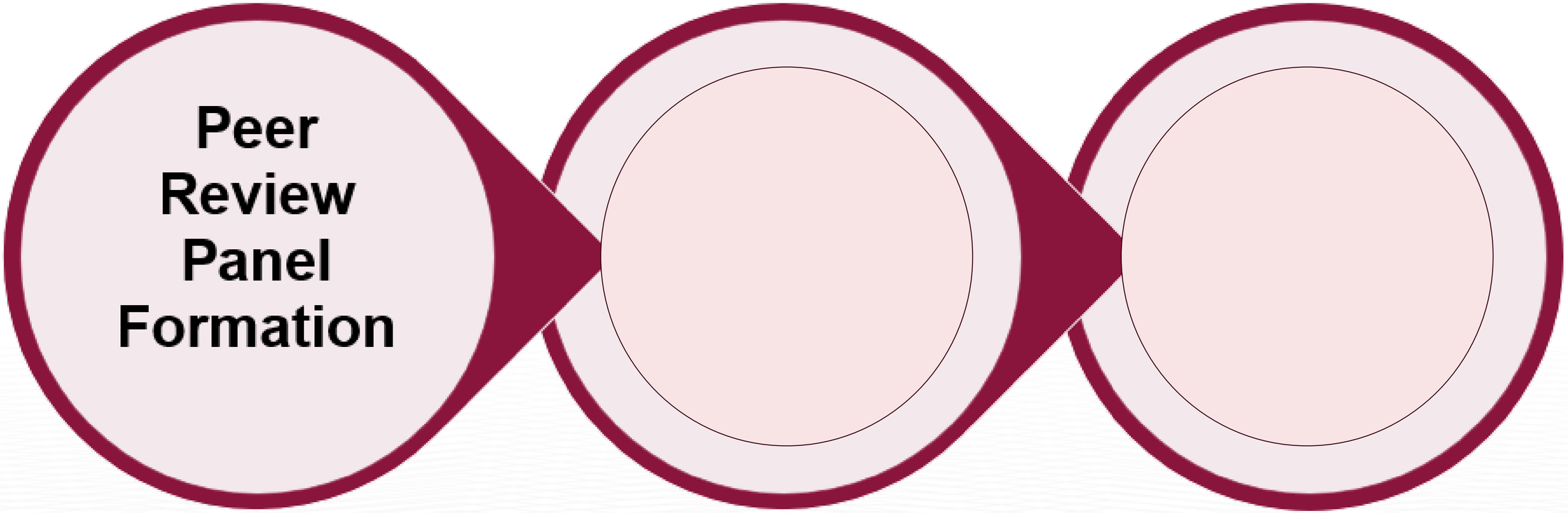
Accreditation Process Flow with Safe AI Integration



Human-only
-Selection of reviewers
-Conflict-of-interest checks
-Assignment of roles
AI – LIMITED, ADMINISTRATIVE USE
✓ Conflict of Interest screening (name/entity matching)
✓Reviewer expertise–standard matching support
❌ No reviewer selection decisions

Human-only (CRITICAL STAGE)
- Interviews with leadership, faculty, students
- Observation of teaching, facilities, governance
- Evidence triangulation
AI – STRICTLY RESTRICTED
✓ Interview transcription (with consent)
✓ Secure note organization for reviewers
❌ No interpretation of interviews
❌ No behavioral, sentiment, or credibility assessment

Human-only
- Panel deliberation
- Judgment of compliance, partial compliance, or non-compliance
AI – NOT PERMITTED
❌ No scoring
❌ No compliance classification
❌ No weighting of standards
(This is where accreditation legitimacy is protected)

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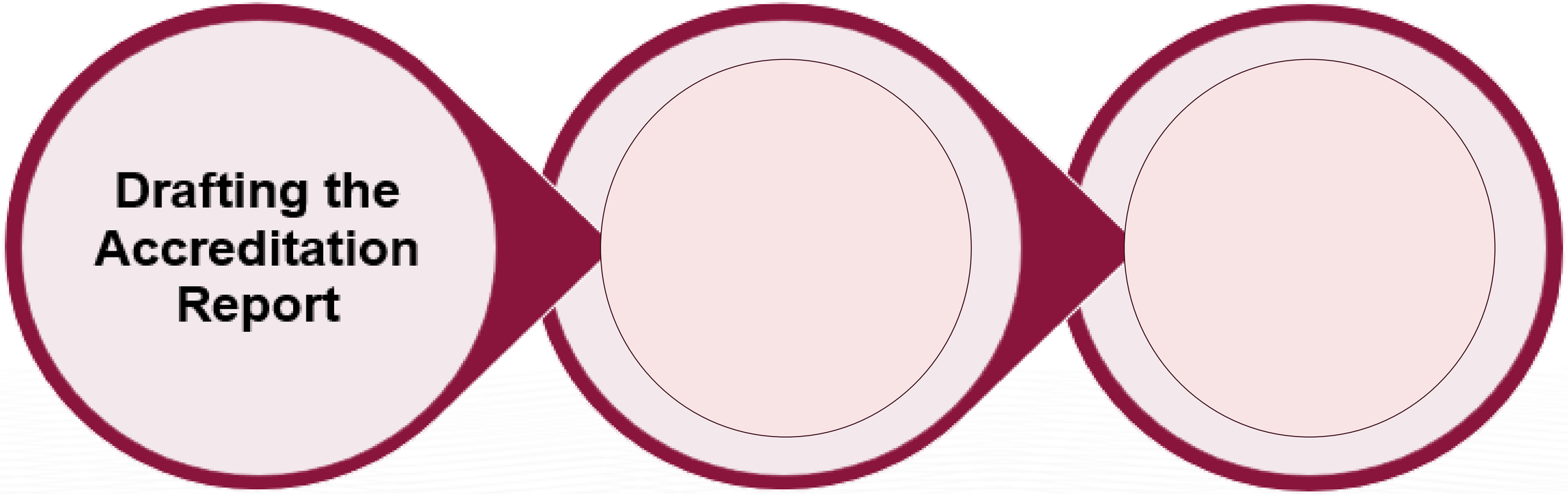
Accreditation Process Flow with Safe AI Integration



Human-led
-Evidence-based findings
-Commendations, recommendations, conditions
AI – SAFE USE
✓ Draft structuring and formatting
✓ Language clarity and consistency checks
✓ Alignment of findings with cited evidence
✓ Cross-checking conclusions against standards cited
❌ No generation of evaluative judgments

Human-led
- Institution responds to findings
- Provides clarifications or action plans
AI – SAFE USE
✓ Action-plan alignment checks
✓ Timeline and KPI structuring
✓ Monitoring framework drafting
❌ No validation of adequacy or feasibility

Human-only
-Accreditation decision
-Conditions, probation, or denial
AI – NOT PERMITTED
❌ No role in decision-making
❌ No voting, ranking, or recommendation authority

Final Stage: Follow-Up & Continuous Monitoring ***(progress reports, KPIs, Early warning signs)***

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Alignment with Global QA Frameworks

From Policy to Practice

This work

- Moves beyond principles and guidelines
- Proposes a structured, operational QA model

It links:

- National AI strategy
- Accreditation standards
- Institutional implementation

Main intellectual contributions

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Core Principles Embedded in the Model

- Human oversight
- Transparency & explainability
- Data protection & confidentiality
- Bias mitigation
- Accountability

Ethical AI as a QA Responsibility

Why This Is Not “Qatar-Only”

Strong overlap with:

- CHEA guiding principles
- ESG logic (even if not named explicitly)
- UNESCO
- AI Act governance philosophy

Compatible with both:

- Mature QA systems
- Emerging QA agencies

This resonates strongly with INQAAHE International Standards and Guidelines (ISGs)→ Transparency, Integrity, Accountability, etc.

Global Transferability
Why this model travels well

Structure adaptable to different policies

Adaptable to different legal systems

Scalable for different income level countries

Builds mutual trust between QA and HEIs

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What QA Agencies Can Do?

- Mandate AI disclosure in accreditation processes
- Require institutional AI governance frameworks
- Define permitted and prohibited AI uses
- Preserve human-only accreditation decisions
- Train reviewers on AI-assisted evidence
- Embed AI across existing standards
- Adopt risk-based AI monitoring
- Protect data privacy and integrity

Risks & Guardrails

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Algorithmic Bias

- Embedded data biases may affect fairness.
- Limited transparency in AI outputs.

Unequal institutional capacity

- Variations in digital readiness across institutions
  (# SSR reports to train)
- Risk of widening quality gaps.

Data privacy risks

- Exposure of sensitive institutional data.
- Compliance and confidentiality concerns.

Over-automation of judgement

- Reduced role of expert academic review.
- Risk of over-reliance on AI outputs.

AI strengthens QA **only when it does not replace human judgment**

Strategic Concluding Remarks

1. AI is now a structural feature of higher education, not a temporary innovation.
2. Quality assurance must evolve from reviewing outputs to governing systems.
3. Trust in accreditation depends on preserving human judgment in an AI-enabled environment.
4. Embedding AI within standards is more effective than creating parallel AI regulations.
5. Human judgment remains the non-negotiable foundation of accreditation legitimacy.
6. Qatar's policy-to-practice experience offers a scalable model, not a prescriptive blueprint.

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Artificial intelligence for quality assurance in higher education: a policy-to-practice model from Qatar with global relevance

By the National Committee For Qualifications and Academic Accreditation

February 4th , 2026

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