

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



INQAAHE 19th Biennial Conference
Doha 2027

Beyond Compliance: Reimagining Quality through the Lens of Human Values

4-7 April 2027
Doha, Qatar

Hosted by the National Committee for Qualifications and Academic Accreditation (NCQAA)

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) invites you to submit proposals for the INQAAHE 2027 Conference. We are looking for forward-looking, critical, and practice-oriented proposals that rethink quality assurance as human-centered, impact-driven, and future-ready.

Proposals may be based on new research, innovative practices, or other relevant experiences and initiatives. Presentations should be interactive and foster a high level of engagement. The proposals should be accessible and understandable to an international academic audience operating in diverse contexts.

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the Conference Programme Committee to ensure they meet the criteria for acceptance.

The deadline for submissions is **31 October 2026**.

The Conference themes and sub-themes

Rapid technological change, shifting societal expectations, and an increasingly uncertain global context are challenging the continued adequacy of compliance-driven quality assurance models in higher education. These shifts call for a rethinking of quality beyond standards and procedures,

toward approaches that capture the human, societal, and ethical value of education, and strengthen trust and relevance in higher education systems.

This conference provides an opportunity for the international higher education and quality assurance community to explore the required shifts in perspectives, practices, and paradigms repositioning quality assurance as a human-centered, impact-oriented system that supports innovation while safeguarding integrity and public trust. It aims to empower higher education providers and quality assurance agencies to respond effectively to a rapidly changing technological, societal, economic, and global landscape.

Discussions will be structured around the following sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1: Quality Assurance for Societal Impact and Public Value

In response to increasing global challenges, including climate change, social inequality, political uncertainty and economic transformation, there is a growing expectation for higher education to contribute meaningfully to society beyond its traditional roles of teaching and research. Institutions are increasingly called upon to generate impact at local, national, and global levels, aligning their activities with broader development agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This sub-theme will discuss the role of quality assurance in supporting higher education institutions to demonstrate and enhance their societal impact, including graduate outcomes, community engagement, and contributions to sustainable development. It will explore how review frameworks might evolve to capture public and ethical value, holding institutions accountable not only for what they teach, but for the values embedded in how and why they teach them. Additionally, the sub-theme solicits innovative practices in higher education institutions to show societal impact and public value in support of such review frameworks.

Sub-theme 2: AI-Enabled Quality Assurance: Enhancing External Review Through Automation and Analytics

In response to rapid advances in artificial intelligence and data analytics, quality assurance agencies face growing expectations to modernise their methods, processes and reviewer practice. There is increasing recognition across the sector that traditional approaches to external review – while rigorous and trusted – may not be fully equipped to keep pace with the scale, complexity and volume of higher education provision that agencies are now called upon to assess.

This sub-theme will discuss the role of AI and data-driven tools in supporting quality assurance agencies to enhance the effectiveness, consistency and efficiency of external review. It will explore how agencies can responsibly embed automation and analytics into their methodologies – from AI-assisted evidence analysis to data-informed risk profiling – while safeguarding the rigour, independence and public trust that underpin the legitimacy of quality assurance itself. Internal quality assurance practices employing AI and data-driven tools are also welcomed.

Sub-theme 3: Risk, Resilience, and Innovation: Reframing Quality Assurance for a Fast-Evolving Global Higher Education

Higher education systems are increasingly operating in a context shaped by global uncertainty, including geopolitical instability, economic volatility, climate-related risks, and rapid technological change. These dynamics challenge the resilience, adaptability, and sustainability of institutions and raise fundamental questions about whether traditional quality assurance approaches, designed largely for more stable and predictable environments, are equipped to keep pace.

This sub-theme will discuss the role of quality assurance in supporting institutions to anticipate, respond to, and manage uncertainty and risk. It will explore how QA frameworks can move from a compliance-oriented, retrospective function toward one that supports institutional resilience and enables responsible innovation, incorporating forward-looking approaches to ensure continuity, relevance, and quality in rapidly evolving environments – without lowering the rigour that underpins public trust. It will also explore institutional responses and case studies to this emerging requirement from accrediting agencies.

Sub-theme 4: Ethics, Integrity, and Trust in Higher Education: Safeguarding Human-Centered AI through Quality Assurance

The rapid embedding of artificial intelligence in teaching, assessment, and research is raising pressing questions about academic integrity, authorship, assessment validity, and the credibility of qualifications that existing quality assurance frameworks were not designed to address. As AI becomes a defining feature of the student and academic experience, there is a growing expectation that quality assurance will play an active role in safeguarding standards and public trust, rather than responding retrospectively once norms have already shifted.

This sub-theme will discuss the role of quality assurance in supporting institutions to navigate the integrity challenges posed by AI – including shared understandings of authorship, originality, and valid assessment in an AI-enabled environment. It will explore how review frameworks, including internal review practices, might evolve to hold institutions and programs accountable for the conditions and values under which students learn and demonstrate achievement, safeguarding the credibility of qualifications on which students, employers, and wider society depend.

The Conference format

The Conference will open-up a range of opportunities for you to delve deeper into these themes and issues through:

- Conference sessions (diverse formats are possible)
- Poster presentations

Conference sessions

Conference sessions may take several types of formats, such as panel discussions, case studies followed by interactive discussion with delegates, small group discussions on research findings, and more.

Each session will last 55 minutes. Presenters are expected to encourage engagement and discussion amongst delegates through the design of interactive sessions. As the number of proposals that can be presented is limited by the number of parallel sessions, the proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Relevance of the proposal to the sub-theme under which it is presented.
2. The clarity of the proposal and its intended objectives.
3. The interest of the proposal for an international audience.
4. Research-focused proposals must be supported by a sound methodology, and a clear structure and conclusions.

Each proposal should set out the following:

- The intended session format;
- The selected Conference sub-theme;
- The specific topic covered;

- The presenter(s) and their brief bio(s);
- The organization(s) of the presenter(s);
- A 100 – 150-word abstract;
- An outline description of no more than 1,000 words;
- The aims and intentions of the author(s) for the presentation;
- The approach adopted to deliver the session and engage participants, including any specific audio-visual requirements.

Proposals for publication

Proposal abstracts will be collected for the Conference proceedings to be published on INQAAHE website.

Poster Proposals

Posters are yet another way to present quality assurance practices. They often open up constructive discussions on a range of aspects related to the practices and create opportunities for presenters to get feedback on these.

Posters will be exhibited in areas where delegates will take their breaks, and a dedicated session is reserved in the agenda for contributors to present their posters.

Proposals for poster presentations on any topic related to one of the sub-themes may be submitted for consideration.

Each poster should contain:

- The topic title;
- The name(s) of the presenter(s), their short bio(s), and their organisations; and
- A combined textual and graphic description of the topic with the assistance of tables, drawings or charts.

A poster proposal should:

- Identify the presenter(s);
- Identify the organization of the presenter(s);
- Include information on the title or topic;
- Include an abstract explaining the intent of the poster;
- Be no more than 250 words in length;
- Include the aims and intentions of the author(s) for the presentation;
- Measures and printing options will be indicated afterwards.

Deadline and Timelines

The following are the deadlines and timelines for submissions:

- **31 July 2026:** launch of the call for proposals.
- **31 October 2026:** all proposals must be submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat.
- **15 December 2026:** authors are notified of their proposal acceptance, which may include recommendations for improvement.
- **31 January 2027:** the final version of the proposal is submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat.
- **28 February 2027:** the papers and posters are allotted time slots on the agenda and the agenda is published.

Conference Registration

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

Proposals should be sent to: secretariat@inqaahe.org.

Contact Us

For further information and questions regarding the submission of proposals, please contact the INQAAHE Secretariat at secretariat@inqaahe.org.