

College Quality Arrangements 2022-2024

As the sector moves towards a joint approach to quality, for the next two academic years (2022-23 and 2023-24), colleges and universities will still carry out separate quality arrangements.

Last year, all colleges hosted a Progress Visit carried out by a team consisting of their Education Scotland HMI (His Majesty's Inspector), a Student Team Member (STM) and Associate Assessors (AAs) from the sector. As a result, each college was given a progress visit report and, this year, arrangements will focus on actions and comments published in those reports.

There is one major difference in arrangements this year, and that is there will be two types of 'visit': an **Annual Engagement Visit (AEV)** and a **Progress Visit (PV)**.

Annual Engagement Visit (AEV)

AEV's will take place in colleges where clear progress is being made and no issues or concerns have been raised, or worries over aspects of performance. They will be light-touch, short meetings, which will usually last one day and take place on-site, in-person.

In attendance there will be the HMI link inspector for the college, an AA and an STM. Other HMI's may be involved as and when required.

After the AEV, colleges will receive an initial verbal report, followed by a subsequent written report that will be shared with the college and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). A short statement confirming the outcomes of the visit and next steps will be published.

Progress Visit (PV)

PV's will be different from last year's, as they will be undertaken in colleges where improvements and enhancements are needed, and where aspects of performance require further exploration, either identified by the college HMI link inspector or by the SFC. PV's will explore what is working well and what needs further improvement, and will consider key indicators of performance and their impact on the learning experience.

PVs will be managed by a Lead HMI with other HMI colleagues supporting the visit, including the college link HMI. An STM and AAs will also be in attendance.

It is likely that a PV will last two to three days.



It is expected that the college will provide updates to the PV through a self-evaluation process, to reflect the progress made and highlight any changes in circumstances.

The PV team will work with managers and staff and will likely **meet with the students' association and arrange meetings with groups of students.**

After the PV, colleges will receive an initial verbal report, followed by a subsequent written report that will be shared with the college and the SFC. A short statement confirming the outcomes of the visit and next steps will be published.

Our support

In term of our support, sparqs will provide updates during our NEON and SESN regular meetings. We are also going to circulate this briefing to all students' associations to raise awareness about the change in arrangements, to ensure students are clear on how and where they can engage and feel empowered to do so.

What you can do to prepare

We advise all students' associations to read last year's visit report and reach out to their senior management team if they have not received it. This will be essential to find out if there are things the students' association needs to action.

Colleges will usually be informed of the visit ten days before it takes place, so the students' association should **reach out to the quality department** to find out if they have a visit coming soon, and which type of visit it is. In the meantime, make sure you collect all data you have gathered while talking to students, to have an evidence base which you can use to discuss any points arising during the visit.

Further information

If you need further support and information, please get in touch with Gloria Laurini, Development Consultant, at gloria.laurini@sparqs.ac.uk.

