## PRINCIPLES OF STANDARDS ASSURANCE AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The University aims to operate an integrated system of standards assurance and quality management and enhancement which makes an effective contribution to the achievement of the University's Mission and which underpins the academic planning process. The system must be sufficiently robust to maintain the defined standards of the University's awards, to satisfy internal quality management and enhancement objectives, to comply with the published sections of the *QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education* and to ensure that other aspects of the national quality framework are fully addressed.

The Principles have been received and endorsed by the Teaching and Learning Committee, the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (former) and the Research Degrees Committee.

In relation to **standards** the system seeks to ensure that:

- the academic standards of the programmes of study offered by the University are appropriate to their related awards;

- the University's programme structures accord with the requirements of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and all awards conform to the approved structure;

- the standards of awards are kept under review to ensure the continued validity of the award and that student achievement is commensurate with these;

- standards are externally benchmarked and validated through, *inter alia,* the input of external examiners and PSRBs and by reference to relevant subject benchmarks;

- the learning resources provided are sufficient to support students in achieving the award for which they are registered;

In relation to **quality** the system seeks to ensure that:

- the processes in place for programme approval, monitoring and review are working effectively;

- the views of students, staff, academic subject peers, employers and PSRBs are fully integrated into the process of programme planning, development and change;

- appropriate quality management arrangements are in place to ensure that all aspects of learning resources are working effectively in support of student learning;

- timely and appropriate action is taken where change is necessary or where matters of concern have been identified;

- excellence in teaching is recognised and rewarded;

- excellence in research and the support of research study is promoted;

- good practice and innovation are recognised and promulgated.

The key operating principles of the system are that:

- all formal processes are linked to the appropriate point in the management structure at which decisions can be taken about the specific action required within the timescale identified;

- all issues raised through the formal processes and any action taken are recorded and reported appropriately;

- formal processes are applied rigorously to all programmes of study and subjects, including franchised and validated provision;

- the implications of the quality processes for Faculties are the subject of consultation before implementation and the effectiveness of processes are reviewed regularly.