

Number	CL 06/11
Subject	Publication of new subject benchmark statement for master's degrees in computing
Publication date	Friday 20 May 2011
Recipients	United Kingdom higher education institutions and further education colleges; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; academic subject associations; Higher Education Academy subject centres; organisations representing higher education interests and providing academic support; higher education funding councils; Sector Skills Councils; the National Union of Students
Of interest to	Staff involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes; academic support staff; staff involved in education and accreditation activities of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; employer organisations; and students and their representatives
Further information	Dr Laura Bellingham (01452 557015)
Related documents	New subject benchmark statement for master's degrees in computing Available at: www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/masters

Dear Colleague

This circular letter announces the publication of a new **subject benchmark statement for master's degrees in computing**.

A draft version of the new subject benchmark statement was subject to a period of consultation, from 12 November 2010 - 7 January 2011. The new statement reflects close collaboration between QAA; BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT; and the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing (CPHC).

Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the UK's academic community to describe the nature of study, and the academic standards expected of graduates, in specific subject areas and in respect of particular qualifications. They provide a picture of what a graduate in a particular discipline might reasonably be expected to know, do and understand at the end of their programme of study.

Subject benchmark statements are intended to act as reference points for those involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes. They are not intended to represent a national curriculum in a subject or to prescribe set approaches to teaching, learning or assessment. Instead, they allow for both flexibility and innovation in programme design within a conceptual framework agreed by the subject community. For some

disciplines, there may be additional reference points that institutions may need to consider, such as the requirements set out by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to heads of relevant academic schools/departments and those responsible for academic standards in your institution or organisation. The new subject benchmark statement is available on QAA's website.

If you would like further information relating to the subject benchmark statement or the process followed in its development, please contact Dr Laura Bellingham on 01452 557015.

All subject benchmark statements form part of the Academic Infrastructure, published on behalf of the sector by QAA. The Academic Infrastructure has recently been evaluated and a consultation carried out about proposals for changes. A report setting out the new structure will be published in June 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony McClaran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive