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THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Quality Assurance Policy

1.   Introduction

The Maldives National University (MNU) recognises the quality of higher education as imperative to realising its vision: "to be acknowledged as the outstanding academic institution of the nation and one of the finest in the region".

Management of quality is fundamental to the achievement of MNU's strategic directions, and a quality assurance policy is critical for the same. The purposes of this policy are to:

- Define and set out a quality management system through which quality at MNU will be assured, enhanced, and improved;
- Design and implement a Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework (QAAF) that meets the University's legislative and regulatory requirements in accordance with The Maldives National University Act (3/2011) that promote and support the achievement of high-quality standards;
- Establish a quality management system that reflects a strong commitment to evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement; and
- Guide the activities of the University towards the promotion of a university-wide culture of ongoing quality assurance in working towards MNU's mission, vision, and strategic goals which all adhere to the University's philosophy and guiding values.

2.   Definition of Terms

Course(s):   Refers to all short-term and long-term academic programmes delivered through all modalities.

Faculty: Institutes, centres, schools or other academic units with a major responsibility for teaching students.

University: The Maldives National University (MNU)

3.   Statement of Policy

MNU commits to continually strive for excellence and create a consciousness of quality standards and best practices, promote adherence and compliance for the efficient and effective delivery of learning, teaching, research, administration, and in the overall governance of the University as per The Maldives National University Act, with a commitment for continuous improvement.

4.   Scope

This policy applies to:

4.1   All governance bodies/committees and operational committees of the University;
4.2   All staff of the University in exercising their designated responsibilities and leadership to embed a culture of quality assurance and quality improvement across the University as a whole;
4.3   All students enrolled in the University;
4.4   All policies and processes governing the University; and
4.5   All teaching, learning, research, extension and administrative processes of the University.

5.   Policy Implementation

The Vice Chancellor shall oversee the implementation of this policy.

The Vice Chancellor will appoint a Quality Assurance Controller who will lead the implementation of this policy.

6.   Key Principles Underpinning the Policy

Quality assurance is critical for the effective and efficient functioning of the University and necessitates a strong mechanism based on sound principles that promote quality standards. As such, the below ten principles underpin this policy:

6.1   **Fairness & equity** – establishing fairness and equity in all services provided;
6.2   **Developmental process** – ensuring quality assurance and enhancement are ongoing developmental processes;

6.3 **Continuous improvement** – practising continuous improvement as a top priority in all aspects of the University's functions;

6.4 **Risk-management** – supporting resilient continuity planning processes to manage unexpected interruptions to the functioning of The University;

6.5 **Stakeholder engagement** – adopting multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure relevance and wider participation in its quality assurance processes;

6.6 **Self-assessment and reflection** – fostering an ethos of critical self-assessment and evaluation of its performance at individual, team, and institutional levels;

6.7 **Evidence-based** – making decisions based on systematically collected evidence;

6.8 **Standards** – setting quality standards, accountability, and transparency that adhere to local and international requirements;

6.9 **Benchmarking** – assessing performance and monitoring standards by adopting relevant global good practices; and

6.10 **Collegiality** – applying procedures that reflect collegiality through collaboration, peer review, and decision-making.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of Staff and Students

Responsibility for quality assurance and enhancement lies with all members of staff in the various academic and support services in the University. The major drivers of this policy are the University staff and students.

7.1 Roles of Staff

To assure and enhance the quality of academic provision and support services, the University staff shall:

7.1.1 Be professional in the conduct of their duties.

7.1.2 Adequately prepare for academic undertakings and execute the same with the utmost professionalism;

7.1.3 Provide students with appropriate learning experiences conducive for the development of their competence in areas that underpin teaching, research, community service and student support;

7.1.4 Dutifully adhere to provisions of the University's policies and procedures;

7.1.5   Diligently align all work done in teaching, learning, research, community services, and student support to the University's philosophy, vision, mission, and core values working towards achieving its strategic goals;

7.1.6   Reflect on and seek to continuously improve their performance; and

7.1.7   Practice and promote a culture of quality standards and expectations, including an awareness of the quality assurance policies, procedures and mechanisms in place at the University.

7.2   Roles of Students

To enhance the quality of student learning, the students shall:

7.2.1   Embrace a culture of independent and holistic learning;
7.2.2   Attend regularly scheduled learning and teaching activities;
7.2.3   Adequately prepare for all learning and teaching activities such as lectures, tutorials, seminars, and assessment;
7.2.4   Spend the recommended time on independent learning;
7.2.5   Continuously learn and develop from academic advice that arises from assessment of their work;
7.2.6   Objectively evaluate teaching staff, courses, and support services of the University; and
7.2.7   Use the committee system of representation to effectively contribute to the improvements of academic provision and support services at the University.

8.   Policy Review

This Quality Assurance Policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure adequacy and relevance to all University quality assurance interventions in its academic provision. The Policy shall be reviewed at least every five years or more frequently if the need arises.

Revision history:

Academic Senate Approval Date: 06 March 2022

Policy Effective Date: 06 March 2022

First Version: 06 March 2022