

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”. Thus, the management of quality is fundamental to the achievement of MNU's strategic directions, and a quality assurance policy is vital in this regard. The purposes of this policy are to:

- Define and establish a sustainable quality management system through which quality at MNU will be assured, enhanced, and improved across all University functions, balancing academic excellence, resource efficiency, and institutional resilience.
- Design and implement a Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework (QAAF) that complies with the University’s legislative and regulatory requirements outlined in The Maldives National University Act (3/2011) while actively promoting high-quality standards that are socially responsible and environmentally conscious.
- Strengthen and maintain an internal quality management system that is grounded in evidence-based decision-making continuous improvement, and innovation, ensuring responsiveness to emerging challenges and opportunities.
- Embed a culture of sustainability and quality consciousness throughout the University, guiding institutional activities in alignment with MNU’s mission, vision, and strategic goals while upholding the University’s core philosophy and 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 is committed to a sustainable and evidence-based quality assurance system that promotes continuous improvement and adherence to high standards across all university functions, in alignment with *The Maldives National University Act (3/2011)*, and MNU's philosophy, values, vision and mission.

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 Quality Assurance Controller will lead its implementation and monitoring.

6. Key Principles Underpinning the Policy

MNU's quality assurance system is founded on the following core principles:

- 6.1 **Fairness and equity** – promoting fairness, equity and inclusivity in all services ensuring equal opportunities for all stakeholders .
- 6.2 **Continuous improvement and development:** ensuring quality assurance as an ongoing and developmental process, aimed at fostering a culture of continuous improvement across all areas of the University.
- 6.3 **Risk-management and resilience** – incorporating effective risk management strategies to ensure institutional resilience and continuity in the face of disruptions and emerging challenges.

- 6.4 **Stakeholder engagement** – adopting multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure relevance and wider participation in its quality assurance processes to ensure relevance, responsiveness, and broad-based participation.
- 6.5 **Self-assessment and evidence-based decision making** – fostering an ethos of regular self-assessment and reflection; informed by regular self-assessment and reflection at all institutional levels, supported by systematically collected and analysed evidence to guide decision-making and improvements.
- 6.6 **Standards and benchmarking** – setting clear and transparent quality standards aligned with national and international expectations and shall engage in benchmarking to ensure the University remains competitive and aligned with global good practices.
- 6.7 **Collegiality and collaboration**– promoting collegiality through inclusive collaboration, peer review, and shared decision-making, thereby fostering a sense of collective responsibility.
- 6.8 **Sustainability and responsibility** - embedding principles of environmental, social, and economic sustainability within its quality assurance and enhancement framework, ensuring responsible and future-oriented institutional development.

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 University staff and students.

7.1 Roles of Staff

To assure and enhance the quality of academic provision, research 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 Engage in research activities that contribute to the creation and application of knowledge, enhance learning, and support the development of MNU's research culture;
- 7.2.7 Objectively evaluate teaching staff, courses, and support services of the University; and
- 7.2.8 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 its 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

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