How QAHE Review Works — Process, Fees, Scope, Complaints and Verification

International Association for Quality Assurance in Pre-Tertiary & Higher Education

1. Process

QAHE institutional accreditation is a documented quality-assurance review of the **named legal entity** that applies. Appointed honorary auditors examine the application file and public information against published QAHE standards. The Accreditation Committee then decides. Review is primarily desk-based and considers governance, programmes as described, assessment and integrity rules, learner support, legal status and public transparency. Further evidence may be requested. Accreditation is not issued on payment alone.

If approved, Finance issues the fee invoice. After payment is confirmed, QAHE prepares the certificate, report, directory listing and news announcement, normally within **9–15 working days**. Institutions must not announce accreditation until the official listing is live.

2. Fees (non-negotiable)

Institutional accreditation: US$680 + 5% per year, per address / branch reviewed.	**Two-year institutional option:** US$1,428 total (covers both years; no further annual adjustment during the prepaid period).
Programmatic accreditation: US$230 + 5% per year for an approved named programme.	**5% charge:** online payment processing fee. It applies to all fee types, including online-only providers.

QAHE accreditation is an external quality-assurance review. Honorary auditors examine whether the named institution has documented governance, programme information, assessment and integrity rules, learner support and public transparency that meet published QAHE standards. The Committee's decision, the certificate and the directory listing are the public record of that review.

The fee pays for that quality-assurance work: file review, decision, certificate and report, listing, and monitoring for the stated period. It is not a substitute for a government licence to operate, for the legal power to award national degrees, or for recognition by the U.S. Department of Education or CHEA. Those are separate legal and recognition systems.

3. Scope limits

- QAHE accreditation is a quality-assurance decision. It does not confer authority to grant national or state degrees and does not replace a ministry licence.
- It is not recognition by the U.S. Department of Education or CHEA.
- It covers only the named legal entity reviewed. Branches, agents, sister brands and unreviewed programmes are not included unless separately accredited.
- Institutional accreditation must not be described as separate QAHE accreditation of an individual MBA, DBA or other named award unless programmatic accreditation has been granted for that award.
- Partner MOUs support cooperation and, in some cases, complementary pathways. They do not convert every QAHE listing into a regulated award in the partner's country.
- Accreditation is time-limited. Renewal is not automatic. Public information and complaints may be considered at renewal.

4. How to complain

QAHE is an accrediting body, not a court or student ombudsman. Consumer disputes about fees, teaching or refunds should be raised first with the institution. QAHE will consider complaints that allege a listed institution is not in conformity with QAHE standards, especially at annual review or renewal.

Write to **enquiry@qahe.org** with the institution's legal name, the URL of any claim, and supporting evidence. QAHE does not mediate individual student or faculty grievances. Serious, evidenced concerns may affect renewal or listing. Expired logos and false claims should also be reported.

5. How to verify

The only authoritative proof is the official directory:

https://www.qahe.org/list-of-accredited-institutions/

Confirm the exact legal name, institutional vs programmatic status, and validity dates. If an organisation is not named there, it is not QAHE-accredited, whatever certificate or logo appears on its own website. Process questions: **accreditation@qahe.org**. General enquiries: **enquiry@qahe.org**. Apply: https://www.qahe.org/accreditation-membership-form/