

Guidance Note: *Handbook* paragraph 25

Guidance note on combining SLR with an alternative review

Approved by the Quality Board on November 18 2019

Preamble

Notes of Guidance are issued by the Quality Board for Icelandic Higher Education following consultation with the higher education institutions, LÍS (the National Union for Icelandic Students) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MESK). They are offered for guidance to amplify statements contained in the *Quality Assurance Handbook for Icelandic Higher Education* (the *Handbook*). They are designed to clarify expectations, and promote transparency, as well as equity and consistency of practice across the sector. Please note, however, that the *Handbook* in all circumstances remains the definitive statement on the QEF. Any enquiries related to this Note of Guidance should be referred to the Manager of the Quality Board (secretariat@qef.is).

This Note relates to paragraph 25 of the *Handbook* on combining a SLR with an alternative review.

Guidance

Paragraph 25 states: “Where there is a concurrent professional/statutory body accrediting process, then the institution, at its own discretion, can use that as an integral part of the SLR. Where appropriate and practical, they may use common externals for both reviews.”

An accreditation report could be combined with a SLR provided that the resulting report meets all the requirements of SLRs as described in paragraphs 26-53 of the *Handbook*, including:

- ... “information on the composition of the Review Team, the review process, the findings, Action Plan(s), the review recommendations and the intended institutional and departmental/faculty follow-up processes.” (paragraph 52)
- A summary of the main conclusions of the review and actions to be taken, which should be published on the university’s website within three months of completion as specified in paragraph 53.

In addition, the institution would be required to provide supplementary information to cover areas that are not part of the report of the professional/statutory body but are specified in the *Handbook*. For example, if management of research is not part of the accreditation report, the institution would include additional materials on management of research in its submission of the SLR.

Further Information

Any further information on this Note of Guidance is available from the Board Manager (secretariat@qef.is).