



# **PSRB Forum**

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# UK higher education: overseas provision

- ~ 200,000 students study for UK awards overseas
  - Top locations
    - Hong Kong
    - Singapore
    - Malaysia
    - China
    - Greece
    - Russia
    - Ireland
    - Trinidad and Tobago
    - Oman
    - Germany
    - India

*(Note: HESA data relates to 2007-08)*

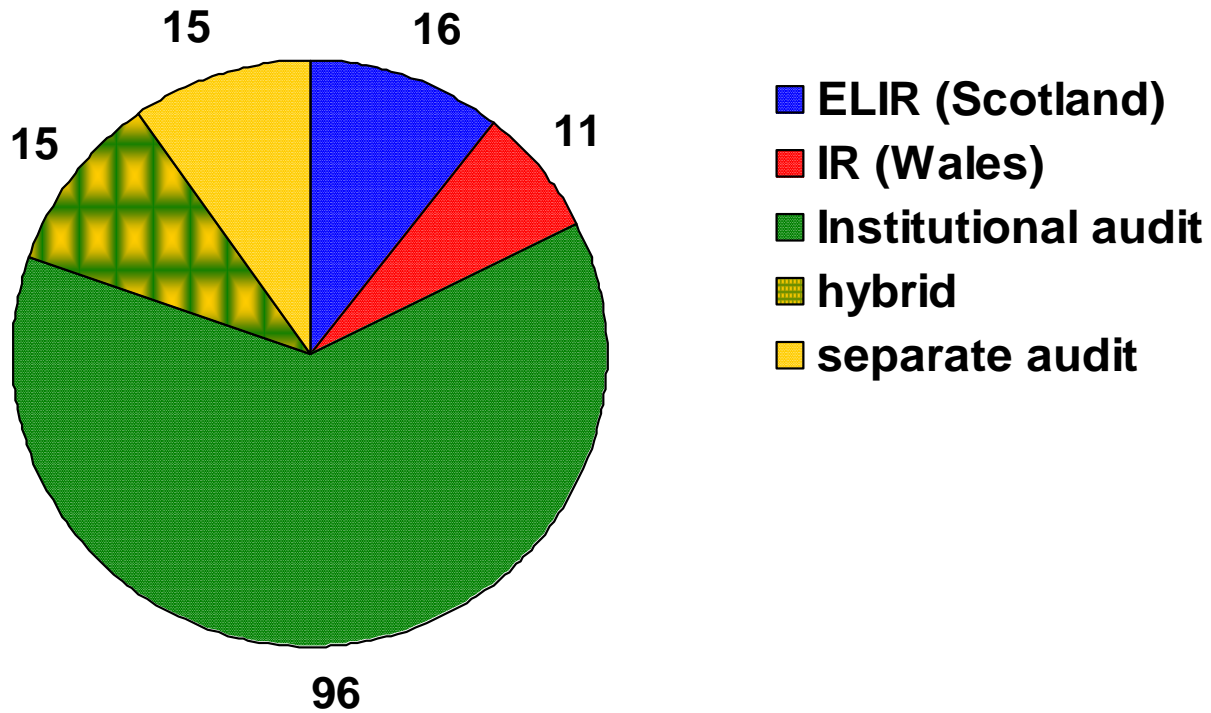
# UK higher education: reputation/quality

- UK universities are widely regarded as being amongst the best in the world
- There is no official UK system of university rankings
- There are performance indicators for research and teaching (for example from HEFCE)
- Funding councils review the quality of research
- QAA reviews the quality of education (teaching and learning as distinct from research)

# UK overseas provision: quality assurance

- Indirect approach
  - through reviewing collaborative provision
- Direct approach
  - through country-by-country reviews (overseas audits)

# Collaborative provision



# UK higher education: size/distribution

UK universities/higher education colleges with powers to award their own degrees	<b>153</b>
England Institutional audit	124
Northern Ireland Institutional audit	2
Scotland Enhancement led institutional review (ELIR)	16
Wales Institutional review	11

*(Note: figures relate to 2008-09)*

# Institutional audit: characteristics

- **Basic premise**
  - a university/college is responsible for its own quality and standards
- **Central focus**
  - students and their experience
  - whether students are getting the deal they were offered

# Institutional audit: characteristics

- Expert team
  - comprises senior staff from other universities and colleges and a student auditor from 2010
- Audit process
  - relies on gathering evidence using an audit methodology
- Final outcome
  - judgements about the institution's management of academic standards and the quality of education it provides
    - expressed as confidence/limited confidence/no confidence
    - given substance by recommendations made in a report

# Collaborative provision audit: a supplement

- Universities/colleges maintain responsibilities for their awards delivered at partner institutions
- The audit process entails partner visits
- Judgements relate to the effectiveness of institutions' management in:
  - securing the standards of awards
  - overseeing the quality of education delivered elsewhere

# Overseas audit: a variant

- QAA reviews UK transnational higher education through a rolling programme of 'overseas audits'
- Every year QAA selects a particular country and reviews a sample of UK institutions' provision
- The scope of overseas audit is programme delivery (not research collaboration)

# Overseas audit: destinations

Top locations for students studying for UK awards overseas	QAA overseas audit destinations
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>Singapore (2011)</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Malaysia (2010)</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>India (2009)</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>Greece (2008)</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>Russia (2007)</b>
<b>Russia</b>	<b>Hong Kong (2007)</b>
Ireland	<b>China (2006)</b>
Trinidad and Tobago	<b>Oman (2005)</b>
<b>Oman</b>	Sri Lanka (2004)
Germany	Italy (2003)
<b>India</b>	

# Conclusion

- Institutional audit – holistic review
  - Scope for a separate judgement on collaborative provision
    - Hybrid – heightened awareness of collaborative provision
      - Separate collaborative provision audit – narrower context
- Overseas audit – country perspective



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