Title: **Digital switchover: exploring the UK Quality Code for Higher Education as a resource to support academic practice**

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Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Understand and explain to others how the relevant parts of the Quality Code can be used to develop academic practice relating to the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and support for students
- Discuss the challenges the Quality Code may need to respond to in the future in light of developing practice in the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and support for students
- Use the Quality Code to plan activities for use by individuals or teams which will develop academic practice

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

- What is the Quality Code and how does it cover the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and support for learning?
    - Brief introduction about the Quality Code as the definitive reference point for all higher education providers and all higher education provision; its structure and key features
    - The Quality Code aims to be future proof and does not refer to specific forms of delivery or technology, because the sector moves more quickly than it is helpful for the reference point to
    - However, there are many issues covered in the Quality Code where the use of technology could be a dimension e.g. programme design, methods of delivery, support for students, employability skills

- How might the Quality Code respond to future quality assurance challenges in the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and supporting students?
    - With an ever changing environment for learning in higher education, new challenges for quality assurance are constantly appearing

- o QAA needs to consider how these can be best addressed, whether through the Quality Code itself or through additional guidance and support

- How can the Quality Code be used to identify ways in which academic practice can be enhanced?
  - o The Quality Code is a resource which staff, collectively and individually, can use to reflect on their current practice and consider how it could be changed
  - o The Indicators in the Quality Code reflect sector agreed sound practice; practitioners can look at how their current practice reflects the Indicators and use the explanatory text and further resources to identify ways in which they could do things differently

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

The outline of the workshop is a follows;

1. **Introductory presentation** (10 minutes, including questions)
   To cover what is the Quality Code and how it relates to the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and supporting students.

2. **Small group exercise** (25 minutes)
   Delegates either design their own scenario or chose a pre-prepared example of the use of technology in learning, teaching, assessment and supporting students (e.g. a MOOC or online CPD programme; a programme with a significant work based learning element, where students use an online platform to reflect on their learning experiences while in the workplace; a 'traditional' campus based programme where 50% of assessment uses technology in some form).

   A worksheet will guide them through considering different Indicators from the Quality Code to identify:
   - o What the main quality assurance challenges are in relation to the scenario
   - o How the Quality Code can be used to address those challenges, by suggesting alternative practices
   - o Any areas where additional information, guidance and would help practitioners respond to these challenges

3. **Feedback and identifying actions** (10 minutes)
   Key points of feedback from the group exercise, and opportunity for delegates to identify one action they can take away.

References

UK Quality Code for Higher Education
www.qaa.ac.uk/qualitycode