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# African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) in Higher Education

Harmonisation, Quality Assurance  
and Accreditation in Africa

# HAQAA3

A stylized map of the African continent in shades of orange and yellow, positioned to the right of the HAQAA3 text.

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## ASG-QA WHAT ARE THEY?



- An overarching framework for QA in higher education in Africa.
- Non-prescriptive and flexible with a focus on IQA and EQA in higher education in Africa.
- The standards are stated as common minimum requirements.
- The guidelines are stated in more specific terms to advise HEIs and QAAs on the best way to address each standard and allow for the collection of evidence in support of their status of quality.
- Example of good practice and a mechanism for quality enhancement in African HEIs and QAAs.
- Not exhaustive – HEIs and QAAs can add additional standards to suit their own context.



1. Have a **common framework and understanding of QA** – continentally, regionally and nationally.

2. Develop **mutual trust** – facilitate recognition and mobility of students and human resources in Africa.

3. Ensure **quality improvement** – self-assessment, external peer reviews and continuous M&E.

4. Promote **transparency and accountability** – provide appropriate information on QA to public.

5. Promote **international competitiveness** of Africa's HE system.

6. Promote a **sustainable quality culture in HEIs** – help to design relevant teaching and learning resources and student assessment mechanisms.

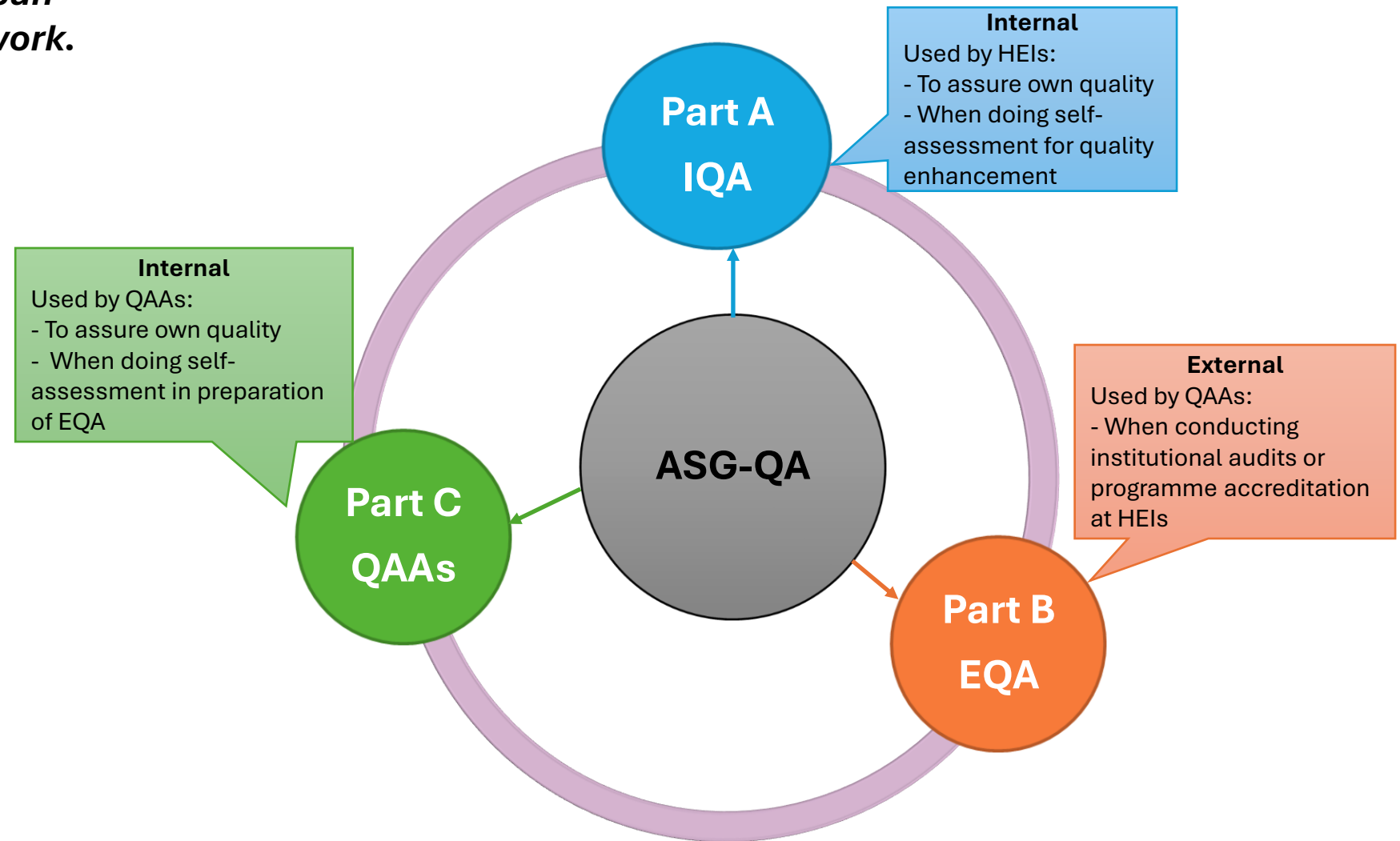


- Apply to **all types of HEIs** (and QAAs) in Africa irrespective of the mode of study or place of delivery, including transnational and cross-border delivery.
- Refer always to **both undergraduate and postgraduate students**, unless otherwise stated.
- Include **all staff** – academic, research, administrative and technical/support staff, unless otherwise stated.
- Should be applied **considering existing qualifications frameworks and credit accumulation and transfer systems** in operation in the continent.



- ❖ **Part A: Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) of HEIs**
- ❖ **Part B: External Quality Assurance (EQA)**
- ❖ **Part C: Internal Quality Assurance of QA Agencies**

***The 3 parts are interlinked and form the basis for an African Quality Assurance Framework.***



## Part A: IQA

When conducting self-assessment, HEIs use standards in **Part A**

1. Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives
2. Governance and Management
3. Human Resources
4. Financial Resources Management
5. Infrastructure and Facilities
6. Student Recruitment, Admission, Certification and Support Services
7. Design, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation of Study Programmes
8. Teaching, Learning and Assessment
9. Research and Innovation
10. Community Engagement
11. Information Management System
12. Public Communication
13. Collaboration, Staff and Student Mobility

## Part B: EQA

**Part B** provides the methods and processes QAAs should use when accrediting programmes or auditing HEIs

1. Objectives of EQA and Consideration for IQA
2. Designing EQA Mechanisms Fit for Purpose
3. Implementation Processes of EQA
4. Independence of Evaluation
5. Decision and Reporting of EQA Outcomes
6. Periodic Review of Institutions and Programmes
7. Complaints and Appeals

## Part C: IQA/EQA of QAA

When conducting self-assessment, QAAs use standards in **Part C**

1. Legal Status
2. Vision and Mission Statement
3. Governance and Management
4. Independence of QAA
5. Policies, Processes and Activities
6. Internal Quality Assurance
7. Financial and Human Resources
8. Benchmarking, Networking and Collaboration
9. Periodic Reviews of QAAs

