



SAQAN WEBINAR

Training Students in Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Benefits, Challenges and Opportunities

- November| 28 | 2025
- 10:00 am South African Time

Virtual

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1.0 Introduction



One of the strategic objectives of the Southern African Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN) is capacity building in quality assurance across the region. In line with this goal, international sponsors such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) have expressed strong interest in supporting student training initiatives in quality assurance within the SAQAN region.

DAAD has recently advertised opportunities for university students to participate in quality assurance training, recognizing the critical role students can play in strengthening academic standards and institutional accountability. This presents a timely opportunity for universities and stakeholders to engage meaningfully in preparing students for active roles in quality assurance. To ensure the success of such initiatives, it is essential for stakeholders to understand the benefits, challenges, and opportunities associated with student training in QA. This understanding will help optimize implementation and attract further support from development partners.

SAQAN invites all stakeholders to a 2-hour designed to unpack these key aspects and motivate active participation in student QA training programs.



2.0 Objectives of the Webinar



1. Highlight the importance of quality assurance
2. Explore the benefits of student training in QA
3. Identify challenges and opportunities associated with student training in QA
4. Provide practical recommendations to enhance student training in QA

3.0 Main theme

Empowering Students for Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Unlocking Potential, Navigating Challenges, and Building Opportunities

3.1 Sub-themes

- i. The role of students in quality assurance
- ii. Benefits of training students in quality assurance
- iii. Navigating challenges in student QA training
- iv. Opportunities for enhancing standards and fostering accountability in quality assurance
- v. Actionable strategies for implementation



4.0 Mode of Delivery



The webinar will be conducted virtual.

Facilitators:

- Dr Hardson Kwandayi -Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE)
- Professor Wilson Parawira -Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE)
- Dr Simeon Gwayi -National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Malawi

5.0 Target Audience

- University administrators and academics
- Quality assurance professionals
- Student representatives (SRC)
- Students
- Educational policymakers
- Development partners and sponsors
- Stakeholders in higher education across the SAQAN region



6.0 Expected Outcomes



- Enhanced stakeholder understanding of student QA training.
- Strengthened institutional readiness to implement student QA programs.
- Increased regional collaboration and support from sponsors like DAAD.
- Actionable strategies for integrating students into QA processes.

