

Issue 99

April 2020

## Resources to support you in a changing global environment

by Head of UK NARIC Dr Cloud Bai-Yun

COVID-19, and the policy response to it, has already dramatically altered international workforce and student mobility across-the-board. This unprecedented situation is having significant impact on education and examination systems in almost every country; national economies; the global economy; and our daily ways of life.

For educational institutions, professional bodies, and ministries of education and skills, the repercussions may be long-term. But in terms of practical measures and forward planning, there must be a focus on the coming months, and preparing for what will be a very different global environment.

To enhance the support to our member organisations and diverse stakeholders across the globe, UK NARIC provides a range of resources - information; advice; insights; services - that can support you in planning and preparing for what are likely to be challenging circumstances.

The stories in this month's newsletter set out some of those resources in more detail, including:

Information resources, with regular research updates on the effects of [READ MORE](#)



## Benchmarking in Pakistan; new TVET quality review and accreditation scheme

In Pakistan, UK NARIC has just completed a series of online meetings with five vocational colleges, as part of a NAVTTC national quality enhancement project, supported by British Council Pakistan. NAVTTC is the country's vocational education and training agency.

These virtual review visits have allowed UK NARIC to continue its quality benchmarking work without interruption, and to avoid delays to this important project, which will help to raise training standards in Pakistan.

Building on the processes developed for Pakistan, UK



## Interactive digital training sessions launched: more come on stream

The first two of UK NARIC's new interactive digital training sessions have been held, on 22 and 29 April. Over 160 people took part, there was lively Q&A, and feedback has been very good.

These sessions – *Evaluating international qualifications* and *Combating education fraud* – are now available in recorded format. Contact your account manager or email [events@naric.org.uk](mailto:events@naric.org.uk)

Forthcoming webinars in May and June can be booked on the [training schedule web page](#). Sessions are being added to the schedule listing as they are confirmed. Members may use complimentary training places for this online training; contact your account manager for details. Non-members can email [events@naric.org.uk](mailto:events@naric.org.uk) to book places.

Webinars coming up – on 6 May: [READ MORE](#)



## Information and new publications on the COVID and post-COVID situation

The UK NARIC research team continues to track the COVID situation as it affects international education, and is also preparing several publications covering in detail not only the immediate difficulties but also issues that will be of importance in the coming months.

NARIC will launch in May a new TVET Quality Review and Accreditation scheme - VET-QRA.

The new scheme offers VET providers internationally an independent review of their provision, using the quality framework of the European EQAVET standards. [READ MORE](#)

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## UK NARIC TNE Quality Benchmark scheme set to launch in May

Transnational education (TNE) is potentially an important way to sustain international activity and student numbers, even with travel restrictions and possible lower demand for 'study abroad'.

To support this, in May, UK NARIC launches its enhanced TNE Quality Benchmarking service. This offers an independent quality badge for TNE provision which will help to promote it and which we believe will be welcomed by regulators.

TNE qualifications can face obstacles in recognition, making them less attractive to learners. Through its well-established contacts and networks, UK NARIC is best placed to increase understanding of TNE qualifications and mitigate regulatory and recognition issues.

Increased acceptance and recognition of TNE awards will be central to achieving success [READ MORE](#)



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## China college collaboration builds momentum

E-benchmarking processes have now been put in place to support collaborations with TVET providers in China.

UK NARIC is now in detailed talks with over 40 colleges in China [pictured above: audience of senior college staff at Zibo Vocational Institute, for a UK NARIC video meeting] to support their efforts in internationalisation – a requirement of China's national 'Double High' college development programme.

UK NARIC benchmarking of specialist vocational courses to international standards is about to begin with a [review of four subject areas at Harbin Vocational & Technical College](#). Video briefings on internationalisation and preparing for benchmarking have now been held with Harbin, with Zibo Vocational Institute and with Chengdu Textile College.

E-conferencing and virtual site visits are being utilised. This allows the planned benchmarking of qualifications in China's [READ MORE](#)

The team continues to track announcements on school closures and changing exam arrangements worldwide, and are publishing these, as announcements are made, on the [UK NARIC blog](#).

A more detailed briefing paper focusing on the effects of COVID on the education and exam systems of selected key countries will be released on 12 May. Members can access this on our website via the [Members' Hub page - Publications tab \[log-in required\]](#). Non-members can also access this via our website. You can request a copy in advance by emailing [communications@naric.org.uk](mailto:communications@naric.org.uk)

Remote learning will be of growing importance. This presents opportunities but also challenges, as the recognition picture in relation to it is becoming increasingly complex. UK NARIC publishes a new guide to recognition issues in international distance [READ MORE](#)

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## Research priorities to meet your needs; surveys on admissions practices

UK NARIC has published its quarterly [Information Development Plan](#). This sets out our research priorities for April-June 2020 in response to key developments and member feedback. Many thanks to those who completed surveys to inform this plan. We require some further help from you with two new surveys (each takes only 5 minutes) - please see below in this story.

Alongside charting and responding to the COVID crisis in international education, the plan sets out our research and engagement priorities with many key themes such as English language, grading, higher education readiness and transnational education that have emerged from member feedback.

Our research work will focus on key countries of interest as identified by our members in the survey, reflecting both principal and emerging markets.

Two new surveys: we're trying to get specific insight into admissions practices to enable us [READ MORE](#)

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## UK NARIC assessing refugee skills to support healthcare effort

In an urgent response to the COVID-19 crisis, [UK NARIC is taking part in a new programme](#) to identify refugees with medical and nursing experience and assess their qualifications, so that their skills can be harnessed to support the effort against the virus.

Supported by the Council of Europe and the UN High Commission on Refugees, UK NARIC is working on the scheme with its counterpart recognition agencies in Germany and France.

This new programme, which will commence qualification assessment interviews with refugees within two weeks, will enable the issue of EQPRs (European Qualifications Passports for Refugees) to suitably qualified and experienced healthcare personnel. [READ MORE](#)



## The quarterly statistics series: January to March 2020

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UK NARIC presents the latest, 20th edition of our quarterly statistics series, covering January to March 2020. This shows movements in numbers of completed UK NARIC individual enquiries, by country. The detailed data tables are shown after the link. [READ MORE](#)

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