

# COVERING NOTE TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FOLLOW-UP AUDIT REPORT PREPARED BY THE MFHEA FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF Malta Leadership Institute (2018-005)

August 2025

## INTRODUCTION

In December 2024, it was decided that a follow-up onsite visit review would be carried out in June 2025 to determine whether the mandatory and key recommendations made by the panel during the re-accreditation evaluation of Malta Leadership Institute (MLI) have been effectively implemented. The institution is currently prohibited from enrolling new students in accredited programmes until further notice from the Authority.

The Board has received and endorsed the EQA follow-up report from the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC), which was drafted by the external review panel set up to carry out a quality follow-up audit of the institution. The review took place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, and the report reflects the findings at that time.

The QAC is determined that the Authority should carry out its regulatory responsibilities for standards in further and higher education independently, impartially, objectively and transparently. The institution's response to the follow-up audit is included in the report.

## ANALYSIS

The quality follow-up audit is a tool for supporting improvement, monitoring and ensuring accountability. Its purpose is to review the internal quality assurance system of the institution and assess whether the mandatory and key recommendations arising from the quality assurance evaluation have been effectively implemented. Additionally, the follow-up audit is a planned process to verify that institutions take the necessary steps to improve quality and maintain strong internal quality controls over time.

The audit benchmarks the QA system and procedures within an institution against 11 Standards, namely:

1. Policy for quality assurance: entities shall have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management.
2. Institutional and financial probity: entities shall ensure that they have appropriate measures and procedures in place to ensure institutional and financial probity.
3. Design and approval of programmes: self-accrediting providers shall have appropriate processes for the design and approval of their programmes of study.
4. Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment: entities shall ensure that programmes are delivered in a way that encourages students to take an active role in the learning process.
5. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification: entities shall consistently apply pre-defined and published regulations covering all phases of the student 'life-cycle'.
6. Teaching staff: entities shall assure the competence and effectiveness of their teaching staff.
7. Learning resources and student support: entities shall have appropriate funding for their learning and teaching activities and sufficient learning resources to fully support the students' learning experiences.
8. Information management: entities shall ensure that they collect, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of their programmes and other activities.
9. Public information: entities shall publish information about their activities which is clear, accurate, objective, up to date and readily accessible.
10. Ongoing monitoring and periodic review of programmes: entities shall implement the 'Quality Cycle' by monitoring and periodically reviewing their programmes to ensure their continuing fitness for purpose.
11. Cyclical external quality assurance: entities should undergo external quality assurance by, or with the approval of, the MFHEA on a cyclical basis, according to the MFHEA guidelines, at least once every five years.

The main lines of inquiry were focused on securing a better understanding and triangulating the information on the fitness for purpose and effectiveness of the internal quality assurance processes implemented by the provider. These include the set-up and structure of the quality management system, documentation and internal quality review and how these enhance the student learning experience.

## **FINDINGS**

The QAC noted a significant improvement. As a result, it has recommended the renewal of the institution's licence for five years, effective from the date of the re-accreditation report's publication. The licence will therefore expire on 23/12/2029. Additionally, all restrictions previously imposed on the institution will be lifted, effective from the date of publication of this covering note and the follow-up audit report. This recommendation has been endorsed by the MFHEA Board.

## **FOLLOW-UP**

The Institution is requested to submit to the MFHEA an updated Self-Assessment Report by August 2026.