



Malta Further & Higher Education Authority

COVERING NOTE TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AUDIT REPORT PREPARED BY THE MFHEA FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF Signum Magnum College (SMC)

February 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Board has received and endorsed the EQA report from the Quality Assurance Committee, which was drafted by the external review panel that was set up to carry out a quality audit of **Signum Magnum College (SMC)** in line with the requirements of the *National Quality Assurance Framework for Further and Higher Education* and the regulations of the MFHEA. The review took place between 9th and 11th June 2025 and the report reflects the findings at that time.

All providers that undergo an MFHEA audit are measured against the 11 Standards laid down in the Maltese *National Quality Assurance Framework for Further Education*. These Standards are based on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), which inform the quality assurance systems of all countries signatory to the European Higher Education Area.

The Board is determined that the Authority should carry out its regulatory responsibilities for standards in further and higher education independently, even-handedly, objectively and in a transparent manner. The response to the audit by **Signum Magnum College (SMC)** is included in the report.

ANALYSIS

The quality audit is a tool for both development and accountability; it has reviewed the internal quality assurance system of **Signum Magnum College (SMC)** and assessed whether the system is:

- fit for purpose according to **Signum Magnum College (SMC)** courses and service users;
- compliant with Standards and regulations, and contributing to the development of a national quality culture;
- contributing to the fulfilment of the broad goals of Malta's Education Strategy 2024-2030
- implemented with effectiveness, comprehensiveness and sustainability.

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

Standard 1: Mission and strategic management

Standard 2: Governance, organisational structure and administration

Standard 3: Quality management

Standard 4: Integrity, accountability and information management

Standard 5: Teaching and administrative staff

Standard 6: Design, monitoring and review of programmes

Standard 7: Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment

Standard 8: Student administration and student support services

Standard 9: Learning resources and facilities

Standard 10: Research, development and/or other creative activity

Standard 11: Institutional cooperation, service to society and internationalisation

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 panel considered 11 Standards. Of these, Standards 4, 7, 8 and 9 were considered substantially compliant, and Standards 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 were considered partially compliant.

FOLLOW-UP

Signum Magnum College (SMC) has drawn up an action plan for improvement, which is included in the report. The QAC recommended to re-accredit **Signum Magnum College (SMC)** with a follow-up report to be submitted six months after publication of the audit report and a site visit in one year.