# CALL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROPOSALS 2019-2020

## I.    Background

Among the priority purposes of INQAAHE, the Constitution lists:

- To create, collect and disseminate information on current and developing theory and practice in the assessment, improvement, and maintenance of quality in higher education and;
- To undertake or commission research in areas relevant to quality in higher education.

These purposes are highlighted in the INQAAHE Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (Pillar III: Reseach/Think Tank) and are achieved through different means:

- Every two years, INQAAHE holds an international conference, where a significant number of papers are presented, providing participants with an updated and wide-ranging view of the theory and practice of quality assurance around the world.
- The network also has a long-standing association with the journal *Quality in Higher Education*, which is published four times a year and gathers a number of academic papers on its field. This journal is distributed free of charge to all network members.
- Another channel for promoting research is through commissioning papers on specific issues.

In the pursuance of the purposes, within the frames of the latter project, INQAAHE is allocating a small amount of money for supporting the preparation of research papers or essays, in accordance with the following terms of reference.

## II.    Topics identified for 2019-2020 Proposals

The topics proposed below are based on the INQAAHE 12th Biennial Forum 2020 theme:

*Quality, Competencies, and Learning Outcomes: How to Be Fit for Generation Z Employability.*

- **Sub-Theme 1: Building Generation Z Competences through Classical Approaches to Degree Offerings: innovative approaches to quality assurance and recognition of qualifications**
  - Innovative approaches to quality assurance of HEIs and programmes aimed at promoting trust, credibility, and relevance across all levels – bachelor, master, doctoral – while ensuring the skills necessary for success;
  - National quality assurance frameworks and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) within broader national policy-making agenda;
  - Strengthening the role of quality assurance in the operationalization of qualifications frameworks and qualifications recognition.

- **Sub-Theme 2: Advancing Generation Z Employability through New Forms of Learning: quality assurance and recognition of alternative credentials**
  - Quality assurance solutions for alternative education provisions and alternative credentials;
  - Quality assurance solutions for life-long learning (LLL) and recognition of prior learning (RPL);
  - Recognition of alternative credentials and alternative education across the borders and the role of quality assurance.
  - Quality assurance for ensuring the skills necessary for success;

### III. Who can apply, and what type of proposals may be presented

This invitation is addressed to all INQAAHE members, whether full or associate.  Affiliates may also apply.

Proposals should fall under one of the following categories:

- Studies or research projects referring to one of the topics outlined above.  These must follow an empirical approach, and report on the results of research projects or case studies.
- Essays covering an original discussion of one of the topics in this call for papers.  These can refer to theoretical or methodological discussions, an analysis of published research, or of good (or bad) practices.

Innovative experiences, which present, analyze and discuss these practices and their relevance to the enhancement of quality assurance processes.

Members can apply every year, and it is suggested members can collaborate with other agencies which is highly encouraged.

### Evaluation of proposals

The final paper will be published in the journal *Quality in Higher Education* (after the corresponding revision by the journal's editors).

The proposals will be evaluated against:

- Importance and relevance of the research questions/objectives to INQAAHE and their alignment with the focus of this call for proposals; research must go beyond studies of "perceptions" and attempt to gather outcome (qualitative and/or quantitative), and proper evidence;
- Contribution to the body of knowledge in the field of quality assurance and higher education;
- Theoretical framework;
- Consistency in the research design and methodology;
- Feasibility and suitability of the action plan which must include the expected timeline and deadlines for the completion of the research study.
- Adherence to the Research Proposal outline provided below
- Qualifications of the primary researcher(s) and other people involved in the project.
- Appropriateness of budget requirements for the study.

### Timelines

The proposals, mid-term and final reports are to be submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat at secretariat@inqaahe.org by the following deadlines:

1. **Submission of the proposal:** November 15th, 2019
2. **Notification to the successful applicants:** January 15th, 2020
3. **Midterm report:** July 30th, 2020
4. **Final report:** January 30th, 2021
5. **Presentation at INQAAHE Conference:** June 7-10th, 2021

## Research Funding Award

INQAAHE will fund up to two proposals for the period 2019-2020. Funding will be limited to USD 2500, which will be transferred against receipt of the final paper.

Any publication or presentation of results of the research must be approved by the INQAAHE Board in advance to ensure that confidential information regarding INQAAHE and its programs is not inadvertently divulged. The INQAAHE Board will not unreasonably withhold or delay approval. Permission to present or publish research results will not be given until the final report has been submitted to the INQAAHE Board. A formal review of the final report will be conducted within 30 days of submission.

The INQAAHE Board reserves the right to refuse dissemination of research results if the researcher(s) does not adhere to the approved research proposal. A prompt attempt to negotiate a resolution to any disagreement will be conducted.

## Contents of the application (see the template for the Research Proposal outline below)

# INQAAHE Funding Scheme

## Research and Innovation Proposal Template

I. **Project Title**

II. **Name of the Researcher(s)** (Include institutional affiliation and contact information.)

III. **Project Timeline** (Include projected completion date.)

IV. **Status with INQAAHE** (e.g., full member, affiliate)

V. **General and Specific Objectives**
   a) Provide a supporting rationale for the general and specific objectives of the study.
   b) State the research question(s) being asked or the hypothesis(es) being tested.

VI. **Methods**
   a) Participants (Describe sampling procedures, sample size, participant characteristics, and how participants will be recruited.)
   b) Data Collection Procedures (Describe where and how data will be collected including what participants will be expected to do.)
   c) Data Analysis Procedures (Provide explanation of the statistical design.)
   d) Data Handling Procedures (Describe how confidentiality will be maintained, where data will be stored, who will have access to it, and how it will be secured.)

VII. **Expected results**

VIII. **Risks, Discomforts, and Benefits**
   a) Identify all risks and potential discomforts to participants and describe how participants are protected from possible risks, such as embarrassment or invasion of privacy.
   b) Provide an explanation of all expected or potential benefits to participants.

IX. **Budget**

X. **Timeline, stating deadlines for both a mid-term and a final report (two pages each).**

XI. **Attached Appendices**
   a) Informed Consent Documents
   b) Survey Instruments* and/or Interview (Focus Group) Questions
   c) Curriculum Vitae of Primary Researcher(s) (and abbreviated vitae of other researchers)

*If using any instruments or scales, you must demonstrate that you have permission to use the instrument. For each instrument or scale listed, provide a copy of your permission to use the instrument or indicate if the instrument is in the public domain. If you purchased the instrument or scale, provide proof of purchase.