



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Inaugural Award for Significant Contribution to Innovation and Research in Higher Education Quality Assurance

I. Purpose

INQAAHE is pleased to announce a competition for significant contributions to quality assurance practice and theory. Completed, unpublished, papers meeting the criteria below are invited to submit for consideration for the 2025 Award for Contribution to Innovation and Research. The winning contribution will be awarded a 2500 USD cash prize amongst other benefits.

II. Background/Rationale

INQAAHE's strategic plan for the period 2023–2027 focuses on two paramount objectives: advancing research in the field of quality assurance (QA) and strengthening membership capacity. To better serve its members and ensure INQAAHE provides value to their operations and functions, the organization has introduced the INQAAHE Funding Scheme (IFS).

The IFS for Innovation and Research supports INQAAHE members on a competitive basis, promoting the dissemination of knowledge on innovative projects and research that have the potential to enhance quality assurance systems worldwide. Note that this call for papers is about completed research/projects.

INQAAHE is committed to recognizing and rewarding excellence in research by adopting an inclusive approach designed to serve its diverse community and contribute to the development of innovative solutions to the challenges facing tertiary education and quality assurance providers.

The award-winning scheme provides an opportunity for INQAAHE to recognize high-quality research and promote the dissemination of the findings to a global audience.

Benefits of the Award

- A 2,500 USD cash award.
- An opportunity to publish the research in the *Journal of Quality Assurance in Higher Education* as the "INQAAHE award winning paper of the year".
- A presentation slot at an INQAAHE event, with registration fees waived.
- A dedicated session to celebrate the award-winning paper, which will include the presentation of the award, during an INQAAHE annual event (Conference or Forum).
- Global exposure through the dissemination of research findings via INQAAHE's membership network, social media platforms, and specialized media outlets.



III. Eligibility

Eligibility is open to individuals (INQAAHE Affiliate members), as well as teams from organizations that are INQAAHE members (Full or Associate Members). Organizations of sitting Board Directors are ineligible.

The paper must not have been published elsewhere.

Each applicant may apply once every two years.

The award and associated benefits may be distributed among team members with no implication or requirement of INQAAHE in the distribution.

IV. Types of proposals eligible

The call is open to any topic that contributes to the field of higher education and quality assurance with a particular focus on practice. This includes:

- Innovative experiences in QA that present, analyze, and discuss these practices and their relevance to enhancing or innovating quality assurance processes.
- Completed or finalized studies or research projects that employ an empirical approach and report on the results of research projects or case studies.
- Completed essays that present original discussions. These can include theoretical or methodological analyses, evaluations of published research, or examinations of relevant practices.

V. Evaluation of proposals

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Completeness of the proposal application form.
- Completeness of the paper, project, or study.
- Relevance to international, national, or regional goals related to tertiary education quality assurance and INQAAHE's mission.
- Appropriateness of the theoretical framework, research design, and methodology.
- Contribution to the body of knowledge in the field of quality assurance and higher education.

Additional criteria that will be considered during the selection process include:

- Research themes that align with the [INQAAHE Strategic Plan 2023–2027](#).
- Adherence to publication criteria for the *Journal of Quality Assurance in Higher Education* will be considered. These criteria are required for publication in the Journal but may not be necessary for awarding the INQAAHE grant.

The selection committee will be comprised of members of the INQAAHE Board, volunteer experts, and members of the editorial Board of the Journal. The INQAAHE Committee for



Capacity Building and Research of INQAAHE will formulate a recommendation to the INQAAHE Board for final decision.

VI. Timeline

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: March 30, 2025
2. Notification to the successful applicants: May 15, 2025

VII. Dissemination and ownership

INQAAHE will support the award recipient in publishing their work in the *Journal Quality Assurance in Higher Education*.

The selection is not subject to appeal.

The ownership of the work remains with the recipient and aligns with the regulations of the *Journal of Quality Assurance in Higher Education* should the paper be published.



INQAAHE Funding Scheme

Innovation and Research Proposal Template

1. **Project Title**
2. **Name of the Researcher(s)** (Include agency affiliation and contact information.)
3. **Status with INQAAHE** (e.g., full member, associate, affiliate)
4. **Partnering organizations (if any)** (include primary contact information.)
5. **Project abstract** (150 words)
6. **Statement of the purpose or goals of the research** (250 words)
7. **Summary of the theoretical or conceptual foundation for the work** (250 words)
8. **Research and Development Outcomes:**
 - a. **New Knowledge and Insights:** Development of novel theoretical frameworks, methodologies, or techniques.
 - b. **Innovative Solutions:** creation of innovative solutions to specific problems or challenges.
 - c. **Prototypes and Models:** Development of prototypes or models of new products, services, or systems.
9. **Project Deliverables:**
 - a. **Research Reports:** Detailed reports documenting the research process, findings, and conclusions.
 - b. **Data and Datasets:** Collected and analyzed data that can be used for further research.
 - c. **Software or Tools:** Developed software, tools, or materials to support research or practical applications.
10. **Impact and Potential:**
 - a. **Future Research Directions:** Identification of new avenues for future research and innovation.
 - b. **Policy Implications:** Provided insights that can inform policy decisions or practices.
11. **Theoretical and/or practical significance and implications of the research** (200 words)
12. **Project Timeline** (Include key milestones, stages and completion date.)
13. **Dissemination plan** (indicate how you will share the findings of the work) (100 words)
14. **Budget (please include information on other funding sources)**
 - a. Expenditures eligible for funding can include:
 - o Consultancy services (local and international);



- Staff costs;
- Organization of seminars, workshops, trainings;
- Travel costs and costs of stay (capacity building);

15. Curriculum Vitae of Primary Researcher(s) (and abbreviated vitae of other researchers)