

# Role for Foundation Year Network

## Benchmarking?

“Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of higher education programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also set out general expectations for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing such qualifications should have demonstrated”

## QAA Recognition Scheme

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/subject-guidance/pages/subject-benchmark-statements.aspx>

# Pros

- Enhance quality of FY programmes generally
- Aid to internal quality assurance and enhancement processes
  - Offers alternative to comparing your FY with Level 4 provision (or other Level 3 qualifications)
- Enhance cross-sector recognition and perception of FY programmes
  - Aid mobility of students between institutions
  - Increase profile of FYs politically and professionally

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# Cons

- Would QAA work with us?
    - Outside “normal” subject themes
  - Is it possible?
    - Many different models of provision targeting different “types” of students
    - Is it possible to agree common criteria / yardsticks?
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