

## Peter Williams, CBE

Peter Williams is a graduate in English from the University of Exeter. Following an early career in printing and university administration, from 1984 until 1990 he was the Deputy Secretary of the British Academy. In 1990 Peter was appointed as the first (and only) Director of the CVCP Academic Audit Unit (AAU) and between 1992 and 1997 was a Director of the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC), which took over the responsibilities of the AAU. In August 1997 Peter became the Director of Institutional Review in the new Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). In August 2001 he additionally took on the role of Acting Chief Executive. In March 2002 he was appointed Chief Executive of QAA. Peter retired as Chief Executive at the end of September 2009.



Besides his work in the UK, Peter has made numerous presentations and participated in many international quality assurance projects. Between September 2005 and September 2008 he served as the President of ENQA and represented ENQA on the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG). During his time with ENQA, he was one of the principal authors of the *European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*.

Peter is currently a member of the 'Burgess Group' looking at the implementation of the new Higher Education Achievement Report in the UK, a director of the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education, a Governor of the University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) and a member of the Board of Academic Governors of Richmond The American International University in London. In addition, Peter acts as an international consultant and undertakes reviews of higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies.

Peter holds honorary Doctorates of Laws from the University of Leicester and the Higher Education Training and Awards Council of Ireland (HETAC), and an honorary PhD from the University of Gloucestershire; he is also an Honorary Fellow of the University of Worcester, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and currently the Lower Warden of the Company of Educators. In June 2009 Peter was appointed as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday honours list in recognition of his services to higher education.

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