

Emeritus Professor Colin Raban



Professor Raban studied at the Universities of Manchester (BA [Econ] Hons) and East Anglia (MPhil). His early research and publications were in the fields of Sociology and Social Policy.

Colin Raban is the Director of two companies - Academic Audit Associates Ltd, and Academic Quality Management Ltd. His most recent academic appointment was as Interim Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Development) at the University of Greenwich and he was previously the Director of Quality Enhancement at the University of Derby. Colin has also held positions with management responsibility for quality assurance and academic development at Sheffield Hallam and Edge Hill Universities. At Edge Hill, he managed the College's successful application for taught degree awarding powers, and under his leadership the University of Derby gained outstanding outcomes for two Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) audits. Professor Raban also led, and achieved a successful result for, the Higher Education Review at the University of Greenwich.

Having worked as a QAA auditor since 1997, Colin has reviewed more than 25 institutions and participated in overseas audits in the Republic of Ireland and Malaysia. Colin is external adviser to the University of Wales, the University of Chester, the International University of Malaya Wales, and the London School of Business and Management. He is also an International Associate of the UK Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, and a Teaching and Learning Associate of the American College of Greece.

For the past five years Colin has worked mainly on a freelance basis, providing staff development, audit and consultancy services to universities, 'alternative' providers and national agencies in the UK, Europe and the Middle East. His major clients have included the Arab Open University, the American College of Greece, the Higher Education and Training Council in the Republic of Ireland, the University of Wales, and the University of Hull. More recently, Colin led a review conducted by the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. He has also advised numerous universities on the development of academic partnerships in South America, China and South East Asia.

As a consultant, Professor Raban's areas of specialist expertise are flexible learning and programme design, academic governance, innovative approaches to quality assurance, and the development and management of academic partnerships. He was Director of a HEFCE-funded project on 'quality risk management' and he has gained national recognition as an expert on the development of risk-based quality management systems. Colin publishes and has given numerous conference presentations, both within the UK and overseas, in his areas of practice as a consultant.