

## **Peter Williams**

Peter Williams is a graduate in English from the University of Exeter. Following a brief spell as a management trainee with the British Printing Corporation, and three years in the Registry of the University of Surrey, he moved in 1974 to the University of Leicester, where he was in charge of the Higher Degrees Office. In 1978 he was promoted to Assistant Registrar in the Medical School, becoming Secretary of the School in 1982. 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), one of the first quality assurance agencies, and between 1992 and 1997 was the Director of the Quality Assurance Group 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 Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), which was formed by a merger of HEQC and the quality assessment divisions of the UK's higher education funding councils. 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.

In addition to his work in the UK, Peter has made presentations and participated in a number of international quality assurance projects in Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. In 2004-05 he was a Vice President, and between September 2005 and September 2008 served as the elected President, of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (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*. He is an Honorary Doctor of Laws of the Higher Education Training and Awards Council of Ireland (HETAC), an Honorary Fellow of the University of Worcester, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a freeman 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 for services to higher education.