

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#) and [Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	Cardiff University School of Medicine
Review period	June 2025 – June 2026 (Year 3 of cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
From the SAQ submission and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that Cardiff University School of Medicine is meeting the standards set out in the GMC’s <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>. The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided opportunities to observe how Cardiff University meets our standards of <i>Promoting excellence</i> and demonstrates continued compliance with <i>Assuring readiness for practice: a framework for the MLA</i> (the ‘MLA Framework’). Of note, we have identified the Hybrid Interactive Virtual Environments as an example of an area working well at Cardiff University School of Medicine against Theme 1: Learning environment and culture.

Quality activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	29/07/2025	The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i>. The submission included a list of planned activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes. We are satisfied that where further information and/or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.
2	SAQ feedback meeting	23/10/2025	This meeting was held to provide feedback to Cardiff University on its 2025/26 SAQ submission, and to seek clarification and additional information on the submission where required. We also discussed potential QA activities we could undertake in this annual cycle. These activities were selected to improve our understanding of Cardiff's processes. We did not identify any areas of risk during the SAQ meeting. Following this meeting, Cardiff University was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.
4	CPSA observation	06/05/2026	We are now embedding the MLA within the Proactive Quality Assurance (PQA) process and will be undertaking at least one MLA focussed quality activity for each medical school each year. The activity consisted of an in-person visit to Cardiff City Football Stadium, Cardiff to observe the CPSA. From our observation of this activity, we have assurance that the MLA requirements are being met.
5	Observation of Emergency Medicine Academy Centre, Learning Teaching Academy and Hybrid Medical Education	06/05/2026	This activity was listed on the SAQ by Cardiff University against Theme 1: Learning environment and culture. Overall, we feel that Cardiff University Medical School provides an exceptional offering of simulation-based and technology enhanced

	and Teaching Innovation Unit.		learning opportunities for students. The simulation teaching and facilities allow students to practice and refine skills in a controlled, safe and collaborative environment.
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Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisation when they identify that our standards are not being met in an education and training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution. We also use the QRS to monitor requirements and recommendations set by the GMC.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	Cardiff University School of Medicine currently have no open items on the QRS. However they are engaged with the QRS system and continue to provide frequent and detailed updates. We are assured that our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Areas that are working well

We note areas where we have found that not only our standards are met, but they are well embedded in the organisation.

Number	Theme	Areas working well
1	Theme 1: Learning environment and culture.	We identified the Hybrid Interactive Virtual Environment (HIVE) as an area working well. It provides a safe and controlled setting where students can develop clinical reasoning and communication skills using realistic, immersive scenarios and AI-supported virtual patients. These tools help build confidence and preparedness before clinical placements. The use of virtual reality for anatomy further supports understanding through interactive, detailed exploration. Overall, this approach demonstrates a strong and effective use of technology to support learning at Cardiff University Medical School.

Next steps

The GMC's written feedback on the SAQ submitted in 2025 lists any areas that we require an update on in the next SAQ submission. These include:

Theme one – How the student complaints procedure, updated to remove jargon and make the process more clear, has been received by students (LEC1-01); An update on the review of in-person LEP visits (LEC1-01); Any update on the feedback received following the introduction of Pebblepad (LEC1-02); An update on the evaluation of the rapid response feedback trial (LEC1-06).

Theme two – Any update on the psychometrician recruitment (EGL3-02).

Theme three – An update on the additional questions being added to placement evaluations around whether students feel supported (SUL1-01); How the implementation of the updated feedback plans have gone that were as a result of the assessment and feedback policy and practice review (SUL1-04).

Organisation's response

The organisation has the right to reply to this summary; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation's response

Thank you for the report. We are pleased to see that the work at Cardiff is recognised as meeting the required standards and that we are developing new areas of good practice. Updates have been added to the SAQ as requested above. We look forward to welcoming the GMC team for quality visit activities in the new academic year.