Who will be on the audit panel?
AUQA is yet to appoint the audit panel for our audit in 2008. This will happen in early 2008. Members of the audit panel will be drawn from the AUQA Register of Auditors, which is a list of approximately 100 experienced people who have been appointed by the AUQA Board. Auditors are from within Australian Higher Education, from business or industry, or are based overseas (typically from within universities or quality assurance agencies). Each audit panel consists of five or six members, including an AUQA staff member.

Who will the panel want to interview?
The audit panel will seek to interview staff, students and members of the University community who can help the panel to understand issues that emerge from the Performance Portfolio. Undoubtedly, interviewees will include the Vice-Chancellor and members of the Executive. A variety of other people, such as senior management, academic, general and technical staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students and members of the external community will also be called upon to speak with the audit panel. Nominated interviewees will be advised of their selection a month or so before the audit visit and be fully briefed by the University about the process.

What do I need to do?
Ideally, we would like you to show an active interest in the upcoming quality audit and take the time to read and understand the information that is provided. We would also like you to keep up-to-date with what the University is doing to prepare for the audit, to read the emails and brochures as they are circulated, attend relevant presentations, and use the Quality website as an information resource to underpin your knowledge.

What are the Key Dates for the 2008 AUQA Audit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late 2006</td>
<td>University Selected for audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of May 2007</td>
<td>Themes selected and approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 2008</td>
<td>Performance Portfolio finalised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid 2008</td>
<td>Audit panel visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 2008</td>
<td>Audit report publicly released</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which two Themes will be explored in the University’s Performance Portfolio?
The University will submit a Performance Portfolio to AUQA which will act as the primary reference document for the audit. The Performance Portfolio, which is a self assessment conducted by the University, will focus on two themes:

1. Community Engagement
2. Learning Outcomes

Once finalised, the University will make the Performance Portfolio available to the University community through the Quality website. A series of campus presentations will also be conducted.

Where can I obtain further information?
In addition to the information available through the web address, http://www.acu.edu.au/quality further information can be obtained by contacting the Office of Planning and Quality directly on (07) 3623 7234 or by email at quality.office@acu.edu.au. General information can be obtained from the AUQA website at http://www.auqa.edu.au

• What is AUQA and what does it do?
• When will ACU National be audited by AUQA?
• Why is ACU National being audited by AUQA?
• Has ACU National been audited before?
• What is the difference between the first round of audits and the second round?
• What will the 2008 audit involve?
• Who will be on the audit panel?
• Who will the panel want to interview?
• What do I need to do?
• What are the Key Dates for the 2008 AUQA Audit?
• Which two Themes will be explored in the University’s Performance Portfolio?
• Where can I obtain further information?
Message from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Engagement)

The University is committed to quality in all that it does and takes primary responsibility for ensuring this. The regular cycle of audits of all higher education institutions undertaken by the Australian Universities Quality Agency can, however, assist the University with the process of quality assurance. For this reason, the University participates fully in AUQA audits, the second round which begins in 2008.

This page is designed to provide answers to frequently asked questions about the AUQA audit. This is part of an on-going communication strategy to help inform staff, students, and our external communities about quality management at the University. I trust you find the following information helpful.

Professor John O’Gorman
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality and Engagement)

What is AUQA and what does it do?
The Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) is an independent national body that promotes, audits and reports on quality assurance in Australian higher education. AUQA was established in 2000 through the Ministerial Council of Education, Employment and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and is now a core part of the national quality assurance framework for Australia. AUQA conducts audits of higher education institutions and accreditation authorities approximately every five years. AUQA conducted its first cycle (Cycle 1) of audits from 2002 to 2007 and will conduct its second cycle (Cycle 2) of audits from 2008 to 2013.

When will ACU National be audited by AUQA?
ACU National will be audited in mid 2008 and the University will be visited by an AUQA audit panel over several days.

Why is ACU National being audited by AUQA?
All Australian universities, self-accrediting institutions and accreditation authorities are audited by AUQA. The audit is a way of publicly accounting for the quality assurance arrangements within the University. Such external quality arrangements are commonplace throughout the world. The Audit Panel will test what we say about ourselves and seek evidence for the claims we make about the effectiveness of our quality assurance and improvement systems.

Has ACU National been audited before?
ACU National was first audited by AUQA in 2002. The University hosted an audit panel on campus who met with approximately 150 members of the University community over three days. AUQA released an Audit Report with twelve commendations and nineteen recommendations. The overall report for the University was very positive.

What is the difference between the first round of audits and the second round?
The first round of AUQA Audits (Cycle 1) were “whole-of-institution” audits which looked broadly across all aspects of each auditee’s quality assurance arrangements. The second round of AUQA Audits (Cycle 2) will focus more narrowly on two thematic areas and have a greater focus on standards and outcomes. This second round will also follow up and “close-the-loop” on the recommendations that were made from Cycle 1.

What will the 2008 audit involve?
The University will initially undertake its own self-review in relation to each of the themes and prepare a document (known as the Performance Portfolio). The Performance Portfolio summarises each theme in terms of established goals, implementation arrangements, results that have been achieved to date, and the steps that are taken to establish, review and improve quality. The audit panel will visit the University to test the veracity of our claims and speak with a range of staff, students and other members of the University community. The panel will subsequently prepare a public report on its findings that commends good practices and makes recommendations where a need for improvement is identified.