

**Title of Paper: Implementation of IAR Recommendations****Paper number: CSG/16/002****Date: 26 May 2016****Author: Mark Wilson**

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**Aim**

This paper provides the Change Steering Group with an outline of the alignment between the implementation of International Admissions Review (IAR) recommendations, Digital Acceleration (DA), and the work of UCAS Groups and Forums, for noting and for any comments.

**Context**

Given the Agile methodology which underpins UCAS' development of new products and services, it is inevitable that some fluidity is required in planning the implementation of IAR recommendations. A more milestone, delivery date and target-driven plan is inconsistent with the basic approach of Digital Acceleration at UCAS.

In light of this, the International Advisory Group (IAG) considered different means of communicating progress on implementation of IAR recommendations, and approved a report incorporating a RAG rating against each recommendation, to be updated on a quarterly basis. This will be published to [ucas.com](http://ucas.com), and will provide a reference for customer-facing teams, advisory groups and forums and Change Steering Group.

**Table 1: Priority Recommendations – including May 2016 RAG rating**

The tables below reflect the alignment between IAR recommendations, specific modules being developed within DA which incorporate features allowing for implementation, and which UCAS groups / forums will shape and inform the principles and practical elements of implementation.

<b>Recommendation from IAR</b>	<b>Module being developed within DA</b>	<b>UCAS Groups / Forums</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>
Revise current Apply deadlines	Online Application Management	UAG – <b>Dates and Deadlines Working Group</b> IAG	
Improve the I&A available through UCAS (terminology)	N/a	All groups	
Improve the I&A available through UCAS (ucas.com)	N/a – ucas.com and supporting services to be delivered by CXC	IAG	
Enable applicants to link to agents and applications to sponsoring bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online Application Management</li> <li>- Applicant Information Service</li> </ul>	<b>IAG</b> PAG and UAG Data Group	
Enable the upload of digital documents	Document Manager Service	All scheme groups & IAG	
Improve the collection of qualification information in UCAS Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicant Information Service</li> <li>- Qualification Collection Service</li> <li>- Document Manager Service</li> </ul>	<b>Data Group</b> supported by IAG	
Provide more information about international and EU qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qualification Equivalency Service</li> <li>- Applicant Information Service</li> </ul>	Qualifications Advisory Group	

**Table 2: Other Recommendations**

<b>Recommendation from IAR</b>	<b>Module being developed within DA</b>	<b>UCAS Groups / Forums</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>
Introduce ability to make instant offers	Fast Track / Progression Application Service	IAG UAG	
Facilitate payments from non UK applicants	Payment Collection Service	All scheme groups & IAG	
Reconsider the reference request	Reference Data Management	All scheme groups & IAG	
Improve data collection for fee status purposes	Applicant Information Service	Data Group	
Improve data collection for visa status purposes	Tier 4 Documentation Service	<b>Data Group</b> supported by IAG	
Extend UCAS' role in verifying qualifications	Results Processing International	IAG PAG & UAG Data Group	
Attend overseas events to support HEPs	N/a	IAG	
Develop an enhanced registered centre offer for international agents and schools	Online Application Management Online Communication Tool Adviser Dashboard	<b>IAG</b> supported by PAG and UAG	
On-board embedded international pathway providers allied to HEPs	N/a –ucas.com Potential for inclusion in Search	<b>IAG</b> supported by PAG and UAG	

	Significant obstacle or difficulty in implementation based on original recommendation
	Implementation linked to DA
	Clear path identified including necessary steps to implementation and work underway

### **Red flags**

For those recommendations above rated as 'red' the following issues, and possible solutions or follow-up actions have been identified:

<b>Instant offers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poorly understood by stakeholders during the IAR, and found to be problematic during UCAS visioning session within DA process</li> <li>- Strategic Product Management team to review further, use UAG and IAG for consultation and validation of further steps</li> </ul>
<b>Extend UCAS' role in verifying qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IAR recommendation to focus on English test providers; however key provider unable currently to commit to this level of integration</li> <li>- International Market Manager to review position of key provider, and IAG to scope UCAS / qualification provider links and relay to other groups</li> </ul>
<b>On-board embedded international pathway providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IAR recommendation narrowly focused on referral process between pathway and HE providers, feedback suggests this not necessarily seen as a space where UCAS involvement required</li> <li>- IAG to consider proposal regarding broader but more phased engagement with pathway providers over next 2-3 cycles, via I&amp;A, listing on Search, referral and application routes</li> </ul>

### **Coordination between groups**

Existing measures have been put in place to ensure international input into work related to implementation of some specific IAR recommendations:

- IAG representative joined Dates and Deadlines Working Group.
- New member appointed to Data Advisory Group with significant international experience, and feedback established through this “bridge” member.

In line with further overlaps identified in tables 1 and 2 above further communication between groups and/or joint input between groups on specific recommendations will be required. This will be achieved by:

- Strategic Product Management teams showcasing / updating work on specific modules to multiple groups.
- IAG Chair and UCAS International Market Manager to ensure correspondence between groups on work items related to agents and private pathway providers in particular, and set up system for sharing, informing or consulting with PAG and UAG and others.