

**QA in HE :**  
**a multi-layered /**  
**multi-relationship exercise**  
**.. in .. *Wales* (as part of UK)**



Rossili (South Wales) ..ranked In the Top Ten Beaches in the World

# the United (for the moment?) Kingdom

**ONE AGENCY,  
SAME CRITERIA  
DIFFERENT PROCEDURES**

**Scotland –**

**19 universities – public**  
what improvements?

**Northern Ireland –**

**2 universities –**  
as England

**Wales –**

**11 universities – public**  
'in between'

**England –**

**100+ public and private**  
good enough?  
what has improved?



## Wales ..

## Wales

- is **part of the UK**
- is a **country** .. with its own Welsh Assembly **Government**
- has just over **3 million people** spread over **21,000 sq km**
- **own official language (Welsh)** – spoken by **c20% population**
- geography – a (long) coastline with mountainous inland
- Industry – previously ‘heavy’ (coal, steel etc), now – ‘light’
- famous for – men’s coral singing, rugby, lamb ... .. rain ..



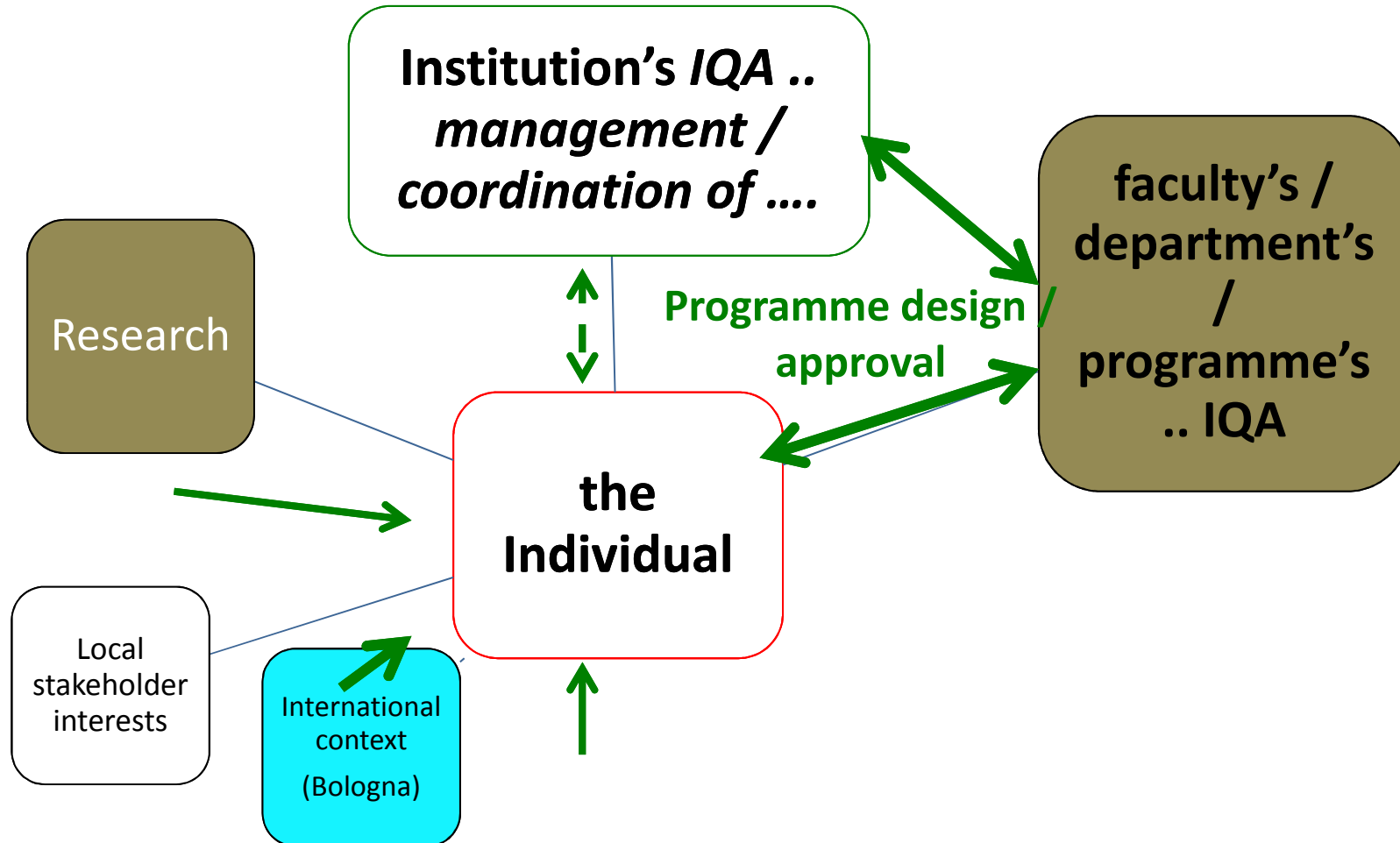
# Higher Education in Wales

(a 'complicated' past!?) ... **Now ..**

- **political control** through Welsh Government (not UK)
- **finance/administration** by Welsh Funding Council (HEFCW)
- **Budget £350,000,000+ for 2012-13** (2013-14 - £375,000,000)
- **11 HEIs** (ALL 'public' - but merger discussions ongoing)
- approx **150,000 students** (full time)
- typically 3(4)y undergrad, 1-2y postgrad, 3-4y doctorates
- 'advanced' credit system (not ECTS) based on 'achievement' and 'level of achievement' (accumulation AND transfer)
- institutions and academics generally 'outward looking'

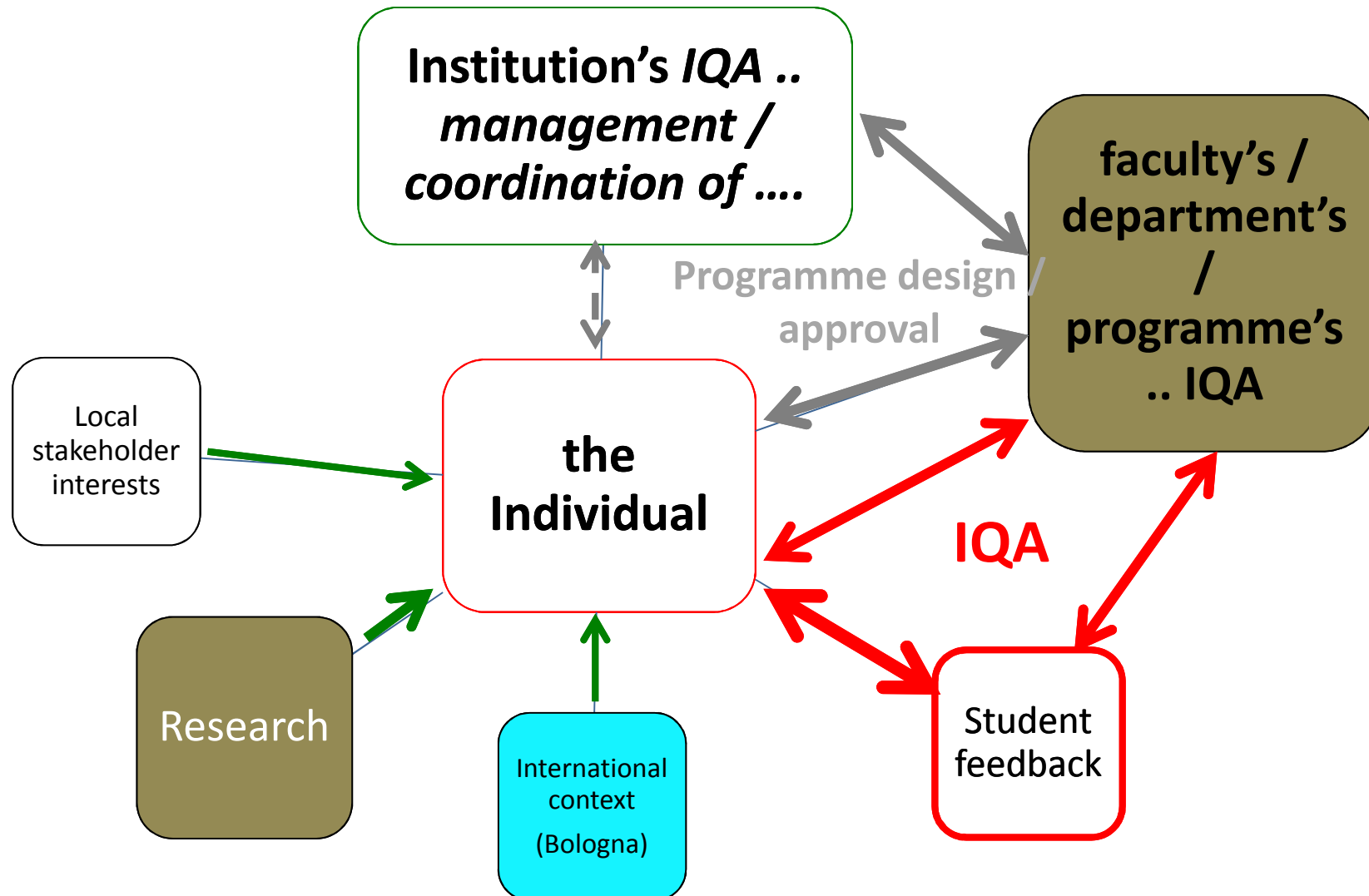
# the lecturer's perspective on quality assurance

## 1. Developing a Study programme



# the lecturer's perspective on quality assurance

## 2. 'quality of teaching (programme 'delivery')



# the quality assurance system for Wales

**ALL HEIs must have a well-functioning INTERNAL QA SYSTEM**

(but the structure of 'their System' is for the HEI to decide)

HEIs are subject to **External QA every 5-6 years** ...

the term used is **'Review'** .. (important nuance)

The Review focuses on **the 'institution'** ... does 'it' ....

***'know' what is being done, 'act' on what it finds, and 'improve'***

***Some*** programmes require specific external accreditation

(e.g. medicine, engineering, pharmacy, etc)



# Review in Wales is based on UK expectations

## The Review in Wales ...

... like that in Scotland, Northern Ireland and England

**is based on UK wide 'expectations' .. of QA in HE**

Across UK the processes (and foci) vary BUT the 'expectations' are shared .. and set out in ..

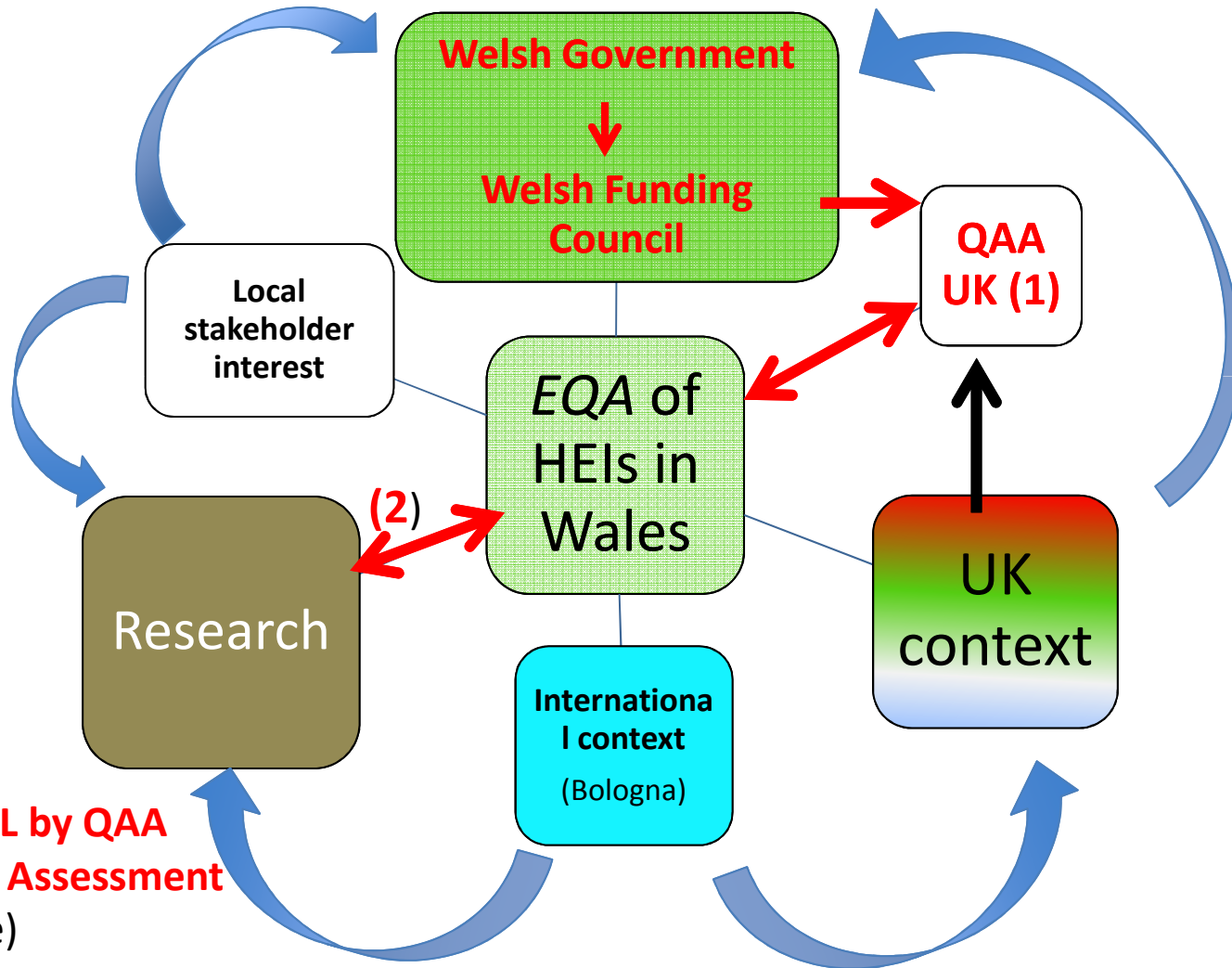
### *The UK Quality Code for Higher Educations*

it includes:

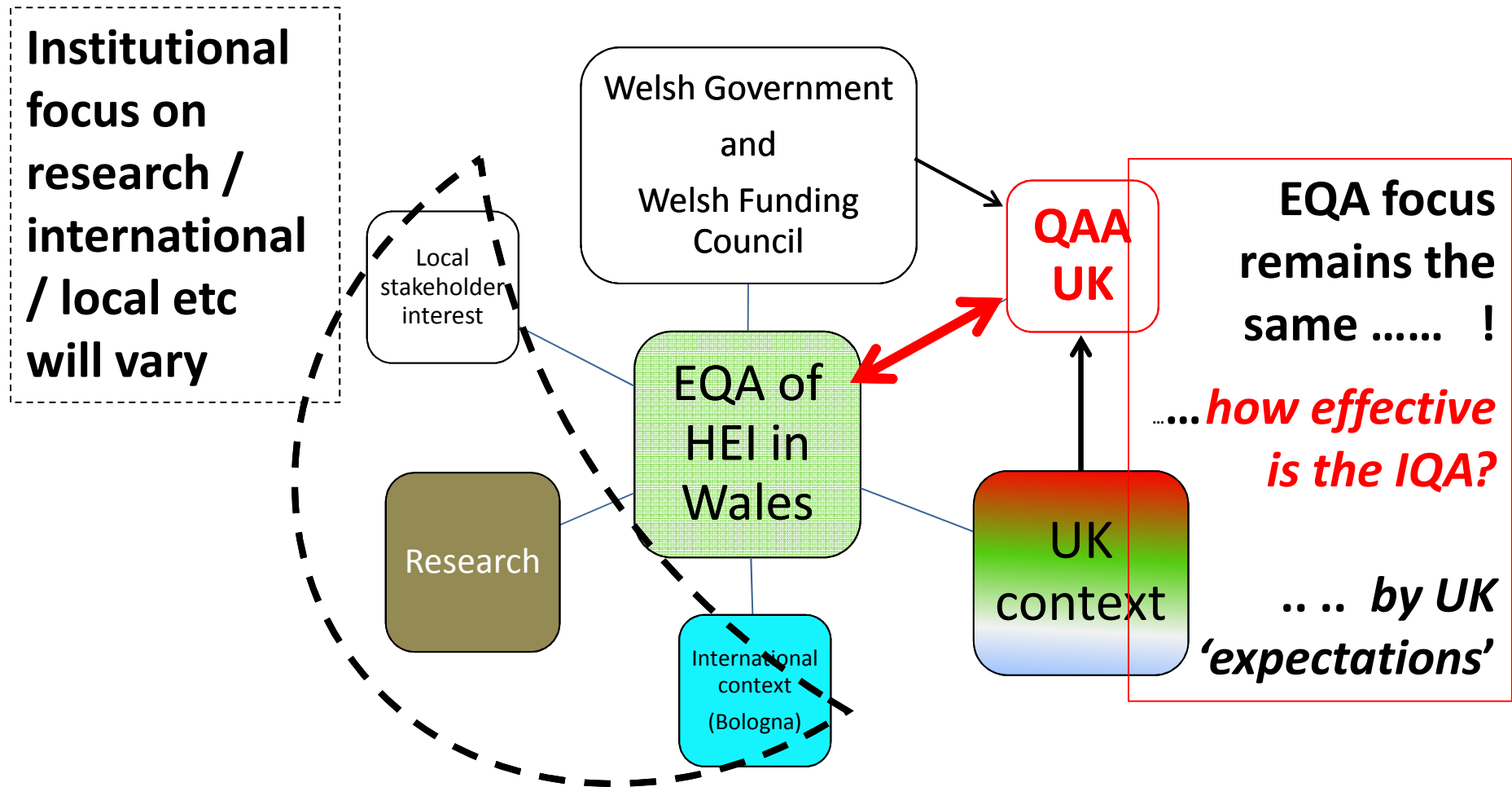
- Qualifications Frameworks (matched 'templates' – not lists)
- Subject Benchmark Statements (actually 'descriptions')
- 'Codes of practice' for all key aspects of QA management of teaching and learning ('the student experience')
- Data set requirements .. LOTS of them !!



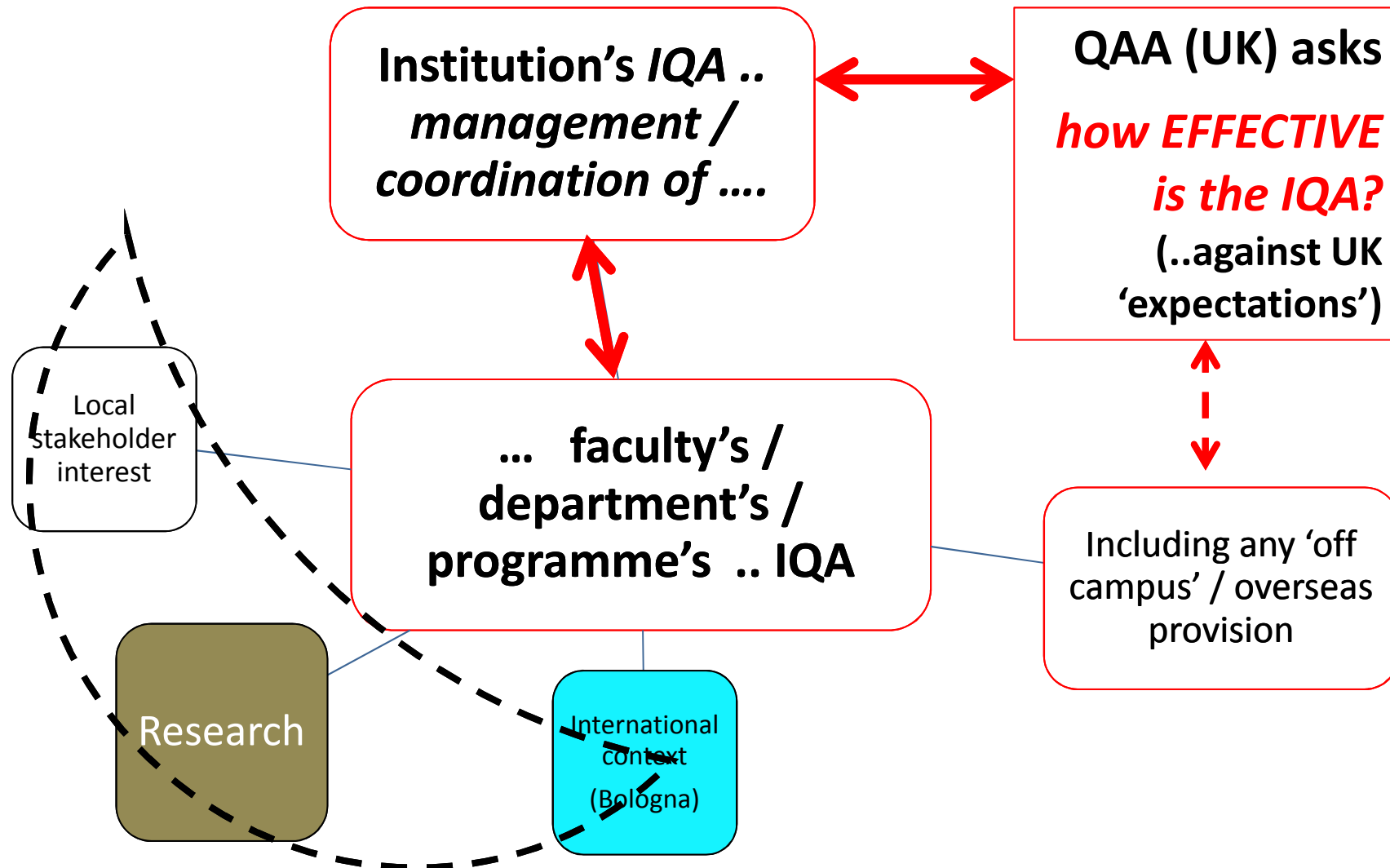
# Multilayered – multi relationship (national level)



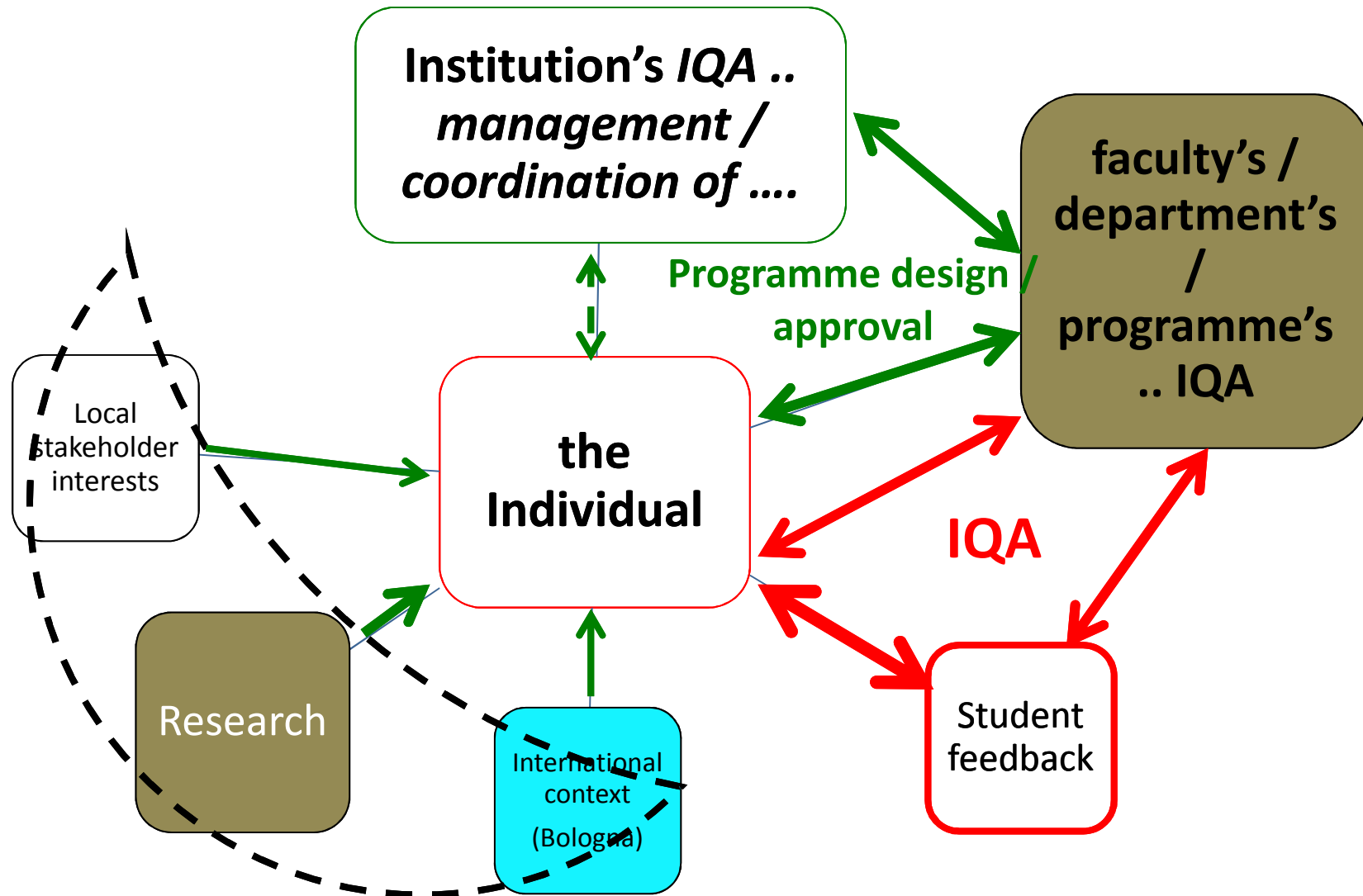
# multi-layered / multi-relationship (institutional)



# IQA .. the institutional perspective



# IQA .. the lecturer's perspective



**‘the UK expectations’**

**are set out in a Quality Code .. see:**

**[www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/quality-code/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/quality-code/Pages/default.aspx)**