

# Governance & Participation Overview

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## Document Metadata

- Status: Foundational Governance Artifact
- Applies to Scientific Members, Contributors, External References
- Effective upon publication

## 1. Purpose and Design Intent

The QIST Foundation is an independent, non-commercial, non-profit entity dedicated to advancing quantum information science, post-quantum security, and responsible institutional transition.

This document defines how QIST separates scientific authority, interpretive contribution, and commercial activity to prevent ambiguity, capture, or erosion of credibility as the Foundation scales. Authority is constrained intentionally; where ambiguity commonly exists elsewhere, QIST explicitly limits roles.

## 2. Structural Separation of Authority

QIST operates with a three-layer model that isolates scientific authority, interpretive contributions, and governance oversight.

### 2.1 Scientific Authority (Sole Technical Mandate)

The Scientific Cohort alone is responsible for:

- Cryptographic research and evaluation
- Technical correctness and scientific substance
- Standards-adjacent analysis and formal outputs
- Peer review, validation, and publication status decisions

Only the Scientific Cohort may:

- Make technical claims on behalf of QIST
- Evaluate algorithms, protocols, or security properties
- Author or approve scientific or standards-relevant artifacts

No other role participates in scientific decision-making. Contributors interact with scientific outputs on a read-only, post-publication basis.

### 2.2 Interpretive & Educational Layer (Contributor Track)

Contributors translate published scientific work into institutional, regulatory, and fiduciary language to improve literacy among boards, regulators, and non-technical stakeholders.

- Produce commentary, synthesis, and contextual framing based only on published artifacts
- Do not participate in research deliberations or access drafts
- Do not influence research direction, review outcomes, or standards positions

### 2.3 Governance & Oversight

Governance bodies such as the Research Oversight Board and Ethics & Compliance functions exist to protect institutional integrity, enforce separation of roles, and address conflicts, misrepresentation, or risk escalation. They neither substitute for scientific authority nor act as contributors.

### **3. Contributor Interface Model**

Contributors operate with explicit boundaries on permitted and prohibited inputs.

#### **3.1 Permitted Inputs**

Contributors may reference only:

- Published QIST artifacts with explicit status labels
- Public scientific material external to QIST with proper attribution

They may produce:

- Commentary articles
- Educational briefings
- Roundtable participation
- Institutional risk framing documents

#### **3.2 Prohibited Inputs**

Contributors may not:

- Introduce new technical claims
- Modify or reinterpret scientific conclusions
- Preview or comment on unpublished research
- Participate in internal scientific discussions

### **4. Representation & Attribution Rules**

Contributors maintain a non-representative status and must use explicit attribution.

#### **4.1 Non-Representative Status**

Contributors do not speak on behalf of QIST, do not represent institutional positions, and do not issue endorsements, certifications, or compliance statements.

Required attribution language: "The views expressed are those of the Contributor and do not represent official positions of the QIST Foundation."

#### **4.2 Public Referencing of Contributors**

When QIST references Contributors publicly they are identified as independent contributors, without any implication of delegated authority or institutional endorsement.

### **5. Non-Commercial Boundary & Independence**

QIST maintains a strict non-commercial posture and requires contributor independence.

#### **5.1 Foundation Posture**

QIST does not:

- Sell products or services
- Offer consulting or advisory services
- Position vendors or technologies commercially

#### **5.2 Contributor Independence**

Contributor affiliation is non-exclusive, unpaid, and non-incentivized. Participants must separate QIST work from any commercial, consulting, or advisory activity, and may not use QIST affiliation for marketing, lead generation, or commercial validation.

### **6. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Contributors must disclose relevant financial interests, advisory or consulting roles, and institutional

affiliations related to quantum, cryptography, or security. Disclosures are mandatory, publicly visible with contributor content, and failure to disclose is grounds for removal.

## **7. Editorial Oversight & Enforcement**

All Contributor outputs undergo editorial review for attribution, disclosure compliance, accuracy, and labeling as interpretive, non-authoritative content.

- Violations may result in correction or reclassification
- Content may be retracted
- Contributor status may be suspended or terminated

## **8. Review, Amendment, and Accountability**

This document receives periodic review by QIST governance bodies. Amendments require formal approval and versioning. Governance artifacts are published for external auditability, institutional trust, and long-term credibility.

## **9. Summary Statement**

QIST is designed to withstand scrutiny from boards, regulators, policymakers, and the scientific community by constraining authority, bounding interpretation, and structurally excluding commercial influence.