

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

Expectations for standards

- The academic standards of courses meet the requirements of the relevant national qualifications framework.
- The value of qualifications awarded to students at the point of qualification and over time is in line with sector-recognised standards.

Core practices for standards

Where a provider works in partnership with other organisations, it has in place effective arrangements to ensure that the standards of its awards are credible and secure irrespective of where or how courses are delivered or who delivers them.

Common practices for standards

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/partnerships>

Expectations for quality

- Courses are well-designed, provide a high-quality academic experience for all students and enable a student’s achievement to be reliably assessed.
- From admission through to completion, all students are provided with the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education.

Core practices for quality

Where a provider works in partnership with other organisations, it has in place effective arrangements to ensure that the academic experience is high-quality irrespective of where or how courses are delivered and who delivers them.

Common practices for quality

The guiding principles given here are not mandatory for any provider. They are a concise expression of the fundamental practices of the higher education sector, based on the experience of a wide range of providers. They are intended as a framework for providers to consider when establishing new or looking at existing higher education provision. They are not exhaustive and there will be other ways for providers to meet their requirements.

Guiding Principle	Mapping to the University’s policies and/or practices	Additional notes
1. The awarding organisation will be accountable for assuring the overall quality and academic standards of the provision, regardless of the type of partnership.	<p>Accountability is maintained via policies covering the range of partnership activity conducted by the University. These policies ensure that all partnership activity is managed through robust processes that define the responsibilities of the University in relation to collaborative activity.</p> <p>All courses and programmes, including collaborative programmes, must be approved under the approval process stated in the Programme and Course Approval and Management Policy: this Policy covers all credit bearing provision, non-credit bearing online courses for external release, and non-credit bearing continuing professional development courses, including postgraduate research as well as taught courses and programmes, and online learning as well as on-campus provision. This policy sets out the levels of approval (School, College, or</p>	

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

	<p>Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee) required for different proposals.</p> <p>This policy notes that in addition to following the normal development and approval processes for for-credit courses and programmes, all for-credit courses and programmes that involve collaboration with another institution require additional development and approval stages. Any collaborations that are non-standard, novel or higher risk require approval by the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee, following approval from the relevant College committee. Particularly large or novel collaborations may also require approval from the Senatus Academicus, and the University Court. These additional stages are described in section 2.</p> <p>All courses and programmes, including collaborative provision, fall within the remit of the University’s annual and periodic quality assurance processes: more information is provided in section 4.</p>	
<p>2. The awarding organisation will have in place appropriate governance to authorise and oversee the development and closure of partnership arrangements and to monitor their effective operation.</p>	<p>Policy and guidance is in place to ensure appropriate governance and authorisation of the range of partnership activity conducted by the University. These policies and guidance specify responsibilities for oversight of development, monitoring and closure of partnerships.</p> <p>Governance and authorisation</p> <p>The schedule of Delegated Authority for student and academic collaborations and collaborations (Delegated Authority Schedule, sections 7 and 9) sets out the authority required to approve partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Specific types of collaborative activity have different development and approval routes: these are summarised on the Academic Collaborative Agreements SharePoint.</p>	<p>The Academic Collaborations Advisory Group has developed a SharePoint to provide guidance on the development, monitoring and closure of partnerships. The guidance is subject to ongoing review and updating to continually improve the resources and information available to staff in supporting the effective operation of partnerships. Some pages may be updated to reflect agreed changes in practice.</p>

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

The [Collaborative Taught Agreements: Guidance and Approvals Process](#) and [Collaborative PhD Programmes: Guidance and Approvals Process](#) (accessible via the [Academic Collaborative Agreements SharePoint](#)) set out the approval processes for these partnerships, separate guidance on developing Articulation Agreements. The Academic Collaborations SharePoint also provides a suite of templates to support Schools in developing partnerships.

Dual, double or multiple awards are managed under the [Dual, Double and Multiple Awards Policy](#). These are considered exceptional arrangements by the University, and there is no specific template for these partnerships, however a signed Memorandum of Agreement is required.

Centres for Doctoral Training and equivalent postgraduate research groupings require approval under the [Programme and Course Approval and Management Policy](#). Because these are often bespoke arrangements associated with collaborative bids for external funding, there is no specific template for these partnerships, however a signed Memorandum of Agreement is required.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are delivered in collaboration with EdX, Coursera and FutureLearn. Proposals are approved by the MOOC Strategy Group and the process is outlined on the [Short Online Courses website](#). One MicroMasters is currently delivered in collaboration with EdX. Courses associated with this are subject to the [Programme and Course Approval and Management Policy](#). The MicroMasters itself is not a University of Edinburgh award, but students are awarded credit by the University of Edinburgh if they successfully complete the final credit-bearing course.

Guidance on Schools' responsibilities for the development, approval and monitoring of student exchanges is provided by the [Edinburgh Global Partnerships team](#).

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

Collaborative activity with Associated Institutes is managed under the [Associated Institutions Policy](#).

University of Edinburgh currently accredits provision by one external provider: Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). The arrangement is overseen by a University-level accreditation committee which reports annually to the Senate Quality Assurance Committee.

University of Edinburgh provides third party credit rating to a very limited number of organisations, and this is managed under the [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Third Party Credit Rating Policy](#).

Support for development

Development of partnerships is managed through the policies referenced above, and supported by guidance documents and networks as outlined below.

Academic staff seeking to develop an academic collaboration can seek advice and guidance from a number of sources.

The [Academic Collaborations Advisory Group](#) is a group of key University contacts who can provide advice and guidance on specific collaborative projects. Information about this group is on the [Academic Collaborations SharePoint](#). This site also provides guidance on developing new collaborations, and developing and authorising a detailed Memorandum of Agreement.

The International Ventures Group provides oversight and guidance on complex international collaborations and ventures. Information on this group can be accessed via the [Partnerships resources](#) on the [Edinburgh Global website](#). This guidance relates to a wide range of partnership activity including partnerships related to academic courses and programmes.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

	<p>The Partnerships Team team provide a staff toolkit for staff considering establishing student exchange agreements, which provides information about due diligence and the appropriate approval processes for new student exchange agreements.</p> <p>Guidance and support can also be provided to Schools by relevant staff in College Offices, and College Deans whose remit includes international collaborations.</p> <p>Closure The template Memorandums of Agreement on the Academic Collaborations SharePoint include standard clauses on the term, review and termination of collaborative agreements.</p> <p>The Programme and Course Approval and Management Policy sets out Schools' responsibilities to students and to collaborative partners in the event of a programme being closed.</p> <p>Monitoring Arrangements for quality assurance monitoring are described in section 4 below.</p> <p>Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation are described in section 7 below.</p>	
<p>3. Due diligence enquiries are completed and legally binding written agreements are signed prior to the commencement of student registration - due diligence enquiries are refreshed periodically and</p>	<p>Information on the Academic Collaborations SharePoint (Collaborative Taught Programmes: Guidance and Approval Process and Collaborative PhD Programmes: Guidance and Approvals Processes) makes clear the requirement for all academic collaborations to go through academic due diligence before collaborative proposals can be approved.</p> <p>This guidance also sets clear expectations that a binding memorandum of agreement is a requirement prior to commencement of any collaborative provision. A suite of Memorandum of Agreement templates is provided to staff: Academic Collaborations SharePoint.</p>	<p>The guidance provided is part of an ongoing review to improve the resources and information available to staff in supporting the effective operation of agreements. Some guidance and webpages may undergo further edits to reflect these improvements.</p>

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

<p>before agreements are renewed.</p>	<p>The International Ventures Group and Global Partnerships Team within Edinburgh Global provide support in due diligence checks for complex international partnerships.</p> <p>All academic collaborations are checked to ensure that all steps, including due diligence, have been adhered to prior to an agreement being passed forward for University signature: this check is carried out by the Global Partnership team in Edinburgh Global.</p> <p>Requirements for due diligence, memoranda of agreement, monitoring and renewal of Associated Institution status is set out in the Associated Institutions Policy.</p> <p>Requirements for due diligence, memoranda of agreement, monitoring and renewal of Third Party Credit Ratings is set out in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Third Party Credit Rating Policy.</p> <p>Further information on responsibilities for monitoring partnerships is provided in section 7.</p>	
<p>4. Provision delivered through partnership arrangements will be subject to quality procedures that are at least as rigorous, secure and open to scrutiny as those used for the provision delivered by the awarding organisation.</p>	<p>Memorandum of Agreement templates on the Academic Collaborations SharePoint include statements on the requirements for quality assurance. The default position in these template agreements is that collaborative programmes will be subject to the quality assurance regimes of both (or all) parties, and that each party will assist the other in monitoring and reviewing practice in line with these regimes.</p> <p>The School Annual Quality Report Template guidance on scope states that the report covers all taught and research credit-bearing provision including collaborative provision, and non-credit-bearing MOOCs.</p>	

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

	<p>The University Remit for Internal Periodic Reviews states that the scope of these reviews includes provision delivered in collaboration with others.</p>	
<p>5. Awarding organisations that make arrangements for the delivery of learning opportunities with others, retain the authority and responsibility for awarding certificates and records of study in relation to student achievement</p>	<p>Memorandum of Agreement templates on the Academic Collaborations SharePoint include statements on responsibility for awarding certificates and maintaining student records.</p> <p>The award of credit and decisions on progression for students on study abroad exchange programmes are managed under the Undergraduate Degree Regulations (27-32) and College Progression Boards for Optional Study Abroad Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Certificates of completion for non-credit bearing courses may be provided by collaborative partners, and student records are held by the collaborative partners (Coursera, EdX and Future Learn).</p> <p>MicroMasters delivered in collaboration with EdX are not University of Edinburgh awards, and certificates confirming the award of a MicroMasters are issued by EdX. The MicroMasters includes one credit-bearing University of Edinburgh course (the final course, entry to which has specific admissions requirements). Students who enrol on this credit-bearing course are enrolled as University of Edinburgh students and records of their achievement are maintained by the University.</p>	
<p>6. All awarding organisations maintain accurate, up-to-date records of all partnership arrangements that are subject to a formal agreement.</p>	<p>The Partnerships team within Edinburgh Global maintain a repository of academic collaborations. This provides details of arrangements where there is joint provision or where a joint or dual University of Edinburgh award is to be made.</p> <p>This repository is updated on receipt of signed Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement. An electronic record is maintained, including electronic files. Hard copies are also retained in a central area.</p>	<p>Data on collaborative partnerships is held by Edinburgh Global. Data consolidation is an ongoing priority and Edinburgh Global are working with Student Systems and Academic Services on moving towards better integration of collaborations data.</p>

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Theme – Partnerships

<p>7. Awarding organisations monitor and evaluate their partnership arrangements to satisfy themselves that the arrangements are achieving their stated outcomes and that academic standards and quality are being maintained.</p>	<p>Schools' responsibilities to monitor and review collaborative agreements are set out in the guidance on the Academic Collaborations SharePoint (Collaborative Taught Programmes: Guidance and Approvals Process and Collaborative PhD Programmes: Guidance and Approvals Process).</p> <p>Guidance on Schools' responsibilities for the monitoring of student exchanges is provided by the Partnerships team via the Partnerships Toolkit.</p> <p>Requirements for monitoring of Associated Institution status are set out in the Associated Institutions Policy.</p> <p>Requirements for monitoring of Third Party Credit Ratings are set out in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Third Party Credit Rating Policy.</p> <p>The School Annual Quality Report Template guidance on scope states that the report covers all taught and research credit-bearing provision including collaborative provision, and non-credit-bearing MOOCs.</p> <p>The University Remit for Internal Periodic Reviews states that the scope of these reviews includes provision delivered in collaboration with others.</p>	<p>There is ongoing work to develop an increased awareness of the requirement for monitoring of agreements by Schools. Templates have been updated to reflect this requirement and the involvement in the Academic Collaborations Advisory Group in reviewing agreements has increased awareness and compliance with this.</p>
--	--	--