



Academic Partnerships Framework Annex 7.1:

Forms of Academic Partnerships at UCL

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Guidance

Articulation agreements

An articulation arrangement is a process whereby all students who satisfy academic criteria on one programme are automatically entitled (on academic grounds) to be admitted with advanced standing to a subsequent stage of a programme of a degree-awarding body. These arrangements, which are subject to formal agreements between the parties, normally involve credit accumulation and transfer, so that credit achieved for the approved study at the first provider is transferred to contribute to the programme and qualification completed at the second (the degree-awarding body). The two separate components are the responsibility of the respective organisations delivering them but, together, contribute to a single qualification (of the degree-awarding body). Students normally have a contractual relationship with the organisation which delivers the first component and subsequently with the degree-awarding body.

Articulation Agreements are used to target recruitment opportunities from specific institutions (and therefore countries) into specific programmes. Risk relates to the quality of the partner, its provision, and how well it prepares students for study on the relevant programme at the degree-awarding university. Monitoring includes assuring quality of provision (academic and support), comparability of student experience, success of transition to the relevant programme at the degree-awarding university, and monitoring of student achievement.

Progression agreements

These arrangements primarily support recruitment activity, in which students who have successfully completed a specified degree programme from one institution, may apply to be considered for a place on a named degree programme(s) at the University. These students must meet agreed entry criteria and any other special requirements; entry onto a place to study is not guaranteed.

Progression Agreements are normally used to increase recruitment into particular programmes; the partner programme does not contribute in any way to the University programme and so it is not necessary to undertake an in-depth quality assurance investigation.

Double or multiple degree

In the case of a double or multiple degree, students undertake one programme, which is jointly developed and delivered by UCL and another institution; a separate mutually contingent degree is awarded by each institution. Each institution produces its own degree certificate.

Since this is a single programme, there is normally one set of learning outcomes for the qualification.

Each institution adheres to its own regulations and policies with regard to its own qualifications, but there may need to be clarity in terms of any credit transfer between institutions and overlap between policies and processes as a result of this.

The partner institution should be assessed to be of comparable quality and reputation to UCL. Offering a shared programme with an international institution can assist in internationalising the curriculum, and enhances student experience and employability. Some programmes may be able to charge a premium fee. Risks include quality and sustainability of partner, quality and level of provision (academic and support), comparability of resources, transition to the other institution, financial arrangements, marketing.

NB: UCL will only consider entering into double or multiple award arrangements with institutions of comparable standing to UCL which have their own degree-awarding powers.

Dual award

Students undertake the major part of an existing UCL programme and of an existing partner institution programme with overlapping curricula allowing for the programmes to be taken together in a shorter time than it would take to complete the two programmes separately; a separate qualification is awarded by each institution. Each institution produces its own degree certificate. It may be the case that each qualification is mutually contingent on the other, i.e. the student cannot be awarded one without the other. The qualifications may be at different levels.

Each programme normally have their own set of learning outcomes but there is overlap between the sets.

Each institution adheres to its own regulations and policies with regard to its own qualifications, but there may need to be clarity in terms of any credit transfer between institutions and overlap between policies and processes as a result of this.

The partner institution should be assessed to be of comparable quality and reputation to UCL. Offering a shared programme with an international institution can assist in internationalising the curriculum, and enhances student experience and employability. Some programmes may be able to charge a premium fee. Risks include quality and sustainability of partner, quality and level of provision (academic and support), comparability of resources, transition to the other institution, financial arrangements, marketing.

NB: UCL will normally only consider entering into dual award arrangements with institutions of comparable standing to UCL which have their own degree-awarding powers.

Joint award

Students undertake one programme, which is jointly developed and delivered by UCL and another institution; one qualification is awarded by both institutions. The degree certificate for a joint award includes the names, crests and signatures of both parties and is normally issued by the lead institution in a format agreed by both institutions.

These are highly complex programmes, however, and require a significant amount of liaison and negotiation in order to agree programme requirements, regulations, processes, transcripts and degree certificates, etc.

One of the institutions is normally appointed as the Lead Institution to be responsible for the majority of administrative and operational support for the programme.

NB: UCL will normally only consider entering into joint degree arrangements with institutions of comparable standing to UCL which have their own degree-awarding powers.

NB: UCL will normally not be the Lead Institution for a joint award programme.

Teaching contribution

Teaching contribution partnerships cover arrangements whereby Students undertake one UCL programme, a part of which is delivered by another institution or other institutions.

The programme leads to one award conferred by UCL. The level of contribution from the other institution(s) can vary from providing one module at UCL premises to teaching several modules (however no more than 50 % of the credits on the programme) at the partner institution, with oversight of the teaching provision always maintained by UCL.

Teaching contribution arrangements can be very beneficial for students on UCL programmes as they may bring specialised expertise and industry experience from organisations external to UCL to the programme. The main risk is in monitoring the quality and standards of the provision provided by the external organisation, and the level of risk depends on the extent of teaching and resources provided by the partner institution.

Split site PhDs / Co-supervision

There are a variety of arrangements covered by 'split site PhDs', but essentially it is an arrangement whereby a PhD student's second supervisor comes from another institution than the degree-awarding university, which always provides the first supervisor. The student spends time at both their 'home' institution and the other university.

Split Site PhDs may greatly enhance students' learning experiences and employability prospects. Such arrangements are relatively low risk as the student is registered with the home institution and follows their regulations and procedures. However there must be assurance that the supervision and facilities available at the partner organisation meet the requirements of both the University's policies and the student's research needs, so that the student is not disadvantaged in any way.

NB: UCL does not normally enter into individual **co-tutelle** partnerships, which are formal arrangements through which an individual PhD student is jointly supervised by staff from institutions in different countries, and result in a joint degree.

NB: **Study leave** is a period of time a PhD student spends at another institution working on their research, but the student's supervisor(s) are based at the home institution and the student is not formally supervised by staff at the other institution. A study leave period is not normally considered to be an academic partnership as defined in the Academic Partnerships Framework.

Student exchanges/study abroad

Students undertake a fixed period (e.g. one year; one semester) at an institution overseas or at an external organisation in the UK or overseas; the arrangement may be reciprocal (i.e. an exchange) with the partner institution/organisation or not.

Flying faculty

Flying faculty (also known as off-site) cover any arrangements where the whole programme, or a major part of a programme, is delivered in a location away from UCL campus by UCL staff, who also carry out all aspects of assessment.

Validating and franchising degree programmes

UCL does not engage in validating other institutions' degree programmes or in franchising UCL degree programmes to be fully delivered by other institutions.