

Academic Partnerships

Key updates to Chapter 8: Academic Partnerships Framework 2018-19

a) Section 1.1 – Introduction

- Paragraph 4: The paragraph has been updated to clarify that the framework only applies to education, not *any higher education activities*.
- Paragraph 5: The paragraph has been updated to also include other regulatory and legislative requirements than the UK Quality Code.

b) Paragraph 1.2.4

- Clarification has been added that the Academic Partnerships Framework does not apply to any short courses, not just non-credit bearing short courses. All provisions relating to short courses are covered in the Life Learning Framework.

c) Section 2.2 – Overview of Different Types of Academic Partnership

- A new partnership category titled ‘Joint Delivery’ has been added to describe programmes where teaching is equally shared and the design and development of the programme is joint, even if the qualification is solely awarded by UCL or the partner institution. This form of delivery would allow for the programme to be advertised as a joint programme, although it will need to be made clear that it will only lead to an award from UCL. For the programme to be advertised as joint, the teaching activities need to be shared (close to) equally between the parties to avoid misleading prospective students.
- The definition for Teaching Contribution has been subsequently changed to include any other type of teaching contribution than joint delivery. The name of the partnership type has also been updated to Teaching/Programme Contribution as sometimes the contribution from the partner can be in the form of facilities or masters dissertation supervision that are not ‘teaching’.
- Based on a request by ARQASC, a note has been added in the joint award definition stating that joint awards require the most effort to establish.

d) Section 2.2 – Overview of Different Types of Academic Partnership

- Student Exchange/Study Abroad has been removed as special provisions apply to these partnerships, and those provisions are referred to in paragraph 2.2.3.

e) Section 2.2.7

- Clarification has been added for the process for signing any agreements drafted by another institution for partnerships that do not lead to UCL credit or award. These agreements must to be reviewed and approved by the Academic Policy and Quality Assurance team and/or Legal Services and signed by the authorised signatory for academic partnerships, Vice-Provost, Education and Student Affairs.

f) Section 4.3.8

- Clarification has been added that flying faculty arrangements require a new route to be added via PMAP on the on-campus programme, unless the programme is new, in which case the standard programme approval process applies. Subsequently reference to the Flying Faculty Programme Statement has been removed from 4.4.2 Full Proposal Documentation as the same information will be scrutinised as part of the programme amendment process.

g) Section 4.4.2 – Full Proposal Documentation

This section has been updated to reflect the new academic partnership proposal paperwork that is annexed to the Chapter. The approval paperwork has been updated based on feedback from Faculties and Departments.

h) New Section 4.5 - Operational and Regulatory Considerations

- This section was previously a paragraph under 4.4 Full Proposal Documentation, but as it now includes some regulatory advice (see below) and does not only relate to the proposal documentation, it has been renamed for clarity.

i) Section 4.5.2b – Admissions and entry requirements

- Wording has been added for the process of approving any changes to the standard UCL entry requirements, including determining overseas degree equivalence, for a partnership programme.

j) Section 4.5.2l – Classification

- A new paragraph on classification has been added to accommodate the regulatory requirements for partnership programme classifications.

k) Throughout the document

- Reference to Academic Services has been updated in most places to the Academic Policy and Quality Assurance team for clarity as Academic Services now include several teams involved in governance and student administration.
- Reference to QAA Quality Code Chapter B10, and any hyperlinks, have been removed as the Quality Code is being updated and Chapter B10 is unlikely to exist in its current form in the near future.

Updates to annexes:

l) Removal of *Summary of Indicators Chapter B10 QAA Quality Code* as the UK Quality Code is being updated.

m) Addition of the updated *Academic Partnership Proposal Form*.

n) Removal of *Academic Partnerships Responsibilities Checklist and Risk Assessment* as this is now incorporated in the updated *Academic Partnership Proposal Form*.

o) Addition of the updated *Annex Academic Partnerships Due Diligence Checklist*.