



## Academic Partnerships Framework Annex 7.1:

# Forms of Academic Partnerships

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### Guidance

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#### **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 UCL. Monitoring includes assuring quality of provision (academic and support), comparability of student experience, success of transition to the relevant programme at UCL, 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 UCL. 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 degrees**

In the case of a double or multiple degree, students undertake one programme, with two or more qualifications that consist of elements from UCL and at least one other institution; a separate qualification 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 normally only consider entering into dual or multiple award arrangements with institutions of comparable standing to UCL which have their own degree-awarding powers.

## **Dual degrees**

Students undertake two programmes, with part of the programme delivered by UCL and part delivered by another institution; 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 may have its own set of learning outcomes or there may be overlap between the sets.

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

## **Concurrent degrees**

This is defined as an arrangement where a single programme of study (which may or may not be jointly designed) is delivered primarily by one degree-awarding body but leads to two separate qualifications at the same or equivalent level from two different degree-awarding bodies. One qualification is awarded by the degree-awarding body that delivers the programme and the other

qualification is awarded by the UK degree-awarding body that recognises the programme delivered by the other degree-awarding body. On successful completion of the programme, the student receives two separate qualifications (with typically the same title) from the UK degree-awarding body and the degree-awarding body in the other jurisdiction. Both the certificate and transcript state that a single programme of study (delivered by one provider) is leading to two or more qualifications of different awarding bodies.

### **Joint degree**

Students undertake one programme, with one qualification that consists of elements from UCL and at least one other institution; the single qualification is awarded by both (or all) 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. Co-tutelles are examples of joint degrees.

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.

### **Jointly-delivered degree**

Students undertake one programme delivered or provided jointly by two or more institutions, irrespective of the award (i.e. single, joint, dual/double or multiple). It refers to the education provided rather than the nature of the award.

### **Co-tutelles**

Co-tutelles are formal arrangements through which an individual research student is jointly supervised by staff from institutions in different countries, and result in a joint qualification. Following detailed negotiations, regulations of the two institutions are combined and agreed for that particular student. Normally the student spends a minimum of 1 year studying with each partner. Co-tutelles must be agreed in advance of recruiting the student.

### **Split site PhDs**

There are a variety of arrangements covered by 'split site PhDs', but essentially these are forms of partnership in which a student spends time at both their 'home' institution and another organisation. They receive supervision and make use of facilities (e.g. IT, library, pastoral care and other student support services) at both partners; the first supervisor is based at the home institution. 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.

### **Validation**

Validation is a process by which UCL judges a module or programme developed and delivered by another organisation and approves it as being of an appropriate standard and quality to contribute, or lead, to one of its qualifications. Students normally have a direct contractual relationship with the delivery organisation.

NB: UCL does not normally enter into validation partnerships with other organisations.

## **Franchising**

Franchising is a process by which UCL agrees to authorise a delivery organisation to deliver (teach and sometimes assess) part or all of one (or more) of its own approved programmes. Often, UCL retains direct responsibility for the programme content, the teaching and assessment strategy, the assessment regime and the quality assurance. Students normally have a direct contractual relationship with UCL.

NB: UCL does not normally enter into franchising partnerships with other organisations.

## **Student exchanges/study abroad/student placements**

Students undertake a fixed period (e.g. 1 year; 1 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.

Placements usually involve a period at an external organisation which involves or contributes to the accumulation of UCL credit. Examples include medical electives, placements on information studies programmes which are a requirement for the qualification, and placements in industry which form the basis for assessment in a particular module.

## **Flying faculty/off-site arrangements**

Flying faculty (also known as off-site) arrangements are where programmes are delivered in a location away from the University campus by UCL staff, who also carry out all aspects of assessment.

## **Partnerships excluded from this Policy**

Work placements

NB: Those placement experiences that are described as 'integral' or equivalent to a programme (regardless of whether they attract credit) must be quality assured in accordance with UCL's policy and procedures for academic partnerships. Examples may include medical electives, pharmaceutical placements that lead into assessment for a module.

Branch campuses (only on recommendation of Council)

Visiting scholars

Research partnerships

School partnerships with the University's PGCE programmes (NB: these are subject to formal agreements for the provision of placements and are reviewed by Ofsted)

Relationships with organisations (such as Advisory Boards) that do not involve student-related activity