

Academic Policy Statement APS1

Collaborative Programmes of Study with Institutions of and Other Providers of Further and Higher Education

Middlesex University recognises the potential mutual benefits which arise from the successful development of collaborative programmes of study with Institutions of and other Providers of Further and Higher Education, locally, regionally and overseas.

Accordingly, the University will enter into various collaborative arrangements including: franchising of University programmes and joint programmes offered in both traditional and distance education modes. The University will also validate courses designed, delivered and assessed by staff of another institution in the UK or overseas such that they lead to University awards and will devise and develop, in partnership with others, short courses and CPD programmes which may or may not be award-bearing.

In developing these types of collaborative programmes, the University will ensure that: academic standards are assured; the partner institution is capable of high quality provision; the student experience is consistent with that provided within the University; and that collaborating partners reflect the ethos, mission and vision (including ethical values) of the University as laid out in the Corporate Plan.

The University will normally expect, in any collaborative provision, that the language of teaching and assessment will be English

Where it is not in English, arrangements for delivery and assessment will be approved at validation. Where the language of tuition is different from the language of assessment measures will be put in place to insure that students are conversant in both the language of tuition and assessment, and are adequately prepared in the language of assessment.

In implementing this policy, the University will:

- recognise three broad categories of collaborative programmes, namely: franchised, joint and validated programmes (these broad categories are defined in the Learning and Quality Enhance Handbook);
- undertake accreditation of programmes offered by partner institutions which lead to articulation agreements to facilitate progression with advanced standing into University programmes;
- develop collaboration on a programme by programme basis with partner institutions, whilst encouraging partners to collaborate with the University across a range of subject provision where this is possible;
- be an active member of the local London Open College Networks;
- develop and provide progression routes, including Work Based Learning routes, for students completing Middlesex University validated Certificates, Diplomas and Foundation Degrees offered by partner institutions;
- agree and implement articulation agreements with Colleges and Schools in the region, nationally and internationally which may be generic (ie covering all programmes) or specific (ie covering selected programmes) which enable entry with advanced standing into the University;

-review regularly the performance of students entering the University from partner institutions to monitor the effectiveness of articulation agreements;

-consider applications for franchising programmes and, where agreed, implement these;
_ develop joint programmes with a range of partners which build upon the expertise of both institutions;

- work particularly closely in relation to collaborative provision with the FE and Sixth Form Colleges that comprise the Middlesex University Higher and Further Education Consortium;

-agree funding arrangements with partner institutions for all forms of collaboration, in accordance with the principles of openness and bearing in mind the University's overhead costs including, the cost of programme development, validation, registration, assessment and certification; and the maintenance of quality and standards;

- implement agreed planning procedures as published in the Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook when considering applications to run collaborative programmes; these procedures include:

- an initial Institutional Approval normally prior to planning approval being confirmed and normally prior to validation of any programme to ensure that:
 - the general educational ethos of the collaborative partners is compatible with that of the University;
 - that appropriate Equal Opportunities practices are in place;
 - and that the partner is financially sound, has appropriate mechanisms of governance and has effective quality assurance procedures (relevant to HE) in place;
- a requirement that students enrolling upon a programme leading to an award of the University whilst studying at the partner institution are covered by the University Statement of Student Membership;
- the ability of the partner to mount the programme which provide an appropriate quality of educational experience for students and achieve appropriate standards; and
- the demonstration of mutual benefits arising from the collaboration and of its cost effectiveness;

-require and ensure effective liaison between the University and the partner institution including arrangements for admissions and approval of promotional materials;

-ensure all franchised, joint, and validated programme arrangements are covered by a Memorandum of Co-operation which includes both a financial and administrative annexe and is signed by both partners prior to the registration of any students;

-ensure that the quality of educational experience of students on collaborative programmes is *at least* equivalent to that of students studying on identical or similar programmes at the University;

-consider, particularly for joint programmes, any joint appointments of staff to deliver the programme, such arrangements being agreed with Human Resource Services;

-normally only consider franchising existing University programmes after the first *two* years of the programme has run successfully at the University at least once;

-require partner institutions which develop collaborative programme at Masters level to have an appropriately experienced staff teaching on the programme which is consistent with the University's in-house requirements;

-develop collaborative research student and/or Professional Doctorate programmes with appropriate partners;

-guarantee progression to the University for students who satisfactorily complete a franchised part-programme (for example, level one of a degree), but not guarantee a particular mode of study;

-ensure that any applicant for a University programme who may be required to study in a partner institution for part of his/her programme of study (because that part is franchised or is part of a joint course) be clearly informed of this via the prospectus and related publicity materials; and will

-collaborate with other universities to facilitate the transfer of students and credits into and out of the University.

The original policy statement and implementation strategy was approved by Academic Board at its meeting on 11 March 1992. It was reviewed during the academic years 1994/95, 1999/2000 and 2004. This version was approved by Academic Board at its meeting on 16 June 2010. It is now due for review in June 2015.