

## 13 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION

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- 13.1 The university seeks to develop collaborative provision with national and international partners where these are consistent with its mission, strategic objectives and quality standards. Collaborative partnerships will be established to achieve objectives or contribute to targets which the university could not achieve alone, and which will enhance the quality of the student learning experience.

### Principles

- 13.2 The university is responsible for the academic standards of all awards granted in its name, including the award of academic credit, wherever they are delivered, and through all types of collaborative arrangements.
- 13.3 The university's equivalence policy applies to students enrolled on programmes delivered at or by an external collaborative partner.
- 13.4 The university will seek to ensure that all collaborative provision is conducted in accordance with sector expectations, and the requirements of government and funding agencies and relevant awarding bodies.
- 13.5 The university recognises the scope of collaborative provision as: *'...[agreed] proportionate arrangements for effective governance to secure the academic standards and enhance the quality of programmes and modules that are delivered in partnership with others.'* (UK Quality Code, Principle 8: Operating partnerships with other organisations (June 2024)).
- 13.6 The university recognises different types of collaborative provision, including external validation, franchising, joint or dual awards, student exchange arrangements, etc. For each proposed collaborative partnership, the initial scrutiny, and exact approval, monitoring and review arrangements, will be proportionate to the financial, legal, academic and reputational risks involved.
- 13.7 The university expressly forbids 'serial' arrangements, i.e. the practice whereby provision franchised, or authority delegated, to an external partner is in turn validated or franchised to a third party.
- 13.8 The university will enter into a collaborative partnership only on the recommendation of EPSC, following appropriate and proportionate due diligence enquiries.
- 13.9 The university and the external partner will negotiate a written agreement setting out the nature and scope of each collaborative partnership, and respective roles and responsibilities of all parties. The agreement will become effective only when signed by the university Principal and Vice-Chancellor and the external partner's counterpart.

### External Partnerships Steering Committee

- 13.10 Academic Council has established the External Partnerships Steering Committee (EPSC) as a subcommittee with responsibility for formulating policy and practice in relation to

Academic Standards and Quality Regulations 2025-26  
Collaborative provision

collaborative provision and partnerships with external institutions and other organisations both in the UK and overseas, in accordance with agreed university strategies.

- 13.11 Initial proposals relating to collaborative activity will be considered by the relevant Faculty Board(s) or Research Degrees Committee in the first instance. If endorsed, proposals will be considered by EPSC which will decide whether to support the proposal, and to determine the next steps for development and approval.

**Information on collaborative activity**

- 13.12 Information and guidance for staff about procedures and protocols relating to collaborative provision, including risk assessment, approval, management and review, will be maintained and reviewed regularly.
- 13.13 The university will maintain a register of all collaborative partnerships, and information about the collaborative provision operated through these partnerships is publicly available.