

**LTC13D056**

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Issue

An update on Partnerships Office international activity and external reports published since the last International Executive meeting.

Recommendation

To note Partnerships Office international activity and external reports.

Discussion**1. Agreements Database**

1.1 Since the last meeting of the Executive the following agreements have been added to the database:

Institution	Country	Agreement Type
Waseda University	Japan	Student exchange agreement
Gakushuin University	Japan	Student exchange agreement
University of Notre Dame du Lac	United States	Student exchange agreement
Oakland University	United States	Student exchange agreement
St Olaf College	United States	Student exchange agreement

2. International Partnerships

- 2.1 The Partnerships Office has updated the International Partnerships Handbook and has clarified the following definitions within the Handbook, which is available to view at:

[http://www.uea.ac.uk/partnerships/international/International+Partnerships+Handbook+May+2013+3rd+edition+\(updated+24.07.2013+and+18.11.13\)](http://www.uea.ac.uk/partnerships/international/International+Partnerships+Handbook+May+2013+3rd+edition+(updated+24.07.2013+and+18.11.13))

Articulation Arrangement

This is where curriculum of a specified programme (or part) at X is judged equivalent to the identified components of a programme delivered at UEA. This allows for direct entry to year one, two, three or four of the programme as agreed. It could be viewed as a formal institutional level arrangement for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL). Articulation arrangements can lead to single, dual or joint awards.

Articulation arrangements are commonly referred to with reference to the split of studies between the two institutions. A 2+2 is where a student studies for two years at one institution and then proceeds to study a further two years at another, leading to an award. Awards can also be 1+1, 1+2, 2+1, etc.

Articulation arrangements can be managed in two ways:

Articulation arrangement for admissions

These arrangements are where curriculum at one institution is considered for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) on an institution rather than an individual student basis. An articulation arrangement is drawn up between UEA and X which means that a student will go through an admissions process at UEA, but the work completed at X will be considered as advanced standing for the award and the student will not have to go through the APL process. It would be the responsibility of the school to ensure that the curriculum was appropriate. This would be formalised under a simple MoU drawn up by the Partnerships Office. QAA have made it clear that this requires curriculum scrutiny but not institutional approval as admission to UEA is not guaranteed.

Guaranteed Articulation

Guaranteed articulation has one key difference from the above. The student successfully completing the agreed part of the programme at X will automatically have the right to progress to UEA, providing the English language requirements have been met. The QAA takes a very different view of these arrangements and UEA will need to demonstrate due diligence in approving X as a centre for delivery for its part of the programme. However this can be lighter touch than a full validation if the amount of study falls within UEA's APL regulations. UEA will be expected to demonstrate ongoing monitoring and regular formal reviews of the arrangement. This will be managed by the Partnerships Office and worked out as an annual charge against the programme.

Dual Award

A dual award is where a programme leads to two separate qualifications (parchments), awarded by two separate awarding bodies. In some cases institutions use dual awards where their countries do not allow them to offer Joint awards (see below)

Joint Award

A joint award is where two awarding bodies issue one degree parchment which has the name of both awarding bodies. Both institutions must be legally empowered to

offer joint awards. These agreements are more complex to set up and are more suited to arrangements that involve a substantial number of students.

3. External Reports

3.1 QAA Consultation on Strengthening the Quality Assurance of UK Transnational Education

The detail below gives the background to the consultation which can be found here:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/TNE-consultation.pdf>

Transnational education (TNE) is the provision of education for students based in a country other than the one in which the awarding institution is located. For the purposes of this consultation, TNE is used in the context of higher education providers that are degree-awarding bodies, including 'alternative' providers.

The higher education sector representative bodies have been asked by BIS to 'give serious consideration to the assurance of the quality of TNE', while QAA and the IU have been given the task of consulting the higher education sector on 'what is needed to strengthen the quality assurance of TNE' (HM Government Industrial Strategy: International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity, July 2013).

This strategy identifies three key drivers for reviewing TNE quality assurance:

- 'The growth in demand for TNE has made it even more important that the UK is able to maintain and demonstrate the quality of its education exports.'
- 'The global growth in UK TNE provision, particularly different models of in-country delivery and the need to comply with local regulatory frameworks, presents increasing assurance complexity and risk.'
- 'Whilst [assurance of the quality of TNE] is the responsibility of each individual institution, failure to do so has the potential to impact negatively on every institution.'

In addition, the strategy indicated that the consultation would include in its proposals 'a significantly strengthened risk-based element to focus resource and attention where they are most needed'.

While this is a strategy for England, the economic opportunities it identifies for TNE and the drivers for strengthening quality assurance apply equally to all nations of the UK. Students engaged in TNE attach value to the UK educational brand and a British educational experience; knowledge of individual UK institutions, with a few exceptions, can be limited in many overseas countries. It is acknowledged that under the devolved system of higher education, there is flexibility in the operation of institutional review processes in different parts of the UK so as to reflect variations in national educational policies. However, the processes are all aligned to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code), which is the definitive reference point for all UK higher education providers.² Of particular relevance to the management of TNE is Chapter B10: Managing higher education provision with others. Additionally, QAA's overseas reviews (formerly overseas audits) have always been applied to the TNE of institutions across the whole of the UK.

Therefore the consultation is framed in terms of a UK-wide approach to the quality assurance of UK TNE.

4. University of Hacettepe – Agreement for a 2+2 Leading to a Dual Award

4.1 The Partnerships Office and CMP have been working together on the programme and institution approval of Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, as a delivery site for the first two years of a guaranteed articulation arrangement between their BEng

- Computer Engineering and the final two years of UEA's BSc Computer Science which will lead to students receiving a dual award.
- 4.2 The Partnerships Office and Dr Dan Smith, CMP, visited Hacettepe University in October 2013 to investigate its suitability as a partner which included meeting with a wide range of staff, students, looking at learning and teaching resources and examining policies and procedures, regulations and published information.
- 4.3 The course proposal was approved at the LTC meeting on 29 January and the institution approval will be considered by a sub-group of LTC on 6 February 2014. The Partnerships Office is in the process of finalising the articulation agreement which is the formal document containing all arrangements for the partnership and which will be signed by both parties in due course.

Further Information

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