



Collaborative Academic Partnerships Policy

1. Reference points

- 1.1 The University's approach to collaborative academic partnerships is guided by the University's Strategic Plan and Portfolio Strategy.
- 1.2 This statement and associated policies were developed in consultation with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Quality Code published in March 2018, and the QAA advice and guidance for Partnerships, Course Development and Design, and Monitoring and Evaluation published in November 2018.

2. London Met collaborative academic provision

- 2.1 London Met is committed to providing a high quality education and student experience for students based at London Met and at its collaborative academic partners. Collaborative academic partnerships allow London Met to offer opportunities locally, nationally and internationally. They support the development of a wider national and international perspective in the university, and encourage the dissemination of good practice in teaching and learning between different institutions.
- 2.2 Working in collaborative academic partnership can bring many benefits, but the activity also poses risks for the assurance and maintenance of academic standards and quality, and the quality of the student experience and outcomes. To address this London Met provides clear policies, guidance and training for both university and partner staff. London Met remains accountable for the academic standards and quality of all the awards given in its name.
- 2.3 London Met offers the following types of collaborative taught arrangements;
 - **Franchise** – London Met may license other institutions to deliver whole courses, or stages of courses, designed by London Met staff, leading to an award or the award of credit by London Met as outlined in the course specifications. Changes in core modules may be permitted to reflect cultural and regional differences if learning outcomes remain consistent and can still be met. The partner may be permitted to develop a different set of optional modules within the course specification, if they enable the course learning outcomes to be met.
 - **Validated** – London Met may accredit a course developed by another institution as equivalent to a London Met award, or leading to the award of a specific number of credits.
 - **Articulation** – an arrangement whereby courses, and modules delivered by a partner institution are formally recognised for the purposes of advanced standing towards a London Met award.



Other models such as dual degrees and joint degrees may be considered. QAA guidance will be followed in all respects with regards to the development of different collaborative taught arrangements.

3. Collaborative policies and procedures

- 3.1 To ensure that London Met can assure the quality of collaborative taught provision, all collaborative academic partnerships are subject to institutional approval procedures which include due diligence checks, a site visit and an institutional approval event. These procedures and events will be completed by London Met staff including AQD, Partnerships and School staff working closely with staff at the Collaborative Academic Partner institution. Once approved, a collaborative partnership will be maintained and developed according to the policies and procedures, up to and including, the point of termination of the partnership and teach-out of provision.
- 3.2 Each partnership will be subject to institutional re-approval after three years in the first instance, and every five years thereafter to ensure that the quality of provision, student experience and outcomes meets the required standards. Course validation and periodic review events can take place alongside the institutional (re)approval events but will not take place if the institutional visit is unsuccessful.
- 3.3 All partnerships will require the agreement and completion of contracts that cover the operation of the partnership and the operation of specific courses. These are the Institutional Memorandum of Agreement (IMoA) and Course Level Agreement(s) (CLA). These agreements include clauses and arrangements with regards to approved courses, finance, marketing, and access to London Met services. Failure on the part of the collaborative academic partner in complying with the clauses set out in the IMoA or CLA will lead to an institutional review and possible termination of the partnership. No students may be taught without an active IMoA and relevant CLA being in place.
- 3.4 Wherever possible, the processes and procedures outlined in other sections of the Quality Manual will clarify how they relate to, and are applied to, the context of collaborative academic partnerships. This section of the Quality Manual outlines additional policies and procedures that apply to collaborative academic provision, specifically the approval and management of partnerships.
- 3.5 Partners will also be required to conform to London Met's academic regulations, unless deviation from these has been explicitly approved e.g. at course validation.
- 3.6 A full list of London Met's collaborative partners can be found on the [Collaborative Partnership Register](#).