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This document is part of the Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures which govern the University's academic provision. Each document has a unique document number to indicate which section of the series it belongs to.

7A - Partnership Models and Definitions: Policy

1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 This policy is for Bournemouth University (BU) staff and it may be used for reference purposes by Partner staff. It sets out and defines the University's recognised partnership models. The University engages in a wide range of activities with Higher Education institutions and other educational and non-educational organisations which can be described as academic partnership activity.

1.2 KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Education Committee will approve new partnership models and definitions.

Academic Quality will review and update the policy to ensure that partnership models and definitions reflect current practice and new developments in the sector and to ensure continued alignment with relevant BU policy, sector benchmarks and reference points e.g. Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) guidance.

2 QUALITY ASSURANCE PRINCIPLES

2.1 The UK Quality Code for Higher Education is used as a benchmark for the University's Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures (ARPPs). The policy framework for partnerships is set out in Section 7 of the series which underpins the operation and practice for the management of partnership provision at Bournemouth University.

2.2 The University's defined partnership models are set out below in Section 3.

2.3 The University is responsible for the academic standards and quality of all programmes leading to its awards, including those which are delivered and managed by Partners. All BU programmes and awards which are delivered through a partnership arrangement in the UK meet the sector expectations for quality and standards and align with the UK Quality Code. BU programmes and awards delivered in partnership with non-UK providers meet the principles outlined in the UK Quality Code national frameworks for Higher Education qualifications, e.g. *the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications*.

2.4 The University is not responsible for the quality or academic standards of awards made by other institutions. However, where partnerships are established which include an academic contribution towards a BU award, or entry to a BU award, the University must maintain confidence in the output standards of those arrangements.

3 DEFINED PARTNERSHIP MODELS

3.1 **The University defines the following partnership models:**

- i. Franchise
- ii. Validation
- iii. Off-Campus Delivery
- iv. Shared Delivery/Programme
- v. Articulation
- vi. Student Exchange
- vii. Research/Staff Exchange
- viii. Recognition
- ix. Endorsement

3.2 Franchise

3.2.1 Key characteristics of the Franchise model are:

- most or all of a programme leading to an award of the University is delivered by the staff at a Partner provider;
- programmes delivered through this model are normally developed by the University but can be developed jointly with a Partner;
- students are normally enrolled with the University;
- students will receive a Bournemouth University award on successful completion of their programme.

3.3 Validation

3.3.1 Key characteristics of the Validation model are:

- most or all of a programme leading to an award of the University is delivered by the staff of a Partner provider;
- programmes delivered through this model are normally developed by the Partner;
- the Partner delivers the programme to students who are enrolled with the Partner provider;
- students will receive a Bournemouth University award on successful completion of their programme.

3.4 Off-Campus Delivery

3.4.1 Key characteristics of the Off-Campus Delivery model are:

- most or all of a programme is delivered by staff of the University at another organisation;
- certain defined responsibilities for administrative and other kinds of support for the delivery of the programme, the student experience and the provision of primary learning resources, such as library and IT, may be devolved to the Partner;
- students will receive a Bournemouth University award on successful completion of their programme.

3.4.2 Arrangements where the University is hiring a room from another organisation are not covered under this definition.

3.5 Shared Delivery/Programme

3.5.1 Key characteristics of the Shared Delivery/Programme are:

- one or more Partners share with the University the responsibility for the development and/or delivery of a programme;
- The programme leads to a single award of Bournemouth University or a joint/dual award(s) offered with the Partner(s), possibly under separate regulations for each of the awards.

3.6 Articulation

3.6.1 Key characteristics of the Articulation model are:

- Recognition of credit, through a formal agreement, which guarantees entry with or without advanced standing from the Partner's programme to a Bournemouth University

programme, on the basis of successful completion of a specified programme and award with the Partner provider.

3.7 Student Exchange (including Erasmus+)

3.7.1 Key characteristics of the Student Exchange model are:

- normally include provision for credit transfer to and/or from the Partner;
- students will receive the award of their home institution on successful completion of their programme.

3.8 Research/Staff Exchange

3.8.1 Key characteristics of the Research/Staff Exchange model are:

- non-credit bearing;
- a broad range of research, scholarly activity, professional practice development and/or staff exchange activities;

3.8.2 A new partnership may be formalised with a Partner through this model after a range of activities leading to outputs has taken place and the rationale for formalising the partnership is clearly evident; see *7B - Partnership Approval: Academic Policy and Procedure* for partnership development principles. This model may also be used when the Partner and/or the University wish to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

3.9 Recognition

3.9.1 Key characteristics of the Recognition model are:

- the University identifies and formally recognises another institution or organisation's programme for the purposes of entry, with or without advanced standing, to a specified programme(s) and award(s) of the University;
- recognition does not guarantee entry, only eligibility to apply;
- where entry is with advanced standing, the University must satisfy itself that the learning outcomes required for the award are equivalent to those that students would have achieved to date on the receiving programme of study.

3.10 Endorsement

3.10.1 Key characteristics of the Endorsement model are:

- the University endorses a programme of training, study day or short course offered and delivered by an external organisation, to provide an indication of academic validity;
- this does not involve the award of any University credit, nor is it part of any University Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework.

3.10.2 For the external organisation, endorsement provides a measure of academic validity to the provision.

3.11 Partnership Taxonomy

Taxonomy Category	Typical Partnership Model	Normal Level of approval ¹	Approving authority
A (typically non-credit bearing)	- Research/Staff Exchange - Endorsement	Stage 1	Faculty Executive Dean with reference to UET where it is a strategic partner and/or there are

¹ Supplementary due diligence is mandatory for certain partnerships that require additional scrutiny, including but not limited to: Articulation, Off-campus, Shared Delivery/Programme, Franchise and Validation.

			concerns regarding reputational and/or corporate matters
B (typically mobility and progression activities)	- Student Exchange - Recognition	Stage 1	Faculty Executive Dean with reference to UET where it is a strategic partner and/or there are concerns regarding reputational and/or corporate matters
	- Articulation	Stage 1 & 2	Faculty Executive Dean with reference to UET where it is a strategic partner and/or there are concerns regarding reputational and/or corporate matters (Stage 1) Education Committee (Stage 2)
C (typically taught programmes/third party delivery)	- Off-campus - Shared Delivery/Programme - Franchise - Validation	Stage 1 & 2	Faculty Executive Dean with reference to UET where it is a strategic partner and/or there are concerns regarding reputational and/or corporate matters (Stage 1) Education Committee (Stage 2)

4 INSTITUTIONAL DESIGNATIONS

4.1 In exceptional cases, the University may grant an additional institutional designation to a Partner to describe particular features or characteristics of the Partner.

4.1.1 Associate College

The University may designate another institution as an Associate College, whereby the University delegates greater responsibility for the management of quality to the Partner. This designation may be applied to well-established Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of well-attested repute, and only after satisfactory completion of a rigorous process of approval. Aspects of the management of quality and standards may be devolved, by formal agreement, through the quality assurance processes of the Partner, as approved by the University.

4.1.2 University Centre

The University may designate another institution as a University Centre. This designation may be applied where there has been a long-standing and successful strategic relationship with a Partner of well-attested repute. The designation confers preferred-provider status between the Partner and the University and would therefore not normally be considered where a Partner

had substantial collaborative relationships with other HEIs. The arrangement is expected to confer reputational and marketing advantages to both institutions.

4.1.3 Embedded College

The University may designate another institution as an Embedded College. This designation may be applied to a Partner located on, or in close proximity to, the University's premises where the Partner provides a wide range of preparatory programmes, normally for international students, which facilitate progression to University programmes, typically under specific Articulation arrangements for guaranteed entry. The Partner operates, subject to the terms of the contract with the University, as an autonomous institution with its own teaching, learning and, normally, residential facilities. The arrangement is expected to confer reputational and marketing advantages for both institutions.

5 APPROVAL, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS

- 5.1 The following regulations and policies provide the framework for the approval, management and monitoring of academic partnerships:

7B - Partnership Approval: Policy and Procedure.

7C – Partner Review: Policy and Procedure

Further guidance and operational detail is available on the Academic Quality webpages.

- 5.2 Academic Quality maintain a record of all of the University's partnership arrangements.