IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY ON PROGRAMME TITLES, LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSES

Implementation of the Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses

- This briefing paper sets out criteria for use by Schools and the Studies Committees in implementing the Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses (Multi-Location/Multi-Mode Programmes).
- All multi-location/mode programmes across all Schools must comply with the University’s policy.

Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses (Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes)

In June 2012, a Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses was implemented. The policy, which applies to undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes, sets out permitted and non-permissible variation between programmes offered in different locations and modes. The key points of the Policy are outlined in the Learning and Teaching Briefing Paper No. 2 Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses (Multi-Location/Multi-Mode Programmes).

A specific set of criteria for use in implementing the policy has been developed by the Studies Committees.

Mandatory, Credit-Rated Courses

Across all versions, multi-location/multi-mode programmes must have identical all mandatory, credit-rated courses.

The identical mandatory, credit-rated courses:

- must have identical learning outcomes and core curriculum
- may be varied in course content and formative/summative assessment

Note: a rationale for using different summative assessment weighting should be made to the Studies Committees

Optional Courses

Optional courses are permitted in multi-location/multi-mode programmes. Approval is restricted to the following:

- optional courses which are a subset of those offered at the Scottish campuses
- optional courses which are a subset of those offered at the Scottish campuses AND, due to the restricted number of options available, are effectively mandatory courses for students enrolled on that version of the programme.
- Where a Scottish campus version of a programme comprises only optional courses (and no mandatory courses), other locations may be approved to provide the same number or fewer optional courses.

Exceptions to the Policy

The Studies Committees may consider proposed exceptions to this policy, whereby different mandatory courses are requested in multi-location, multi-mode programmes. Such a request must:

- ensure that the programme learning outcomes remain identical across all variants
- demonstrate convincingly that the proposed subject cannot be accommodated within an optional course
- be based on the recognised research expertise of academic staff at a non-Scottish Campus location
- make clear how any risk will be mitigated if the proposed course is dependent on the expertise of one staff member

References and Further Information

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk Multi Code: https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/qa/heriot-watt-multicode.htm;
Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses: Policy https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/multi-policy.pdf; Briefing Paper https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/multi-briefing.pdf; Briefing Paper – Local Contextualisation

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by the Academic Registry and is one of a series related to Learning and Teaching. The briefing papers aim to provide a concise, informative overview of key policies, and include links to relevant procedures and templates.