

Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes: Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses

The University is currently developing a new 4-part Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes. In June 2011, the Quality and Standards Committee approved part 2 of this Code, *Management and Assurance of Quality and Standards*, which includes a series of principles on programme/degree titles, programme learning outcomes and course learning outcomes in multi-location/mode programmes.

In May 2012, several cases of differences between programme titles at the Dubai and Edinburgh Campus resulted in the need for standardisation in order to satisfy the requirements of the Dubai accrediting bodies (KHDA). At the same time, the process of preparing documentation for the Malaysian Qualifications Authority resulted in additional issues related to programme title, programme learning outcomes and course learning outcomes and potential differences between campuses being brought forward for consideration.

Therefore, the key principles, which have already been approved as part of the Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes, have been extracted and presented as a separate *Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses* in order to provide a clear, definitive framework in these areas for multi-location/mode programmes. Of the six points below, only No.4: Inclusion of Mandatory Courses is new.

Policy

Programme/Award Titles and Learning Outcomes

1. A programme which is offered in multi-locations or multi-modes must have identical programme learning outcomes across all versions. The core knowledge, skills and competencies must likewise be identical [CoP 2.4].
2. An identical programme/award title must be used across all variants of a programme where the programme learning outcomes are the same. Different programme titles should not be used in cases where professional accreditation does not extend to all locations/modes. Programme/award titles should not include reference to location or mode of study [CoP 2.3].

Stage Learning Outcomes

3. In addition to the same programme learning outcomes, a multi-location/mode programme must have, in the case of undergraduate programmes, identical learning outcomes at each stage of study. The core knowledge, skills and competencies must likewise be identical [University Executive, 26/01/12, as part of Transfers Policy].

Courses: Mandatory Courses, Learning Outcomes, Curriculum and Assessment

4. A multi-location/mode programme must contain the same mandatory courses across all versions. In some cases, the content of a mandatory course may vary (eg Commercial Law will necessarily be different across the Malaysia, Dubai and UK campuses). Such local variation should be reflected in the learning outcomes (eg "at the end of this course, the student will be able to apply the principles of in-country commercial law to solve a range of industrial problems"). [New, but reflective of current practice and a consequence of No's1-3: approved UE, 31/05/2012].
5. Multi-location/mode programmes may offer different optional courses for the purposes of local contextualisation or to allow individual students to customise their learning. However, the programme and stage learning outcomes must be identical across all versions. [CoP 2.4].
6. Each course offered as part of a multi-location/mode programme must have identical learning outcomes across all variants. The core curriculum (comprising the majority of the course), must be common to all locations and modes. There is, however, scope for variation in terms of content and form of assessment, provided that the course learning outcomes are identical. [CoP 2.5, 2.6]

Adherence to Policy

Schools will have one year from the date of implementation of this policy to ensure that all multi-location/mode programmes comply with the six points outlined above. This timescale reflects the requirements of Dubai's KHDA and Malaysia's MQA. [UE approved, with proviso that SML be given 2 years to implement]

Approval

Since all but one of the above key principles have already been approved, the University Executive will be invited to endorse the above framework (policy was endorsed by University Executive on 31 May 2012). Thereafter, the policy will be considered by the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Studies Committees, with approval being requested from the Senate in due course.