

POLICY ON PROGRAMME TITLES, LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSES (MULTI-LOCATION/ MULTI-MODE PROGRAMMES)

Summary

1. Programmes must have identical learning outcomes and award/programme titles across all versions.
2. At each stage, undergraduate programmes must have identical: outcomes, core knowledge, skills and competencies.
3. Programmes must contain the same mandatory courses across all versions.
4. Programmes may offer different optional courses for local contextualisation.
5. Across all variants, courses must have identical learning outcomes and core curriculum. Variation is permitted in content and form of assessment.

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

In May 2012, the University Executive approved a *Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses*, which sets out permitted and non-permissible variation between programmes offered in different locations and modes.

The policy is part of the University's *Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes*. The policy aims to assure quality and standards across all versions of a programme, and to put in place the consistency and standardisation required by overseas accrediting authorities.

The policy was implemented with immediate effect, from 1 June 2012. The policy applies to all undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes.

Key Principles

The policy comprises several key principles, covering Programme, Stage and Course:

Programme

Across all versions, multi-location/multi-mode programmes must have:

- **identical programme learning outcomes, core knowledge, skills and competencies**
- **identical programme/award titles**

Stage

Across all versions, multi-location/multi-mode undergraduate programmes must have:

- **identical learning outcomes, core knowledge, skills and competencies at each stage of study**

Course

Across all versions, multi-location/multi-mode programmes:

- must have the **same mandatory courses**. Local variation in content is permitted, but **the learning outcomes must be identical**
- may offer **different options**, provided that stage and programme learning outcomes remain identical
- must comprise **courses with identical learning outcomes and core curriculum**. Content and form of assessment may be varied

Malaysia Award/Programme Titles

A short-term, temporary difference is permitted between award/programmes titles at the Malaysia Campus and other modes/locations as there can be a time delay between HWU approval and MoHE approval of changes to titles. Titles must be aligned following MoHE approval. In all other respects, HWUM programmes must adhere to the principles above.

References and Further Information

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses: Policy <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/multi-policy.pdf>;

Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/ga/heriot-watt-multicode.htm>; <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm>

Briefing Papers on Implementing the Policy and on Local Contextualisation: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/6.Implementing-the-Policy-on-Programme-Titles-Lear.pdf>; <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/24.Implementing-the-Policy-on-Courses-and-Learning.pdf>

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by Academic Quality 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.