

IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY ON COURSES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES – LOCAL MODIFICATIONS

Implementation of the Policy on Courses and Learning Outcomes – Local Modifications and Contextualisation

- This briefing paper specifies **where local modification and contextualisation of courses offered in different locations and modes are permitted and encouraged.**
- **Schools should support local modification and contextualisation** in accordance with the *Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses (Multi-Location/Multi-Mode Programmes)*. See Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers No. 2 and No.6 for permitted and non-permissible variation between programmes and courses offered in different locations and modes.

Courses: Encouragement of, and Responsibility for, Local Variations

As regards courses offered as part of multi-location/multi-mode programmes, the **only aspects of courses which must be identical** are:

- identical learning outcomes
- identical core curriculum

The Policy explicitly **permits variation in content and assessment** (formative and summative) and in use of optional courses. In accordance with the Policy, Schools should encourage **the local adaptation of courses** (content, assessment, teaching and learning materials and resources, learning activities, approaches to teaching, etc).

Schools will provide a framework for supporting **staff at all campus locations to take responsibility for** developing, implementing and reviewing local modifications to the courses on which they teach.

The University's Academic Management Structures for Learning and Teaching (see Briefing Paper No.8) support the establishment of cross-campus collaborative teaching teams, which jointly develop and revise multi-location/mode courses. **Collaborative teaching teams should discuss and encourage local adaptations**, and provide opportunities for staff at the Dubai and Malaysia Campuses to take on the role of Course Leader.

It should be clarified explicitly to students that differences (between campuses) in teaching and learning materials, approaches to and methods of teaching etc do not imply that such materials, approaches and methods are of inferior quality to that provided at the Scottish Campuses. **Students should be encouraged to value the benefits of local variations.**

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>; Briefing Papers No 2, 6 + 8 <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registrv/quality/learning-teaching/learning-and-teaching-briefing-papers.htm>

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.