



International Partnership Agreements Guidance

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Detailed information on the processes involved is available from each department (see each section header page for resources and contact list).

The QAA's Characteristics Statement on Qualifications Involving More than One Degree-awarding Body, February 2020, has informed this guidance.

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaas/focus-on/joint-degree-characteristics-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1b3ff481_8



Introduction

This guidance is for colleagues at UEA who are involved in developing or supporting international partnerships relating to taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. It outlines the main types of partnership arrangements, along with details of those departments involved in managing and supporting these activities.

This is not an exhaustive list but covers the most common models in detail and signposts to sources of further information.



ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Academic Partnerships

Academic Partnerships, manage the development of, and approval process, for the following types of agreement:

- General Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Collaborative Taught Provision Agreements

Template agreements for the above types of arrangements are held by Academic Partnerships who also maintain the database of all taught provision and staff and student mobility partnership agreements.

Please contact Academic Partnerships for further information on the approval process.

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/partnerships-hub/academic/international-partnerships>

Contact: int.acad.partnerships@uea.ac.uk



UEA Global

The UEA Global team works closely with the Vice-Chancellor's Office (VCO), the International Dialogue Groups, and others across the University to plan and deliver strategies to enhance UEA's global reputation. The team works closely with Academic Partnerships on the development and approval of new partnership agreements.

Contact: intl.office@uea.ac.uk



UEA Study Abroad

As part of UEA Global, UEA Study Abroad coordinates and manages mobility for UEA undergraduate students participating in a period of study or work abroad as part of their course and

manages visiting students enrolling at the University for a study period of a semester or academic year. UEA Study Abroad Office liaises with partner universities to develop or renew agreements relating to these activities, and with Academic Partnerships regarding the agreement drafting and approval process.

Contact: studyabroad.partnerships@uea.ac.uk

Research and Innovation Services (RIN)

RIN advise and support academics in the furtherance of their research and innovation activities and manage relationships with a range of funders, partners and organisations related to research.

Information on agreements managed by RIN is not included in this guidance but is available at:

<https://my.uea.ac.uk/divisions/research-and-innovation/research-innovation-services>

Contact: rin.international@uea.ac.uk



Departmental Responsibilities Continued

Postgraduate Research Service (PGR)

PGR, either alone or with Research and Innovation Services (RIN), manages arrangements involving PGR students who will achieve a UEA award by undertaking study at UEA and at least one other international higher education institution. Such agreements include PGR Co-tutelles and Split-Site PhD partnerships.

Information on the development and approval of these agreements is not included in this guidance but is available at:

<https://my.uea.ac.uk/divisions/research-and-innovation/postgraduate-research/regulations>

Contact: a.sesma@uea.ac.uk

International Partnerships Review Group (IPRG)

IPRG meets monthly to monitor international developments and projects and considers Category 1 international agreement approval requests, which if agreed are recommended for signing by one of the designated signatories.

The group is chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor International and membership includes the Associate Director UEA Global, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, Head of Partnerships, Head of International Recruitment and Partnerships Manager.

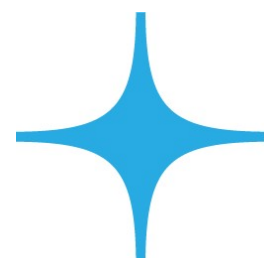


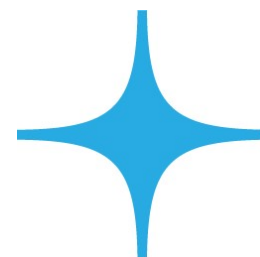
Agreement Designated Signatories - Taught Provision International Agreements

Agreements are signed by one of:

Pro-Vice-Chancellor International
Vice-Chancellor

Details of approval processes and signatories for other types of agreements managed by RIN and PGR may be found via the links above.





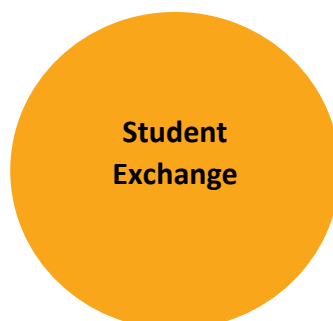
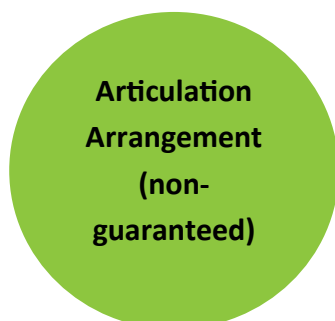
Category 1

Model 1

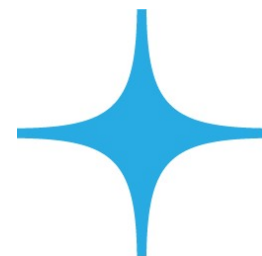
Model 2

Model 3

Model 4



Partnership Model	Model Detail	Led by
Model 1: General MoUs	<p>Summary: UEA and one or more international institutions sign an MoU when it has been agreed that there is mutual benefit in working together in a variety of ways.</p> <p>These are arrangements between UEA and one or more international institutions, where it has been agreed that there could be mutual benefit in working together in a variety of ways. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) gives examples of potential areas to be explored but is not specific.</p> <p>Should specific initiatives develop, these would be formalised through additional subsidiary MoUs or appendices to an MoU. It may also be appropriate to consider a more formal, detailed agreement.</p>	Academic Partnerships
Model 2: Articulation Arrangement (non-guaranteed)	<p>Summary: UEA recognises a course at another institution that is equivalent to a UEA course and offers students the opportunity to join UEA at a point after the first year of the UEA course. Progression is not guaranteed and UEA decides whether to admit students who meet the agreed entry criteria. Students receive a UEA award.</p> <p>These are articulation and progression arrangements involving students on taught courses who, as part of their course, undertake study at UEA and at least one other international higher education institution. In this case credit achieved (or learning completed) for an agreed programme of study at one higher education provider is transferred to contribute to the award completed at another provider, the degree-awarding body.</p> <p>Common examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate 2+2 • Masters 1+1 • Accelerated Masters 3+1 	UEA International



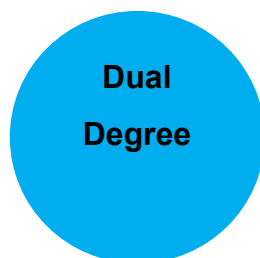
Student and Staff Mobility Agreements:

These are arrangements involving students or staff who travel from UEA to another institution or vice versa as part of a taught course, including within the Erasmus+ scheme or to undertake research.

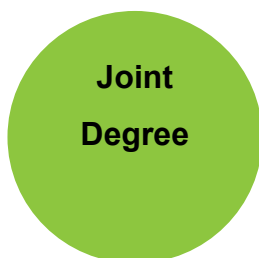
Partnership Model	Model Detail	Led by
Model 3: Student Exchange	<p>Summary: UEA students registered on 4-year degrees with a Year Abroad will spend their third year of studies at one of UEA's partner universities, or in the case of the split year variant, at two partner universities.</p> <p>In addition, HUM students registered on 3-year degrees all have the option to study a semester abroad during their second year of studies, also at one of UEA's partner universities.</p> <p>Students have to pass the year or semester abroad and receive a transcript from the host institution. Students and staff also have opportunities to undertake study or work at other institutions under the Erasmus scheme.</p>	<p>Study Abroad Office (undergraduate students)</p> <p>PGR Service (research students)</p>
Model 4: Study Abroad Visiting Fee-paying Students	<p>Summary: Incoming visiting fee-paying students come to UEA for semester or year-long study. These students can come either from partner institutions, from non UEA partner institutions, or can apply individually.</p> <p>These programmes include UEA's International Summer School, where some partners choose to have a separate fee-paying agreement for their students. This covers a type of agreement established between UEA and overseas (usually non exchange) partner universities sending fee-paying study abroad students regularly.</p>	<p>Study Abroad Office</p>



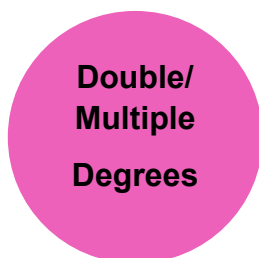
Model 5



Model 6



Model 7



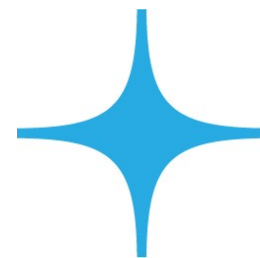
Model 8



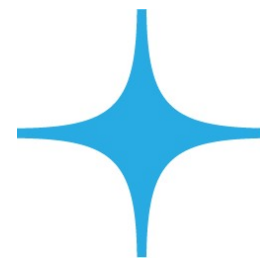
Model 9



Partnership Model	Model Detail	Led by
Model 5: Dual Degree	<p>Summary: UEA works with a partner institution and jointly designs a programme of study comprising a joint initial curriculum (or two parallel and equivalent curricula), followed by two separate blocks taken consecutively at each partner in turn, leading to two separate qualifications awarded individually by UEA and the partner institution.</p> <p>Note that the qualifications may be at different levels.</p> <p>Each degree-awarding body is responsible for its own award but the two components form a single package, and the overall arrangement is a joint enterprise that requires elements of joint management and oversight.</p> <p>Each degree-awarding body generally delivers a substantial proportion of the programme at the level of the qualification they award.</p> <p>A distinguishing feature of this type of arrangement is that the overall study period and volume of learning is longer than for either of the individual awards separately, but typically shorter than if each of the programmes of study had been taken consecutively.</p> <p>Dual Degrees are integrated but independent qualifications and while they involve more than one degree-awarding body working together to offer a jointly conceived programme, a student does not need to satisfy the requirements of all the partners to receive an award. The programmes are designed to enable students to achieve more than one distinct set of criteria although in some arrangements, the different sets may overlap.</p>	Academic Partnerships



Partnership Model	Model Detail	Led by
Model 6: Joint degree	<p>Summary: UEA works with a partner institution (which is also an awarding body) to develop a course that is delivered in part by both institutions. This programme is joint in all aspects, involving all partners (of which there may be more than two) in roughly equal proportions in all aspects of programme design, development, delivery, assessment, management and decision-making on student achievement.</p> <p>Students may spend time studying at each of the partners involved in the arrangement.</p> <p>Students successfully completing the programme gain a single certificate bearing the signatures of the competent authorities of all degree-awarding bodies involved.</p>	Academic Partnerships
Model 7: Double or Multiple Degree	<p>Summary: As above, UEA works with a partner institution (which is also an awarding body) to develop a course that is delivered in part by both institutions.</p> <p>However, in these circumstances, students completing the programme are awarded two (or more) certificates, one from each degree-awarding body involved.</p> <p>The UEA transcript refers to the existence of the other institution (s) and makes clear that they refer to the completion of a single, jointly conceived, programme. Where legally permissible, the same reference is included on the documents issued by the other degree-awarding body or bodies.</p> <p>In some jurisdictions there are legal or regulatory impediments to the award of a single certificate of this kind. In other cases, there may be difficulties with the recognition or acceptance of a single joint certificate, which mean that it is not in the interests of students to mark their achievement in this way. In these circumstances, students completing a programme that is otherwise wholly joint (as described above) are awarded two (or more) certificates, one from each degree-awarding body involved.</p>	Academic Partnerships



Partnership Model	Model Detail	Led by
Model 8: Validation	Summary: UEA identifies a suitable overseas partner with a good reputation in a subject area in which we have expertise, and a UEA School that is willing to engage with and support the provision. The partner institution designs appropriate courses which UEA approves (validates) and the partner delivers them. Academic Partnerships has oversight, with significant UEA School input.	Academic Partnerships
Model 9: Franchise	Summary: We choose an established UEA course with a strong track record and strong, flexible, engaged course team. We find a suitable partner with qualified staff and appropriate facilities who deliver the same course on UEA's behalf.	Academic Partnerships



If the type of partnership you are considering does not fall neatly into one of these categories, please talk to the most relevant department about how your proposal might work.



If in doubt about who to talk to, contact Academic Partnerships in the first instance and they will advise on how best to proceed.