

Amendments to UPR AS17 (Academic Quality) for 2021/22

This paper summarises the approved amendments to UPR AS17 for the 2021/22 academic year.

1. Re-definition of Articulation Agreements

Articulation agreements are put in place where students on a collaborative partner's course are, upon successful completion, guaranteed entry to a UH course. In the past, QAA considered this form of articulation to require the University to have in place robust arrangements for assuring the academic standards and quality of the partner's provision (as it considered the partner's provision to be stage 1 and therefore an extension of the University's provision).

QAA no longer hold this view on articulation arrangements. Furthermore, the University considers the partner to be primarily responsible for the academic standards and quality of its provision, as it awards credit for its modules and awards any relevant qualification. It has therefore been agreed that the University's Academic Development Committee is no longer required to formally approve and re-approve articulation agreements with partners (with the exception of Hertfordshire International College, HIC, which is classified with OfS as sub-contracted provision of the University).

To reflect this decision, the following amendments have therefore been approved to UPR AS17, section D2.1:

D2.1 Types of collaboration

D2.1.3 Articulation Agreements

Articulation Agreements cover the articulation of programmes of study offered at organisations other than the University, with a University programme. The programmes of study will, typically, have been designed by the organisation itself, with or without the help of the University. Entry to a University programme may be to the first year or to a later stage with specific credit (advanced standing) given for earlier parts of the programme. Admission will be guaranteed provided students meet agreed levels of performance on the organisation's programme. Articulation Agreements are normally appropriate when significant numbers of students (10 or more) are expected to annually transfer to the University. The maximum number of students to be admitted per intake must be specified. These regulations are not applicable to nationally or internationally recognised qualifications, where normal application and/or APL processes apply. The APL procedure also applies in the case of an individual student who has a local qualification from an institution where there is no articulation or recognition agreement.

Before an articulation agreement can be signed, the School must ~~seek approval of any new partner (see section D3) and then~~ undertake a formal articulation visit to the organisation. The School must inform AS of the intention to set up an articulation arrangement prior to holding the Articulation Visit, *and involve Legal and Compliance Services in the drafting and negotiation of the relevant articulation agreement*. The purpose of the visit is for the University to be assured that the standard of the award of the organisation is appropriate for the intended articulation, that the curriculum and learning outcomes of the award of the organisation provide specific credit consistent with the intended articulation and that there is confidence in the organisation's ability to maintain the standard of its award. A report of the visit

recommending approval or non-approval of any articulation must be produced and a copy *retained by the School of the confirmed report lodged with AS*. Guidelines on articulation visits are available on the Centre for Academic Quality StudyNet pages.

The approval of the articulation will be for a period not exceeding six (6) years, after which time a formal review will be required. The School must monitor the progress of students admitted on this basis. ~~For each institution, the Vice Chancellor and the organisation concerned will sign a formal~~ **Articulation Agreement**. The format of the agreement is available from *AS the University's Legal and Compliance Services*. The original copy of the Articulation Agreement will be lodged with AS. Any changes required to the Articulation Agreement will be *administered via AS and* in consultation with Legal *and Compliance* Services. The School will inform *ADC the University's Legal and Compliance* if it proposes to terminate an Articulation Agreement (~~see section D11~~). *The agreement or termination of articulation arrangements will be reported to Academic Development Committee.*

D2.1.4 ~~Recognition Progression~~ **Agreements**

An arrangement whereby the University recognises, at its absolute discretion, that ~~a particular award students~~ of another organisation, *on achievement of specified qualifications, may be able to progress onto* ~~provides a good 'fit' with~~ a specified University programme, *and the University welcomes applications from such students and is of a standard and quality such that the University would welcome applications for entry with advanced standing from individuals holding the award so recognised*. A **Recognition Progression** Agreement carries with it no guarantee of entry to the University and applicants would be considered on their individual merits in accordance with the provisions of University regulations *and at the University's discretion*. ~~Guidelines on recognition visits are available on the Centre for Academic Quality StudyNet pages~~. *Progression agreements are prepared by the University's Legal and Compliance Services*. The original copy of the ~~Recognition Progression~~ Agreement will be lodged with ~~AS and~~ the International Office. ~~The School will inform AS and the~~ International Office *will inform Legal and Compliance Services* of any changes in the ~~Recognition Progression~~ Agreement or if it is *to be* terminated.

2. Apprenticeship Policy: quality assurance and guidance for apprenticeship Programmes

The University has approved a new UPR (UPR AS17, Appendix I) for the quality monitoring and review of its Apprenticeship provision, developed by the Degree Apprenticeship Compliance and Operational Strategy group (DACOS). It defines the internal quality assurance and compliance arrangements for all apprenticeships delivered by the University of Hertfordshire as a Lead Provider or through a partner organisation via a subcontract arrangement. Its scope includes:

- Underlying Quality Assurance Framework
- Programme Design and Approval
- Admissions
- Continuous Monitoring
- Change of Circumstances
- Development of employees
- Communication with Employers
- Complaints
- Assessment and End Point Assessments
- Ofsted