

Information Sheet – Collaborative Award Types, Taxonomies and Established Routes for Collaboration

This information sheet provides a list and definitions of the **collaborative award types**, also identifying different **collaboration taxonomies** that may be used to identify and categorise different types of collaboration. Also provided is information regarding already **established routes for collaboration** at UCD which may be drawn upon in developing further collaboration in particular areas or with particular institutions.

Collaborative Programme Basics: the programme approval mechanism

The **Programme Development, Approval and Review Framework (PDARF)** provides the relevant information for supporting programme development, including collaborative programmes, within the University (see <https://www.ucd.ie/registry/staff/registryservices/curriculum/programmeapprovalpdarf/>).

All collaborative programmes must be approved through the normal routes for new programme approval. The relevant forms for collaborative programmes include Global Partnerships Proposal Form, PDARF2, PDARF3 and PDARF4, and where a collaboration is being introduced into an already existing programme, PDARF7 is to be used in place of PDARF2 and PDARF3. All of the forms are available at the above weblink.

All forms must be completed and submitted to the relevant College Executive and/or Governing Board (for new programmes/programme changes), as well as the University Management Team (UMT) and the University Programmes Board (UPB) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the PDARF approval process.

Collaborative Programme Directors should list as much detail as possible about the collaborative programme on these forms – all of this information is critical for ensuring that the University can support the programme effectively.

Typology of Collaborative Provision

The typology of collaborative provision, including definitions of the different types of collaboration with which the University may be engaged, is illustrated in the following table (Table 1) (this list is not intended to be exhaustive, and is frequently updated to reflect emerging sectoral, national, legislative, European and international developments).

Table 1: Typology of collaborative provision

Collaboration Type	Method of Delivery	Award Type
Joint Degree Awards	The process by which two or more awarding institutions collectively contribute to a programme leading to a single award from all participating institutions (as defined by the <i>Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012</i>). In these instances, there is normally designated a “home” institution (to which a student is initially admitted and registered, and from which a student may receive their award parchment, transcript and Diploma Supplement) and one or more “host” institutions (which a student may attend as part of the programme). These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award jointly provided by more than 1 institution.
Double Degree Awards (multiple, dual or double)	The process by which two or more awarding institutions collectively contribute to a programme leading to two separate awards in instances where there are legal barriers for a partner institution to be able to fully participate in a joint award. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	More than 1 award provided by more than 1 institution where there are legal barriers to the provision of a joint award.

Collaboration Type	Method of Delivery	Award Type
Co-Tutelle (or Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Arrangement)	An arrangement made on a student-by-student basis whereby a doctoral student studies at UCD and at one other institution, receives joint supervision (a minimum of one supervisor from each institution) and submits a single doctoral dissertation for a single examination. All such arrangements are governed by the <i>UCD Procedures for Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Arrangements</i> (see table 2 below).	More than 1 award provided by more than 1 institution.
Exchange	An arrangement that facilitates the reciprocal exchange of staff and/or students between HE institutions, where students are admitted to, and graduate from, a “home” institution, but spend time at one or more “host” institution(s). Includes ERASMUS exchanges. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award provided by the “home” institution.
Articulation	The process by which the qualification and/or credits from a programme of study undertaken at an approved partner institution is recognised as giving advanced standing or entry to programmes at the University. This type of arrangement is often described as 1+1, 2+2, 1+3, etc. and may also include pathways into undergraduate degree award programmes from Irish Institutes of Technology. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award provided by the University (it is at the discretion of the other institution to provide its own award).
Access/Feeder Programmes	This denotes a programme from which successful students are recognised as having met the admissions criteria for entry to a specified programme of study. The partner owns the curriculum and is responsible for the quality and delivery of the provision. The relevant School or Governing Boards recognise the partner’s programme for the purpose of admission to its programme. The University does not make an award or award credit to the provision delivered through an access/feeder programme. These types of arrangements are normally used as recruitment tools (ex. Pre-Masters or Masters Pathway programmes)	No award – this is normally utilised as a recruitment pathway into existing programmes leading to standard University awards..
Franchising	The process by which the University agrees to authorise the delivery of all or part of one or more of its own approved programmes of study leading to a UCD award by an approved partner institution. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award provided by Franchiser institution (the University).
Serial Franchising	The process by which a Franchisee (of an Awarding Body, e.g. UCD) agrees to authorise a third party to deliver all or part of one or more of its programmes leading to a UCD award. A Serial Franchising arrangement would not be recognised internationally as good practice.	1 award provided by the Franchiser institution (the University), delivered by a third party authorized by a Franchisee.
Off-Campus Delivery	Teaching/Supervision is provided entirely by UCD staff, but delivery occurs away from any of the University’s campuses and the provision of facilities (for example, teaching accommodation, library, IT, etc.) is undertaken partly or wholly by the partner institution.	1 award provided by the University.
Accreditation	Accreditation describes the process by which an institution without its own degree awarding powers is given authority by the University to exercise powers and responsibility for academic provision. The University exercises only limited control over the quality assurance functions, but remains ultimately responsible for the quality and standard of programmes which lead to an award of the University. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award provided by the University (as the accrediting institution).
Validation	The process by which the University judges that a programme developed, delivered and managed by another institution or organisation is of an appropriate quality and standard equivalent to the same award type at the same level as delivered by the University. These arrangements are subject to a formal agreement between the relevant parties.	1 award provided by the delivering institution and validated by the University.
Agent	Agent is used to describe a person or organisation employed by the awarding institution to facilitate a collaborative arrangement and/or the recruitment of students through the provision of service functions.	No award – this is normally utilised as a recruitment pathway into existing programmes leading to standard University awards.
Hybrids	It should be noted that collaborative arrangements may involve combinations of collaboration types. For example, there may be an articulation arrangement governing the first two years of a programme leading to a diploma that is accepted for entry to the final year of study leading to an honours degree. The final year may be delivered by the partner organisation under an accreditation, franchise or validation agreement. In such hybrids, the responsibilities of the partners will still broadly correspond to those described in this typology.	Varies.
Other	Some arrangements may be unique and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Varies.

Collaboration Taxonomies

In taking an overview of the full range of actual and potential forms of collaboration, the University may apply different taxonomies or modes of classification. This is undertaken in order to determine the best way to manage such collaborations, including the necessary approval process, scope and extent of due diligence required, necessity for a site visit, and the nature and frequency of the application of mechanisms for monitoring and review. These taxonomies are divided into: 1) **Risk Taxonomy**; 2) **Location Taxonomy**; 3) **Collaborative Type Taxonomy**. These categorisations are not definitive and are subject to change based on developments within the University, and any other regional, national, sectoral, legislative, European and/or international developments.

Indicative Risk Taxonomy		
High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCD Franchise to overseas partner • Non-domestic, non-third level institution (not a recognised awarding body) • Large number of students (>100 p.a.) • Third party agency involvement • Unfamiliarity with partner / no previous relationship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic non-third level institution (not a recognised awarding body) • Medium-sized number of students (>50-100 p.a.) • Dual Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student exchange • Joint graduate research programme • Co-Tutelle • Articulations • Small number of students (< 50 p.a.) • Prior experience working with partner institution

Location Taxonomy		
Home	Overseas	Hybrid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin • Rest of Ireland • Northern Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK and Europe • North America • Rest of the World 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of Ireland and abroad (ex. articulations with institutions abroad)

Collaborative Type Taxonomy			
Undergraduate Linkages	Off-Campus Delivery	Collaborative Taught Graduate	Thematic Doctoral Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Exchanges • Articulations • Access/Feeder Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franchising • Accreditation • Validation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters • Joint Taught Graduate Awards with other Irish/N.Irish/European HEIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Tutelle / Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Arrangement • Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates

Established Routes to Collaboration

Table 2 below sets out a number of established routes to collaboration, including funding opportunities and overarching Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) which UCD has signed up to. Collaborative programmes proposed and established within these existing frameworks must adhere to the fundamental requirements and agreements as set down, though may also require programme-specific MoUs (understandings) or MoAs (agreements). The list below is not intended to be

exhaustive, neither are they the only routes through which a collaborative programme can be established.

Table 2: Established routes to collaboration

Established route	Description and links for further information
<p>Erasmus Mundus (Masters and Doctorate level education)</p>	<p>Erasmus Mundus aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world. It offers financial support for institutions and scholarships for individuals. Funding is available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European joint Masters and Doctorates (including scholarships). • Partnerships with non-European higher education institutions and scholarships for students and academics. • Projects to promote European higher education worldwide. <p>Erasmus Mundus website: http://www.ucd.ie/international/global-relations/networks/erasmus-mundus/ UCD Erasmus Mundus guidelines: http://www.ucd.ie/international/global-relations/networks/erasmusinternationalcreditmobility/</p>
<p>Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Agreements ('Co-tutelle) (Doctorate level education)</p>	<p>An Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Agreement is a joint supervisory arrangement normally established between UCD and another (non-Irish) third level institution. These agreements are developed by the collaborating universities with an individual Agreement drawn up on behalf of each student. Students pursue their doctoral studies at two universities under two different supervisors. These arrangements are open to both UCD students looking to undertake research elsewhere as well as non-UCD students wishing to conduct part of their doctoral research in UCD. A student is awarded a degree from both Universities (a dual degree or double degree). Inter-Institutional Co-Supervisory Agreements – procedures document: https://sisweb.ucd.ie/usis/IW_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=GD-DOCLAND&ID=136</p>
<p>Universitas 21 agreement (Doctorate level education)</p>	<p>Sixteen members of <i>Universitas 21</i> (U21) are signatories to the <i>Memorandum of Understanding Jointly Awarded PhD Degree</i>, as a way of enabling doctoral students to embark on joint degrees which should considerably enhance their research and employment opportunities on an international scale. The signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding are University College Dublin and the universities of Auckland, Birmingham, British Columbia, Delhi, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hong Kong, Korea, McGill, Melbourne, Nottingham, Queensland, New South Wales, Lund and Virginia.</p> <p>Two partner universities can create a tailor made programme of study for each student, taking individual research needs into account and enabling collaboration with another of the network's universities. There are two routes available to the signatories in developing a joint PhD degree: 1/ new programme proposal and 2/ case-by-case basis. In all instances, an individual <i>Universitas 21</i> agreement will be drawn up for each PhD student.</p> <p>U21 website: http://www.universitas21.com/</p>