

POLICY ON COLLABORATIVE MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREES WITH PARTNER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS	
Custodian	Registrar
Responsible Division	Office of the Registrar
First approval (of first version of Policy)	Council, 22 November 2013
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RELATED DOCUMENTS	
UJ Documents	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UJ Academic Regulations; • Higher Degrees Policy • Higher Degrees Administration: Structures and Processes • Institutional Statute; • UJ Strategic Plan; • Academic Programme Policy; • Policy on Graduation Ceremonies; • Policy: Academic Certification and Related Matters; • Policy on Intellectual Property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Higher Education Act 101 of 1997 (as amended); • Promotion to Access of Information Act 2 of 2000; • South African Quality Authority (SAQA) rules; • Immigration Act 13 of 2002 (as amended); • Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act 51 of 2008; • Student/supervisor guidelines for Universitas 21 jointly awarded PhD degree (available on the U21 webpage). • Policy Framework for Internationalisation of Higher Education
Stakeholders affected by this document (units and divisions who should be familiar with it):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council; • Senate and Senate Committees; • Management Executive Committee; • Executive Deans and Deputy/Vice-Deans; • Executive Directors and Directors; • Heads of Academic Schools; • Heads of Academic Departments; • Student Representative Council.

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1. PREAMBLE

The offering of collaborative qualifications is a worldwide trend which reflects the increasing and varying strategies in higher education for collaboration. The offering of joint and co-badged collaborative qualifications with reputable universities is encouraged at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) as per the UJ Strategic Plan.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- 2.1.1 achieve compliance with the Internationalisation Strategy, the UJ Strategic plan and subsequent indicators;
- 2.1.2 increase national and international excellence, stature and impact of the University;
- 2.1.3 increase the quality and impact of academic research;
- 2.1.4 increase research networks;
- 2.1.5 ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- 2.1.6 establish guidelines and rules for the offering of collaborative qualifications between the University of Johannesburg and partner higher education institutions;

3. SCOPE

3.1.1 This policy applies to all faculties and stakeholders of the University of Johannesburg.

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

4.1.1 This Policy provides for the offering of two types of collaborative qualifications:

4.1.2 Joint degree

- a) A joint degree, as a single qualification, is conferred at the successful completion of a jointly-offered single academic qualification offered collaboratively by UJ in collaboration with another institution(s).
- b) The requirements of the study programme will involve: time spent by the student at all institutions involved and feature a jointly-developed and integrated curriculum or a single research topic resulting in a single dissertation or thesis.
- c) The governance of the programme and the life cycle of the students involved are governed by a formal agreement between the collaborating institutions.
- d) The study programme is normally completed in the same period as a similar single degree programme.
- e) Certification (in accordance with the UJ Policy: Academic Certification and Related Matters and the UJ Policy: Graduation, as well as the legal requirements in this regard): A single degree certificate, issued and signed jointly by the partner institutions; or a certificate issued by each of the institutions involved, with the proviso that each certificate must refer to the joint nature of the qualification and specify that the qualification is being conferred in conjunction with the other institutions involved (the partnership agreement must specify that the credentials used by the graduate must make it clear that this is a single qualification).

4.1.3 Co-badged degree

- a) A co-badged degree, as a single qualification, is conferred at the successful completion of a Master's or Doctoral programme, offered collaboratively by more than one HEI.

- b) The governance of the programme and the life cycle of the students involved are governed by a formal agreement between the collaborating institutions.
- c) The student enrolls at only one institution – the ‘enrolling institution’.
- d) The enrolling institution is responsible for the curriculum.
- e) A part of the curriculum (limited to 50% of the credits) is offered by the partner institution(s) but the degree is awarded by the enrolling institution only.
- f) Certification: A degree certificate, issued and signed by the enrolling institution. The enrolling institution recognises the contribution by the partner institution(s) by a reference to the partner institution(s) on the degree certificate.

4.1.4 **CHE** refers to the Council for Higher Education.

4.1.5 **HEMIS** refers to the Higher Education Management Information System.

4.1.6 **HEI** refers to a higher education institution.

4.1.7 **Qualification** refers to a collaborative Master’s or Doctoral degree regulated by an agreement concluded between UJ and the partner institutions.

5. THE QUALIFICATION

5.1 UJ enters into a collaborative agreement with one or more higher education institution(s) regarding the collaborative offering of an accredited Master’s or Doctoral qualification.

5.2 The details in which these qualifications are certified is determined by the national and legal requirements in each country and explicated in the collaborative agreement.

5.3 The following academic principles apply in the case of a joint degree or a co-badged degree with UJ as the enrolling institution:

5.3.1 registration for a qualification of study at UJ for the minimum duration for a Doctoral (two years) or a Master’s (one year) degree qualification;

5.3.2 full credit for successfully completed module(s) at the partner higher education institutions;

5.3.3 at least 50% credit of the modules must be completed at UJ;

5.3.4 all collaborative qualifications must comply with national legislation and UJ policies and procedure.

6. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

6.1 The agreement must be concluded at institutional level and must include at least the following items and stipulations:

6.1.1 full compliance with all the national and institutional regulations for the conferral of Master’s or Doctoral degrees at UJ and the partner institutions;

6.1.2 full compliance with the quality assurance requirements and procedures of both UJ and the partner institutions;

6.1.3 a liaison mechanism for coordinating the qualification between appointed representatives from the different institutions;

6.1.4 the requirements and procedures for the recruitment, admission, selection and registration of students;

6.1.5 regulations regarding the minimum periods of residency at UJ and the partner universities;

6.1.6 supervisory details;

6.1.7 funding details;

6.1.8 the student’s responsibilities, including compliance with relevant immigration legislation and other travel documents;

6.1.9 procedures for the handling of student complaints;

- 6.1.10 disciplinary measures;
- 6.1.11 intellectual property rights;
- 6.1.12 applicable legal aspects;
- 6.1.13 examination arrangements;
- 6.1.14 details regarding the certification and graduation ceremony;
- 6.1.15 using of credentials by the graduates.

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 7.1 Intellectual property rights resulting from the collaborative offered programme are in accordance with the collaborative agreement signed by the institutions involved.

8. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed in its entirety every five years (or earlier if an urgent need should arise).