



**POLICY ON JOINT AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES
WITH PARTNER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

Policy Owner	Registrar
Division/Unit/Department	Office of the Registrar
Date of Initial Approval	Council, 22 November 2013
Approved by	Senate
Approval Dates of Revisions/Amendments	Approved by Senate on the 16th of November 2022
Next Review Date	2027
Platform to be published on	Intranet and UJ website

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1. PREAMBLE

The offering of collaborative programmes is a worldwide trend that reflects the increasing and varying strategies in higher education collaboration. At the University of Johannesburg (UJ), there are both whole qualifications accredited and registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and short learning programmes (SLPs), both of which may be collaborative programmes. As per the UJ Strategic Plan, UJ encourages the offering of collaborative programmes with reputable universities, including joint and co-badged programmes. This policy provides support to faculties for managing the collaborative programmes, which are offered in partnership with one or more universities.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- 2.1.1 ensure compliance with the national accreditation framework;
- 2.1.2 achieve compliance with the Internationalisation Strategy, the UJ Strategic Plan and the relevant key indicators;
- 2.1.3 increase the national and international excellence, stature, and impact of the University;
- 2.1.4 improve the quality and impact of academic research through collaborations;
- 2.1.5 increase research networks;
- 2.1.6 ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- 2.1.7 establish guidelines and rules for the offering of collaborative qualifications¹ between the University of Johannesburg and partner higher education institutions;
- 2.1.8 enhance student opportunities for formal/informal collaborative programmes.

3. SCOPE

3.1 This policy applies to all faculties² and relevant stakeholders of the University of Johannesburg.

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 4.1 CHE refers to the Council for Higher Education.
- 4.2 HEI refers to a higher education institution.
- 4.3 A qualification refers to a programme accredited by CHE and registered on the NQF.
- 4.4 Collaborative Programmes refer to any jointly developed or delivered curriculum offered in collaboration with another institution. This can be either a subsidised programme (i.e. whole programme) or a non-subsidised programme (i.e. a Continuing Education Programme (CEP) – including credit-bearing or non-credit bearing SLPs.

¹ Although co-supervision on a research degree is a form of international collaboration, it is not regarded as a collaborative programme

² Faculties includes the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the Johannesburg Business School (JBS)

5. TYPES OF COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES

5.1 Joint programme

- 5.1.1 A joint programme is a jointly offered, single programme offered by UJ in collaboration with an/other institution(s).
- 5.1.2 The requirements of the study programme include and feature a jointly developed and integrated curriculum or a single research topic resulting in a single dissertation or thesis.
- 5.1.3 The details of the programme and the life cycle of the students involved are to be governed by a formal agreement between the collaborating institutions.
- 5.1.4 The following principles apply:
 - 5.4.1.1 Simultaneous registration at partner institutions involved (or as agreed);
 - 5.4.1.2 Registration for the qualification at UJ for the entire duration of the study;
 - 5.4.1.3 Students should spend time at all institutions that are partner to the agreement;
 - 5.4.1.4 A joint study programme is typically completed in the same period as a similar single degree programme;
 - 5.4.1.5 At least 50% of the total credits allocated to the programme must be completed at UJ;
 - 5.4.1.6 All joint programmes must comply with national legislation and UJ policies and procedures.
- 5.4.2 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 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 programme 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 project).

5.2 A co-badged programme

- 5.2.1 A co-badged programme is a single programme offered collaboratively by more than one HEI.
- 5.2.2 The governance of the programme and the life cycle of the students involved are governed by a formal agreement between the collaborating institutions.
- 5.2.3 The enrolling institution is responsible for the management and provisioning of the curriculum.
- 5.2.4 A part of the curriculum (limited to a maximum of 50% of the credits) is offered by the partner institution(s), but the qualification is awarded by the enrolling institution only.
- 5.2.5 The student(s) may enrol for parts of the qualification (for example, modules) at the partner institution(s)
- 5.2.6 The following principles apply when UJ is the enrolling institution:
 - 5.2.6.1 Registration for the qualification at UJ for the entire duration of the study is required;
 - 5.2.6.2 The study programme is typically completed in the same period as a similar programme (not co-badged) at UJ;

- 5.2.6.3 At least 50% credit of overall credit value of the qualification must be completed at UJ;
- 5.2.6.4 All co-badged programmes must comply with national legislation and UJ policies and procedures.
- 5.2.7 Certification: A degree certificate is issued and signed by the enrolling institution. The enrolling institution recognises the contribution by the partner institution(s) by reference to the partner institution(s) on the certificate.

5.3 Joint Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) (non-credit bearing)

- 5.3.1 A joint short learning programme is a single learning programme that has either been jointly developed or is currently jointly offered by two or more institutions.
- 5.3.2 The process of approvals for joint SLPs follows the same internal procedures as approvals of short learning programmes at UJ.
- 5.3.3 For a definition and guidance on SLPs, please refer to the UJ Policy on Short Learning Programmes (2019).

5.4 Micro-badged modules/micro-credentialing

- 5.4.1 The term micro-credential refers to all the different forms, which recognise outcomes of learning, and which a student/participant may complete in disaggregated educational provision.
- 5.4.2 In joint programmes that allow for micro-credentialing or micro-badging, credits for modules offered by a partner institution are recognised by UJ, provided that these elements align with UJ's quality assurance mechanisms. Such determinations will be made by the relevant academic structures.

5.5 Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)/International Virtual Exchange (IVE)

- 5.5.1 COIL/IVE is a pedagogy for collaborative teaching and learning activities offered in an online environment.
- 5.5.2 This collaboration does not automatically lead to a joint or co-badged certification and is an example of an informal collaborative programme.

6. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- 6.1 The agreement should be concluded at institutional level and in coordination with the Registrar's Office. International agreements should be developed as a joint effort between the Division for Internationalisation and the Registrar's Office. Such agreements should include at least the following items and stipulations:
 - 6.1.1 full compliance with all the national and institutional regulations for the conferral of the qualification at UJ;
 - 6.1.2 cognisance of the regulations outlined by the partner institutions is included;
 - 6.1.3 full compliance with the quality assurance requirements and procedures of both UJ and the partner institution/s;

- 6.1.4 a mechanism for managing and coordinating the programme between appointed representatives from the different institutions;
 - 6.1.5 the requirements and procedures for the recruitment, admission, selection and registration of students;
 - 6.1.6 regulations regarding the minimum periods of residency at UJ and the partner universities;
 - 6.1.7 assessment/examination procedures (where relevant);
 - 6.1.8 supervisory details in the case of a joint or co-badged qualification;
 - 6.1.9 funding details and approvals regarding tuition fee waivers (if applicable) and other fee waivers as may apply (e.g. registration fees, international levies, stipends for living expenses, including accommodation, etc.)
 - 6.1.10 the student's responsibilities, including compliance with relevant immigration legislation and other travel documents;
 - 6.1.11 procedures in both institutions for the handling of student complaints;
 - 6.1.12 procedures in both institutions for the handling of student disciplinary measures;
 - 6.1.13 intellectual property rights;
 - 6.1.14 any other applicable legal requirements;
 - 6.1.15 details regarding the certification and graduation ceremony;
 - 6.1.16 use of credentials by the graduates.
- 6.2 All institutional-level agreements require approval from the Management Executive Committee and should follow the delegation of authority regarding signatories and contract development processes and procedures.

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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

8. POLICY REVIEW

- 8.1 This Policy will be reviewed in its entirety every five years or earlier as determined appropriate by the policy owner.

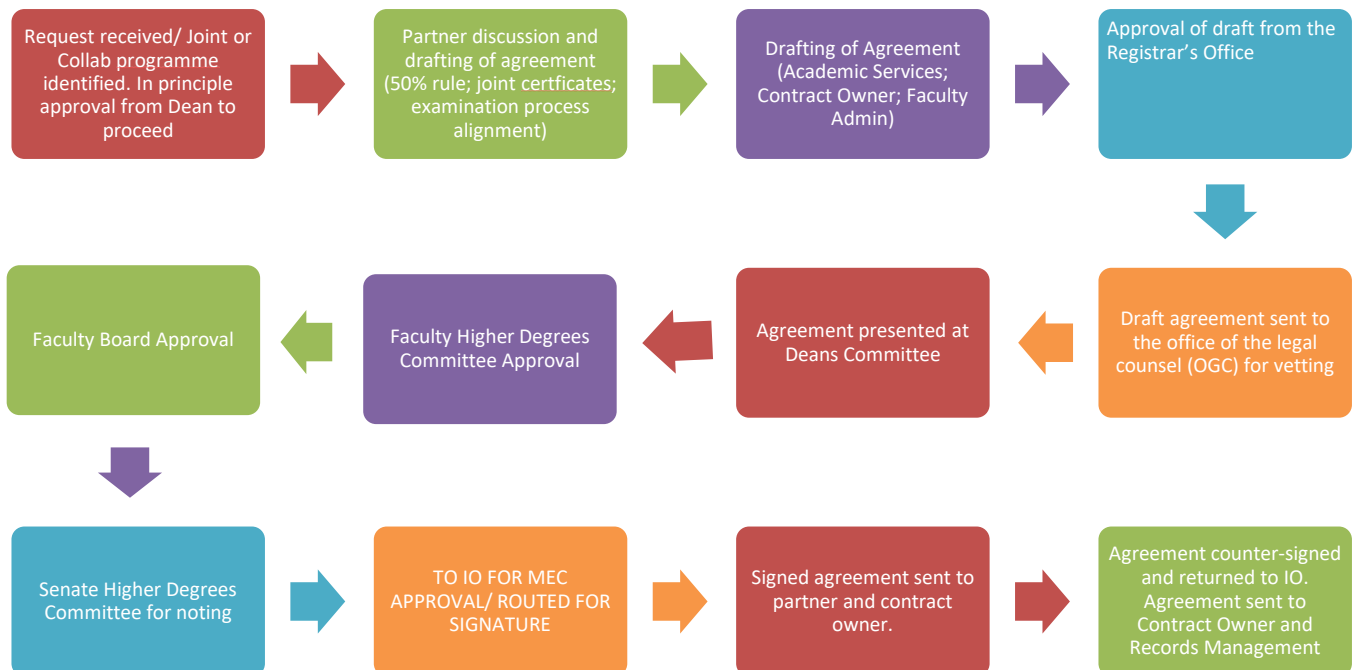
9. POLICY HISTORY TABLE

Policy on Collaborative Masters and Doctoral Programmes with partner higher education institutions	First approval 22 November 2013
Amendments	March 2018
Amendments	16 th November 2022

Approved by Senate on the 16th of November 2022

ANNEXURE 1: AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

(For current registered programmes that do not require programme changes)



ANNEXURE 2: APPROVAL PROCESS GUIDE

(For programmes that require programme approvals and changes of more than 50%)

