
Guidance 5(viii) Programme Planning Leading to Dual Awards, Joint Awards or Double Degrees

1. Definitions

A *dual award* involves the granting of separate awards by both Middlesex University, and a collaborative partner, for a single programme of study. The University operates with a partner institution which also has degree awarding powers in its own right. The curricula for the award are exactly the same at both institutions, however the partner institution may also have an additional element(s) in order to meet their own national or local requirements to award the degree. Two separate diploma supplements and award certificates, one from each awarding institution, are issued.

A *joint award* involves the granting of a single award with one or more collaborating authorised awarding bodies for the successful completion of one programme of study offered by the institutions involved. This may be via a double degree, below:

A *double degree*: An award for a student who has studied for one degree at Middlesex University and one or more institutions, all of which have degree awarding powers. The degree requires a greater amount of credit than would normally be required for a single qualification. Students will spend time studying at all institutions and must meet the requirements of all awarding bodies in order to receive the award. Two separate diploma supplements and award certificates, one from each awarding institution, are issued. The diploma supplement issued by Middlesex University will refer to the existence of the other.

2. Responsibilities

Dual awards

University

The responsibility for the award of the Middlesex qualification and its academic standards remain with the University and cannot be shared with the partner. The University will therefore ensure that:

- The two awards are based on the same assessed student work;
- The academic standards of both awards meets the expectations of the FHEQ;
- Ensure that students may not double-count credit awarded for successfully completed modules, for credit transfer and accumulation purposes; and
- The rights and responsibilities for students are clearly laid out in any agreement with the partner.

Where the University is being asked to validate provision for a dual award, and where that award is already being offered in the partner institution, the University Faculty/department and partner will need to be aware of the implications of the University validating a programme that is already being offered as an award in the partner institution. University validation panels have the right to request that programme and content changes are made to provision under validation, which may then have an impact on the award offered by the partner institution.

The University will normally require that the degree classification scheme for the partner award, should it exist, be equivalent to and preferably the same as the University scheme and that the title of the degrees awarded should be the same. Any variations to the above require APPF approval. In addition, each institution will review and approve publicity related to the award in so far as it refers to the dual nature of the award.

Reference will be made on the Diploma Supplement issued by Middlesex University to the nature of the award: "This student is eligible for a second (dual) qualification, awarded by <name of partner institution> which is based on the same student work and achievement".

Partner institution

The partner institution is required to demonstrate to the University that it has the legal capacity to make dual awards. Proof of this is to be submitted as part of the APPF approval process. Together with the University the partner institution will ensure that students may not double-count credit awarded for successfully completed modules, for credit transfer and accumulation purposes.

Joint awards/double degrees

University

Quality and standards of the joint award are not to be jeopardised by any arrangement entered into with the partner(s). The University will agree appropriate arrangements for the issue of diploma supplements and certificates. Normally, appropriate reference will be made to all partners. The University will ensure that:

- All institutions agree the regulatory framework that will apply and that this framework is consistent with that of the University;
- The University has full involvement in the Assessment Board considerations and decisions; and
- The rights and responsibilities for students are clearly laid out in any agreement with the partner(s)

Partner institutions

Partner institutions will be required to demonstrate that they have the legal capacity to grant awards jointly with other institutions. Proof of this is to be submitted as part of the APPF approval process. Partners will agree with the University the regulatory framework that will apply and arrangements for the issue of certificates and transcripts and ensure that they have full involvement in the Assessment Board considerations and decisions.

3. Procedure

The sponsoring Faculty submits the completed APPF form for planning approval which must include information on and/or evidence of the following:

- Legal capacity of the partner institution(s) to make dual or joint awards (as appropriate)
- Regulatory framework and quality assurance arrangements that will apply to the programme
- Scheme of degree classifications and degree titles to be used (dual awards only)
- Rights and responsibilities for students that will apply

4. Memorandum of Co-operation

The Memorandum of Co-operation for programmes leading to dual or joint awards will, in addition to the usual arrangements outline the agreement for the academic regulations and quality assurance framework that will apply to the programme, the classification scheme(s) to be used, the approved degree title(s) and arrangements for the registration of students.