

Educational Partnerships Policy

1 Purpose

To set out the principles for establishing, approving, managing, monitoring, reviewing, renewing and terminating educational partnership arrangements between the University and educational partners.

This Policy establishes the governing principles for educational partnerships that are strategically aligned, academically sound, student-centred, financially sustainable, appropriately governed, risk-managed and compliant with legislative, regulatory and quality assurance obligations.

2 Scope

This Policy applies to educational partnership arrangements between the University and educational partners, including domestic, international, onshore, offshore, physical, digital and blended arrangements.

Educational partnership arrangements include:

- Articulation and Credit Transfer Pathways
- Packaged Offers
- Collaborative Arrangements
- International Study Hubs
- Coursework Dual Awards
- Coursework Joint Awards
- Third Party Education Arrangements
- Transnational Education Arrangements
- Other educational partnership arrangements approved by the University

Student placements, internships, Work Integrated Learning, Higher Degree by Research arrangements and individual ad hoc Credit decisions are outside scope except where specifically referenced through associated Procedures such as the Cotutelle PhD Program Procedure. Outbound global mobility programs are governed through separate University Procedures.

Partnership categories and minimum requirements are set out in the Partnership Classification and Requirements Schedule.

3 Policy Statement

The University establishes educational partnerships only where they align with its strategic priorities, protect academic standards, support a high-quality student experience and are supported by appropriate due diligence, risk management, approvals and written agreements.

The University remains accountable for the quality, integrity and compliance of education delivered with or by other parties, including compliance with *the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* (HESF) and, where applicable, the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS) Act* and *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*.

This Policy is supported by the Educational Partnerships Procedure, which sets out requirements for proposal development, assessment, approval, agreement execution, implementation, monitoring, review, renewal, termination and student transition.

4 Principles

4.1 Strategic Alignment

Educational partnerships must align with the University's values, strategic priorities, academic standards and risk appetite, and must demonstrate clear academic, strategic, student and business benefit.

4.2 Academic Quality and Integrity

The University will ensure that academic standards, Learning Outcomes, assessment practices, certification arrangements and quality assurance requirements are maintained regardless of location, delivery model or partner involvement.

4.3 Student Success and Experience

Educational partnerships must support student access, participation, equity, inclusion, retention, progression, completion, wellbeing and safety and promote safe and inclusive learning environments. Students must receive accurate, current and accessible information, support and transition arrangements appropriate to the nature of the arrangement.

4.4 Institutional Capacity and Readiness

The University will only establish educational partnership arrangements where it has the academic, professional, operational, technology, infrastructure, governance and financial capability required to support the proposed activity throughout its lifecycle.

4.5 Risk-Based Governance

Due diligence, risk management, approvals, monitoring and reporting must be proportionate to the arrangement's scale, complexity, risk, regulatory impact and level of external delivery.

The University may reclassify a partnership category where the scale, complexity or risk profile increases.

4.6 University Authority and Student Protection

Partnership arrangements must preserve the University's authority to maintain academic quality, review, change, amend or discontinue programs, meet regulatory obligations and protect students.

4.7 Accountability and Oversight

Educational partnerships must have clear ownership, assigned responsibilities, transparent decision-making and appropriate governance structures. Each Transnational Education Arrangement must be managed through a TNE partnership-specific committee chaired by the Head of School responsible for the relevant academic delivery. The committee must coordinate management across the academic, operational and commercial pillars and maintain oversight throughout the life of the arrangement.

4.8 Continuous Improvement

Educational partnerships will be monitored, reviewed and reported through appropriate governance processes. Review outcomes will inform quality improvement, renewal, amendment, discontinuation and future partnership decisions.

5 Governance Requirements

All educational partnerships must comply with the Educational Partnerships Procedure and subordinate schedules.

All educational partnerships must be supported by an appropriate written agreement. Agreements may range from non-binding memoranda of understanding or letters of intent to legally binding contracts, depending on the stage of discussion, partnership category, risk, complexity and range of activities.

At a minimum, agreements must define the purpose and scope of the arrangement, clarify the responsibilities of each party, support effective governance and oversight, provide for monitoring and review, address renewal, variation and termination, and protect students and the University.

Any exceptions to the University's Policy instruments required to support the arrangement must be approved through the relevant delegated authority, comply with regulatory obligations and be supported by an academic and risk rationale.

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Complying with the law and observing Policy and Procedure is a condition of working and/or studying at the University. A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled and may not be current as the University regularly reviews and updates its Policies and Policy Instruments. The latest controlled version can be found in the University's [Policy and Procedure Library](#).

6 Regulatory Compliance

Educational partnerships must comply with applicable legislative, regulatory, accreditation, professional standards and University Policy requirements, including where relevant:

- *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 (HESF)*
- *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*
- *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*
- *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018*
- *Higher Education Support Act 2003*
- *Australian Qualifications Framework*
- *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020* where applicable
- *Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)*
- Applicable foreign jurisdiction requirements
- Privacy, records, intellectual property, safety, wellbeing and cybersecurity obligations.

7 References

Nil.

8 Schedules

This policy must be read in conjunction with its subordinate schedules as provided in the table below.

9 Policy Information

Accountable Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education)
Responsible Officer	Dean (Curriculum and Quality)
Policy Type	Academic Quality Policy
Policy Suite	Cotutelle PhD Program Procedure Due Diligence, Risk and Assurance Schedule

	Educational Partnerships Procedure Governance, Delegations and Regulatory Compliance Schedule Partnership Approval Matrix Schedule Partnership Classification and Requirements Schedule Partnership Readiness Schedule
Subordinate Schedules	
Approved Date	
Effective Date	
Review Date	
Relevant Legislation	Australian Qualifications Framework Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 Higher Education Support Act 2003 Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011
Policy Exceptions	Policy Exceptions Register
Related Policies	Academic Programs and Courses Quality Policy Admissions, Enrolment and Graduations Policy Marketing and Brand Policy
Related Procedures	Admissions Procedure Cotutelle PhD Program Procedure Credit and Exemption Procedure

	Educational Partnerships Procedure English Language Proficiency Requirements Procedure Enrolment Procedure Higher Degree by Research Student Admissions and Enrolments Procedure Program Accreditation Procedure Transfer Between Providers Procedure Website Procedure
Related forms, publications and websites	Australian Qualifications Framework Educational Partnerships Establishment and Operational Guidelines Education Partner Application form – UniSQ service management system TEQSA – Material changes and other notifications TEQSA – Notifications required of providers with authorisation to provide Australian courses offshore
Definitions	Terms defined in the Definitions Dictionary Admission Articulation Articulation and Credit Transfer Pathways (For Approval) Qualifications pathways with educational partners that set out agreed Admission and/or Credit outcomes for qualifications which are fully or partially completed by Students at the educational partner and that lead towards a UniSQ Award. Award Collaborative Arrangement (For Approval) Arrangements between the University and an educational partner where the parties collaborate to provide an

	educational activity and each institution is responsible for its respective components. Collaborative Double Degree Course Coursework Program Credit Credit Transfer Dual Award International Student International Study Hubs (For Approval) An agreement with a partner institution to provide administrative, learning and student support services to Students studying the University's Programs online in an offshore jurisdiction. Teaching, delivery of the University's Course content or assessment activity is excluded unless separately approved under the relevant partnership category and regulatory requirements. Joint Award Learning Outcomes Packaged Offer (For approval) A Packaged Offer is an Admission offer combining two or more sequential Programs, such as an English language or foundation pathway Course, a vocational qualification followed by an undergraduate degree, or an undergraduate degree followed by a postgraduate degree. Progression into the final principal Program depends on successfully completing the first Program of study. Policy Procedure Student Third Party Education Arrangement (For approval – addition of Education to title)
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	An arrangement made by the University with another party (in Australia or overseas) to deliver some or all of a higher education program that leads to the Award of an Australian regulated higher education qualification. Third Party Provider (For approval – addition of Education within definition) A party with which the University has a Third Party Education Arrangement for the purposes of delivering some or all of a higher education program that leads to the award of an Australian regulated higher education qualification. Transnational Education Arrangement (For Approval) An educational arrangement where Students are located in a country outside Australia and undertake study at the University supported through one or more Transnational Education agreements. University
	Definitions that relate to this policy only
Keywords	Educational partnerships, partnership agreement, Third Party Education Arrangement, Third Party Provider, Third Party Arrangement, Transnational Education, offshore delivery, International Study Hubs, Coursework Dual Awards, Coursework Joint Awards
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