

Office of Quality, Standards
and Partnerships



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANUAL

Joint and Dual Awards

SECTION **07C**

Introduction

The University's Academic Partnerships Policy defines these as follows:

- **Joint Award:** This is defined as an arrangement whereby the University jointly develops and delivers a single programme with one or more degree-awarding bodies leading to a single qualification and certificate awarded jointly by both or all participants.
- **Double Award:** This is defined as an arrangement whereby the University jointly develops and delivers a single programme with one or more degree-awarding bodies as above but where there is a legal or regulatory impediment to the award of a single qualification and certificate awarded jointly by both or all participants, and so students are awarded two (or more) certificates, one from each degree-awarding body.
- **Dual Award:** This is defined as an arrangement whereby the University jointly develops and delivers a single, shared or concurrent programme with one or more degree-awarding bodies leading to separate qualifications and certificates being awarded by the University and one or more of the other degree-awarding bodies. These arrangements may also be referred to as double or multiple awards or degrees.
- Research degrees such as PhDs may be either joint or dual award arrangements.

The Academic Partnerships Policy sets out the principles governing Joint and Dual Awards.

Approval of Joint and Dual Awards

Proposals for new Joint and Dual Award partnerships must be approved by the International and Regional Partnerships Group (IRPG). A Partnership Proposal, signed by the relevant Head of College, must be submitted to IRPG.

As well as approval in principle from IRPG, a request for the joint or dual award must be made to Academic Board. Academic Board must approve the development of a joint or dual award before it can proceed to validation. Academic Board delegates scrutiny of these cases to Academic Affairs Committee.

For each arrangement a request must be made to Academic Affairs Committee outlining the benefits of the proposed arrangement to the University and explaining why the University could not achieve these benefits acting on its own.

The request presented should include:

- A clear statement as to whether it is a joint or dual award being sought;
- A statement outlining the history of the development of the link, the arguments for the proposal, the benefits of the proposed arrangement to the University and an explanation why the University could not achieve these benefits acting on its own;
- The reputation and status of the proposed partner and their experience of delivering joint or dual awards;
- The basis on which the proposed partner is able to enter into a joint or dual award relationship. This may be regulatory or legislative. Copies of regulations or legislative extracts may be appended to the statement. The Academic Partnerships Manager will assist with drafting this;
- A statement of endorsement from the relevant Head of College .

Once endorsed by Academic Board/approved by Academic Affairs Committee, proposals for taught joint or dual awards will move forward to Validation/Centre Approval/Approval to Deliver according to the principles and processes established in this manual and in Quality Assurance Manual 02 - *Programme Approval*. The Validation/Centre Approval/Approval to Deliver shall confirm the regulatory arrangements for the programme.

Once endorsed by Academic Board/approved by Academic Affairs Committee, proposals and agreements for research joint or dual awards (such as joint PhDs) should be progressed through the relevant College Research Degrees Board (CRDB) according to the University's published regulations and procedures. CRDB shall confirm the regulatory arrangements and the equivalency of examination arrangements for the programme and ensure that regulatory and examination arrangements are adequately captured in an agreement. The Academic Partnerships Manager will work with CRDB and the programme team to ensure that an appropriate agreement is drafted and, where appropriate, is formally approved by Academic Affairs Committee.