



**Academic Quality
Framework
Joint, Dual and Multiple
Awards Policy**

Approved by Academic Council

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1. Definitions

- 1.1 A *Joint Programme* is a single integrated curriculum developed and offered jointly by different education institutions. Successful completion of a Joint Programme can lead to a single award, a joint award or multiple awards.
- 1.2 A *Joint Award* is a single qualification awarded by two or more education institutes to those who successfully complete a Joint Programme.
- 1.3 *Multiple Awards* are where two or more education institutes delivering a joint programme, each awards a qualification to those who successfully complete the Joint Programme. Where two awards are made by two education institutes, this is referred to a “Double Award”.
- 1.4 A dual award refers to two qualifications awarded individually to those successfully completing two separate curricula, but there may be sharing of modules across the individual programmes or the mutual recognition of modules. Each education institute is responsible for its own programme and award. A *Dual Award* is not offered on the successful completion of a Joint Programme.

2. Principles

Joint Programmes

- 2.1 TU Dublin shall only engage in the development and delivery of a Joint Programme leading to Joint Award or Multiple Awards where each proposed partner has degree awarding powers at the level of the award being sought and has the legal right to enter into an agreement to offer Joint or Multiple Awards.
- 2.2 TU Dublin and the proposed collaborative provider(s) shall have successful existing provision in the discipline area and at the academic level of the proposed programme.
- 2.3 Each proposed partner will be in good standing in the qualifications system and education and training systems in all countries where they operate.
- 2.4 The proposed partner(s) shall have access, transfer and progression arrangements that are compatible with TU Dublin's arrangements.
- 2.5 Where applicable, the proposed partner(s) shall have arrangements for the protection of enrolled learners that meet statutory obligations.
- 2.6 The proposed partner(s) shall have their own established Assessment Regulations and QA procedures.
- 2.7 The ethos of the proposed partner(s) shall be compatible with TU Dublin.

- 2.8 The student supports provided in the partner institution(s) shall be comparable with TU Dublin.
- 2.9 The qualifications and experience of academic staff in the partner institution(s) shall be comparable to that of TU Dublin.
- 2.10 A Data Processing agreement can be put in place with the partner education institute so that students only have one point of admissions.
- 2.11 Where different grading systems are used, there will be agreement between partners for grade equivalencies.

Joint Awards

- 2.12 In the situation where TU Dublin is collaborating with another education institute to provide a Joint Programme, the preferred option is to present a Joint Award to those who successfully complete the Joint Programme.
- 2.13 The TU Dublin Award parchment and transcript will include “Joint Award” and the names of the other Higher Education Institutions involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme.

- 2.13 The Award parchments and transcripts from the other education Institutes involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme should also include “Joint Awards” and the names of the other education Institutes. If this is not possible because of local policy, this must be made clear in the Collaborative Provision proposal stage.
- 2.14 For a Joint programme to lead to a Joint Award, a minimum 25% of the ECTS credits must be delivered by each partner institution¹. The ECTS credits associated with project work and placements may contribute towards the 25% requirement. This means for an undergraduate fulltime degree programme at least one full year should be completed within each partner institution and for a Masters programme at least one full semester is completed within each partner institution.

Multiple Awards

- 2.15 If there are policy, funding or local legislative reasons, a Double or Multiple award can be considered by Academic Council. In this case, the rationale and reasons for not for offering a Joint Award must be clearly articulated in the Collaborative Provision documentation submitted to Academic Affairs.
- 2.16 The TU Dublin Award parchment and transcript will include “Double Award” or “Multiple Award” and the name(s) of the other education institute(s) involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme.

- 2.17 The Award parchments and transcripts from the other education institute(s) involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme should also include “Double Award” or “Multiple Award” and the name(s) of the other education institutes. If this is not possible because of local policy, this must be made clear in the Collaborative Provision proposal stage.
- 2.18 The Multiple Awards shall be equivalent in standing in terms of national and international recognition.
- 2.19 To be presented Multiple Awards, a minimum 25% of the ECTS credits must be delivered by each partner institution². The ECTS credits associated with project work and placements may contribute towards the 25% requirement. This means for an undergraduate fulltime degree programme at least one full year should be completed within each partner institution and for a Masters programme at least one full semester is completed within each partner institution.

For a joint research programme, such as an MPhil or PhD, please see [Postgraduate Research Regulations](#) for the equivalent requirements.

Dual Awards

- 2.20 The preferred option for the University is to develop Joint Programmes leading to Joint Awards, and not to enter into agreements that lead to Dual Awards. However, for reasons associated with funding sources or local policy, the University will consider entering into collaborative provision arrangements leading to Dual Awards.
- 2.21 As one of the main purposes of Dual Awards is to ensure the graduate has qualifications that are easily recognised in different countries, TU Dublin will normally only enter into collaborative provision agreements leading to Dual Awards with education institutes outside of Ireland.
- 2.22 Any proposal to enter into a collaborative provision agreement with another education institute that leads to Dual Awards must include a rationale for the sharing or mutual recognition of modules and consideration of how double counting of ECTS credits is addressed.