

## CLOSURE OF COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

### 5.2 CRITERIA FOR CLOSURE

- I. Recommendations for the suspension or permanent closure of a programme may be based on one or more of the following criteria:

- **Viability of the programme**

- Poor student recruitment
- Inadequate resources
- Financial non-viability
- Changing market
- Changing requirements within the subject discipline
- The introduction of a replacement programme
- Concerns over the collaborative partner

- **Quality Assurance Issues**

Recommendation for suspension or permanent closure of a programme may be made where serious concerns are identified and evidenced formally:

- By an External Examiner
- By a professional or statutory body
- By the QAA
- By an Academic Link Tutor for a collaborative programme
- As part of the annual monitoring processes

- **Concerns over a partner institution in respect of a collaborative programme**

The University may recommend suspension or permanent closure of a collaborative programme where serious concerns are expressed formally over the capacity or commitment of a collaborative partner institution to deliver the programme in accordance with University of Buckingham quality assurance and enhancement procedures and/or the validated programme handbook.

- II. It is expected that potential programme closures would normally be identified through the annual monitoring process and would be initiated, wherever possible, in advance of any recruitment activities for a new cohort of students.

- III. A recommendation for the suspension or closure of a programme should be submitted to UCC by the Collaborations Department or Link Tutor, including details of:
- The basis on which the recommendation has been reached
  - Any risk assessment of the impact of any closure and evidence of consultation with relevant departments
  - Discussion between the University and the collaborative partner about the proposed recommendation
  - The proposed arrangements for current students, including evidence that the students have been consulted on these proposals where appropriate, and any applicants to the course.
- IV. In the case of programmes which have Academic Link Tutors from more than one school, agreement must be reached by both, or all, on the recommendation to close
- V. The recommendation will normally be considered by the UCC, and a recommendation will be presented to the School Board and School Learning & Teaching Committee on the proposed arrangements for current students and any prospective applicants. The standard Form for Closure should be used as per internal arrangements.
- VI. The recommendation for suspension or closure will then be reported to Senate, and the Collaborative Partner will be informed of the decision.
- VII. Following the approval of the arrangements for programme suspension or closure, formal notice will be served on the collaborative partner institution in accordance with the terms set down in the Agreement.