

## OVERVIEW

### 1.3 DEFINITIONS OF COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- I. The following fall within in the University's definition of collaborative provision where the University is the awarding institution and therefore holds responsibility for the quality assurance and academic standards of the programmes delivered:
  - *Franchise*: this is where the University as the awarding institution, authorises the delivery of the whole or part of one of its own approved programmes for delivery by a partner institution. The University retains overall and direct responsibility for the programme's content and delivery.
  - *Validation*: this is where a programme is validated by the University for external delivery by the partner institution. The programme could be developed jointly with the University or wholly by the partner.
  - *Dual Award*: this is where two or more awarding institutions together provide programmes leading to separate awards made by each of the awarding institutions, possibly under separate regulations for each award.
  - *Joint Award*: this is where two or more awarding institutions together provide programmes leading to a single award made jointly by both, or all, participants.
- II. The University also recognises the following types of collaboration which are managed at departmental level within the relevant schools:
  - *Articulations*: this is where all students who satisfy academic criteria on one programme are automatically entitled on academic grounds to be admitted onto a subsequent stage of a programme of a degree awarding body.
  - *Placements*: this is where students are placed in a work environment, including those in industry, those required for teaching education, experience necessary for qualifications in the health professions (including those for a Primary Medical Qualification) and continuing professional development.
  - Postgraduate research degrees with co-supervision at another institution.
  - *Study Abroad*: this includes exchanges and student mobility programmes such as ERASMUS.
- III. The University's current portfolio of collaborations includes arrangements with a number of national and international partners. Its procedures for assuring quality and standards are consistent with the guidelines in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education: Advice and Guidance, Partnerships. Collaborative proposals are considered by the appropriate committees, during which an assessment is made of the conditions which are necessary to enable the proposed collaboration to succeed and the extent of the due diligence required. The assessment will include the financial, legal, academic and reputational risks to the University and consideration of the resource implications of the proposed collaboration, both in terms of the initial investigation and development stages and the ongoing oversight.

The Executive Committee must be satisfied that any institution seeking to collaborate with the University of Buckingham is of sufficient standing that the University will not be discredited by association with it and that the partner institution has sufficient resources to teach the programme(s) to a level comparable with other equivalent awards made by the University. The

academic objectives of the institution seeking the collaboration should also be compatible with those of the University.

All proposals for collaborative arrangements must be conducted according to the University's Procedure as detailed in Section Two of this handbook. This gives details of the factors that must be taken into account when setting up a collaborative partnership and when such a partnership is internally or externally audited. The procedure ensures that the academic standards of awards made under a collaborative arrangement are equivalent to the University's own awards and meet the expectations of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.