

## UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

### SENATE

#### **University of Plymouth institutional oversight of TDAP/FDAP applications made by University partners**

University HE partners are eligible, after a qualifying period of operating HE Levels 5 and/or 6, to apply to the Privy Council for Foundation Degree Awarding Powers (FDAP) or Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP), thus permitting them to award qualifications in their own name.

Until a partner has been granted its own powers the University retains absolute responsibility for the maintenance of academic standards of awards made via the partnership. Balanced against this is the recognition that partners may naturally wish to develop their own institutional regulations and procedures, which may diverge from those of the University, as they work towards being able to make their own awards. Partners may wish to implement these new regulations **prior** to being awarded FDAP/TDAP.

The University must therefore continue to discharge its responsibility for standards whilst enabling partners to establish the foundations on which they will operate in the future, according to their own institutional strategy.

Academic regulations are a key element of assuring our academic standards. Currently, the majority of partners operate the University's standard academic regulations and procedures, although exceptions to this may occur where wholesale adoption of University requirements is not appropriate. The University also approves more limited exceptions to its overall regulations where these are necessary to meet PSRB requirements, for example. Any new regulatory frameworks proposed by partners which are intended to be implemented in advance of FDAP/TDAP being granted must be approved by the University, as at that stage students are still registered on PU awards.

Academic Board (now Senate) therefore approved the following approach in March 2015:

- Where a partner institution which has signalled that, as part of its FDAP/TDAP preparations, it wishes to introduce its own academic regulations/procedures prior to DAP being granted, it will be permitted to do so provided any such regulations and associated procedures are approved by the University Senate prior to introduction. [NB From 2015/16 the responsibility for approving regulations and associated procedures passed to the University Teaching, Learning and Quality Committee]

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- An institution may opt to retain some PU awards even after being granted FDAP/TDAP. In these cases, the partner must continue to apply the approved University academic regulations and procedures to students on those awards. As is the case at present, the University will consider request for exceptions to its standards regulations.
- Once a partner has informed the University that it will be making an application for FDAP/TDAP, Academic Partnerships will convene a Steering Group with the following Terms of Reference:

Academic Partnerships TDAP/FDAP Transition Steering Group Terms of Reference

1. To provide University of Plymouth oversight of the progress of a partner institution towards gaining TDAP/FDAP
2. To clarify the strategic intent that TDAP/FDAP delivers for a partner institution, the implications for the University of Plymouth and the current partnership arrangements
3. To clarify the timeframe over which the application for and deployment of TDAP/FDAP is intended to take place
4. To clarify and agree the University of Plymouth's contribution to the partner's preparation for TDAP/FDAP
5. To assess the number and type of current University of Plymouth awards / students that will be affected by the partner utilising TDAP/FDAP and any transitional arrangements needed
6. To clarify the ongoing focus and strategic priorities of the partner /University of Plymouth relationship following the award of TDAP/FDAP, including non programme collaborations
7. To ensure any ongoing partner / University of Plymouth collaboration is effectively governed by relevant regulations, policies, agreements and financial planning
8. To ensure that relevant University of Plymouth staff and committees are informed of the partner's progress towards TDAP/FDAP and relevant contributions coordinated
9. To coordinate related public information and communication with external stakeholders

Academic Partnerships

March 2015

2018-2019  
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