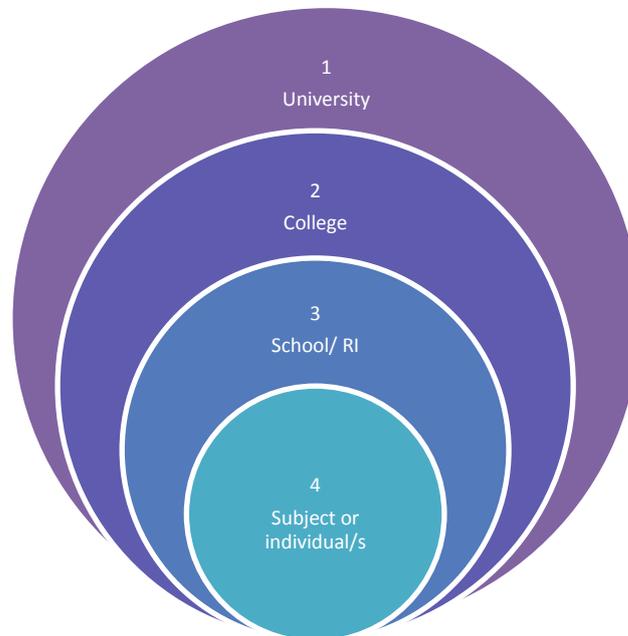




The Four Tiers of International Partnership

1.1 Four tiers of partnership activity have been established



Tier 1: Institutional strategic partnerships

- Often developed from the top down, enshrined in a formal agreement with the partner institution, funded centrally and spanning a range of activities.
- Such a relationship is always with a peer institution with which the university is keen to partner. It will have a good international reputation and standing, at least comparable with the University itself or be pre-eminent within its domestic context in the case of institutions in emerging markets.
- Strategic partnerships of this kind are expected to involve more than one College and include a range of activity including research, teaching partnerships and student exchange programmes.

Tier 2: College partnerships

- Partnerships of this kind are expected to involve two or more Schools or subject areas and span more than one principal area of activity e.g. research, collaborative programmes, staff or student mobility.
- They will normally be identified and prioritised within the appropriate Regional Plan.
- It is not essential that the overall international ranking of the institution is uniformly high, but it is to be expected that it has internationally recognised status in the discipline(s) concerned.

Tier 3: School (or RI) partnerships

- Alliances where the teaching or research interests of the partner are complementary and offer a good basis for collaboration in teaching or research.
- Such partnerships may receive university support, for example from the International Partnership Development Fund (IPDF) but will usually be funded from within the School itself.
- Articulation agreements may also be included (e.g. 2+2, 4+1 arrangements) which make a valuable contribution to the achievement of College recruitment targets by creating managed channels of recruitment with trusted partners.
- This type of partnership is likely to remain a single strand of activity rather than encompassing areas such as research collaboration. There will still be potential to grow to the level of Tier 2 Partnership but this is unlikely in the short term.

Tier 4: Subject or individual research or teaching collaboration

- Alliances between individual or small groups of academic staff, which may have developed through shared research interests, meeting at conferences, collaboration in publications etc.
- These currently amount to a vast number of existing links and memoranda of understanding, many of which will not necessarily be centrally recorded. These relationships are encouraged to stimulate exchange of ideas and expertise with peers from around the world.