

Validation

Definition

Validation is the process by which the University judges that a programme developed and delivered by another institution without degree awarding powers is of an appropriate quality and standard to lead to a University of Glasgow award at a specified level and that the necessary resources are available to support the delivery of the programme.

The University will not normally enter into any new validation arrangements.

Common features

- The partner institution does not have degree awarding powers.
- The partner institution is responsible for the design and delivery of the programme, learning resources, student support, for the quality of the student learning experience, and for financial matters.
- The partner institution is responsible for the recruitment and selection of students. These are 'associate¹ students' of the University, registered with a partner institution and have limited access to University resources such as the University library and the sports facilities.
- The University is responsible for approving: entry standards to the programme; the design of the programme; arrangements for its delivery; and mechanisms for quality assurance and enhancement.
- A University of Glasgow qualification is awarded. Consequently, the University is responsible for ensuring that the output standards of the award are equivalent to those for the same or a similar award for its own programmes. If it does not have a comparable programme of its own, it is responsible for ensuring that the output standards of the award are compatible with similar programmes in the rest of the sector.
- The University is ultimately accountable for the quality and standards of the provision but delegates agreed levels of operational responsibility to the partner institution; The nature and level of direct supervision or delegated responsibility and quality and standards monitoring of the partner institution's programme by the University is determined on the basis of the University's assessment of the partner institution's own quality assurance systems and its experience of higher education;
- Students are subject to the regulations of the partner institution in relation to student conduct (non academic) and complaints. As the University is the awarding body, students have access to its academic appeal procedures in the final stages, once they have exhausted the registering institution's processes.²
- A Joint Board or Liaison Committee (depending on the level of delegated responsibility) oversees the operation and management of the validation arrangement.

¹ In some cases programmes may be jointly delivered. Students on joint programmes may have different levels of access to facilities. This will be reflected in MoA.

² This may differ for Associated Institutions – reflected in MoA

- A validation arrangement is a complex collaboration, can take some time to develop and can be resource heavy both in terms of initial set up and the on-going management.

Stage and Level of approval

Type of arrangement	Stage/Level of approval
All validation arrangements	Stage 3 (Senate)

A site visit to the partner institution will also be required.

What is needed for approval, implementation, monitoring and review?

The University has a separate [Code of Practice for Validated Provision](#). This sets out the detailed arrangements for establishing, approving, managing and monitoring a validation arrangement.

You should note, however, that the University is not currently seeking any new validation arrangements and speculative applications will normally be declined.

Type of Agreement

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is required for a validation arrangement which is signed by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor or his nominee.

Key Contacts

You should contact the Academic Collaborations Office (ACO).

Examples

The University currently has validation arrangements with the following institutions, all of which are UK-based:

- [The Glasgow School of Art](#)
- [Scotland's Rural College](#)
- [Christie's Education](#)
- [Edinburgh Theological Seminary](#)