

Section 10

Nottingham Trent University

Quality Handbook

**Part C: Assuring and
enhancing quality**

**Section 10: Working with
others**

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1. Contextual statement

The University retains ultimate responsibility for academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities of all awards made in its name.

Requirements

- 1.1 Section 10 of the Quality Handbook (QH) covers all the University's awards offered through arrangements with others.
- 1.2 Section 10 is divided into six sub-sections, covering a broad range of types of provision delivered with others. These sub-sections are as follows:
 - a. Section 10A: Partnerships
 - b. Section 10B: School-based collaborative provision
 - c. Section 10C: Validation Service collaborative provision
 - d. Section 10D: Placements
 - e. Section 10E: Online learning in partnership with Wiley
 - f. Section 10F: Higher education apprenticeships
- 1.3 Section 10E does not apply to online learning courses delivered outside the Wiley partnership.

2. Categories of working with others

All arrangements delivered with others are specified according to a set of University defined categories.

- 2.1 The University's definition of collaborations and partnerships is based on that used by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and is:
 - a. Educational provision leading to a University award, or to specific credit towards a University award, delivered and / or supported and / or assessed through an arrangement with a partner organisation.
- 2.2 There are five categories of partnership as follows:
 - a. Distance Delivery
 - b. Articulation
 - c. Foundation Degree Progression
 - d. Nottingham Trent International College Progression
 - e. School-Centred Initial Teacher Training

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- 2.3 There are five categories of School-based collaborative provision as follows:
- Franchise
 - Joint delivery
 - Joint / double degree
 - Dual degree
 - Joint / double PhD / MPhil
- 2.4 Validation service, placements, online learning delivered in partnership with Wiley, and higher education apprenticeships are not split into separate categories, but instead cover specific types of provision delivered with others. Higher education apprenticeships may be delivered as part of a school-based collaboration.
- 2.5 The collaborative relationship between NTU and Wiley for the delivery of online learning is governed by a Collaborative Operational Document and Legal Agreement, which enable the delivery of fully online learning leading to NTU awards (at postgraduate level). NTU is responsible for the design, delivery and assessment of all courses; Wiley provides the online platform and associated support.

3. Strategy

Provision delivered with others aligns to the University's overarching strategy.

Requirements

- 3.1 The strategy for the development of provision delivered with others is aligned to the following:
- The University Strategic Plan;
 - University Internationalisation Strategy;
 - Steering Group outcomes (where applicable).
- 3.2 Online learning courses delivered in partnership with Wiley, and higher education apprenticeships broadly align to the policies set out in University's Quality Handbook (subject to the exceptions as outlined in this QH Section).

4. Governance

The Academic Standards and Quality Committee (ASQC) maintains overall academic oversight of provision delivered with others, on behalf of Academic Board. Oversight is delegated from ASQC to relevant sub-committees.

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The University Research Committee (URC) maintains overall academic oversight of research degree provision delivered with others. Oversight is delegated from URC to the University Research Degrees Committee (URDC).

Requirements

- 4.1 Oversight of partnerships and School-based collaborative provision is delegated to both the Collaborations and Partnerships Sub-Committee (CPSC) and to School Academic Standards and Quality Committees (SASQCs).
- 4.2 Oversight of validation service collaborative provision is delegated to the Validation Service Sub-Committee (VSSC).
- 4.3 Oversight of online learning delivered in partnership with Wiley is delegated both to SASQCs and to the Cross-School Standards and Quality Sub-Committee (X-SASQC). X-SASQC retains oversight of the provision as a whole, whilst SASQCs retain responsibility for oversight of the individual courses.
- 4.4 Oversight of higher education apprenticeships is delegated to SASQCs.
- 4.5 The Centre for Academic Development and Quality (CADQ) contribute to academic oversight of provision delivered with others, on behalf of ASQC.

Explanatory notes

- The University governance structure and terms of reference for each committee are set out in QH Section 1 and its supplements.

5. Register of collaborations and partnerships

A record of all the University's collaborations and partnerships, including validation service, is maintained on a central register.

Requirements

- 5.1 The register is maintained by CADQ on behalf of ASQC.
- 5.2 Ongoing oversight of the accuracy of the register is undertaken by:
 - a. CPSC for partnerships and School-based collaborative provision;
 - b. VSSC for validation service collaborative provision; and
 - c. URDC for research degrees delivered with others.
- 5.3 SASQCs contribute to the update and accuracy of the register through formal communications with CADQ and the associated sub-committees.

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5.4 Courses delivered in partnership with Wiley, placements and higher education apprenticeships are not included in the collaborative register. Separate records of these arrangements are maintained by the appropriate departments.

6. Business evaluation and due diligence

All provision delivered with others, and provision that is due for periodic review, is subject to proportionate business evaluation and due diligence processes.

Requirements

- 6.1 Business evaluation and due diligence is completed, and approval given to proceed before academic approval or periodic review takes place.
- 6.2 Due diligence is the responsibility of the College(s) involved in the arrangement.
- 6.3 Business evaluation for UK collaborations and partnerships, including validation service arrangements is the responsibility of the relevant School(s), in partnership with CADQ and the Head of Apprenticeships and UK College Partnerships (where applicable).
- 6.4 Business evaluation for international collaborations and partnerships, including validation service is the joint responsibility of NTU Global and the relevant School(s).
- 6.5 Business evaluation and due diligence for UK collaborations and partnerships is considered by, and the final outcome decided upon by, the UK Collaborations Business Evaluation Group (UKBEG) after approval has been given by the School and College.
- 6.6 Business evaluation and due diligence for international collaborations and partnerships is considered by, and the final outcome decided upon by, the University Internationalisation Committee (UIC) after approval has been by the School and College.
- 6.7 The University Online Learning Steering Group makes decisions about new online learning provision to be delivered in partnership with Wiley.
- 6.8 Higher education apprenticeships are subject to the University's standard business evaluation processes. Support is available from the Apprenticeships Team.
- 6.9 Research degree collaborations are subject to bespoke business planning that is proportionate to the type of arrangement (see QHS SB11).

Explanatory notes

- Guidance on due diligence is available from College Finance and Planning Managers.

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- Guidance on business evaluation for collaborations and partnerships can be obtained from CADQ and NTU Global.
- Information about online learning in partnership with Wiley can be obtained from the Online and Flexible Learning Development Manager.

7. Serial franchising or sub-contracting

Serial franchising or sub-contracting is not permitted.

Requirements

- 7.1 The University does not permit any partner to approve another institution or body to deliver or assess its University approved provision without express written permission.

Explanatory note

- This requirement is set out in the written legal agreement between the University and the partner.

8. Legal agreements

Provision delivered with others is subject to a proportionate agreement between the partner institution and the University.

Agreements are signed after academic approval has taken place and before the arrangement commences.

Requirement

- 8.1 Institutional agreements for partnerships and collaborations are drawn up by the School/College using a standard template, in liaison with CADQ / NTU Global and Legal Services.
- 8.2 Institutional agreements for UK validation service arrangements with Further Education Colleges are drawn up by CADQ in liaison with the College, and Legal Services.
- 8.3 Online learning in partnership with Wiley is subject to a signed legal agreement between the two institutions.

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- 8.4 In the case of joint PhD / MPhil degree an individual co-tutelle agreement is signed by both institutions and the student.
- 8.5 Agreements have a defined lifespan depending upon the type of arrangement.
- 8.6 Agreements must not be signed until after academic approval is complete, however they should be negotiated beforehand to ensure that commencement of the arrangement is not delayed.
- 8.7 No collaboration or partnership should commence until an agreement has been signed.
- 8.8 Collaborative agreements are signed by the University approved signatories as set out in the University's Authorities Manual, with the exception of agreements for Validation Service provision which must be signed by the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellors. Apprenticeship commitment statements are signed by the course leader, the apprentice and the employer.

9. Withdrawal and teach-out

When a collaboration or partnership is being withdrawn from, or terminated, appropriate teach-out processes are put into place to ensure that the interests of the students are protected.

Requirements

- 9.1 Conditions for withdrawal from a collaboration or partnership (by either partner) and the negotiated exit strategy, are set out in the Legal Agreement between NTU and the partner. This includes where courses are no longer meeting the University's requirements for the quality and standards of its awards.
- 9.2 School-based collaborations follow the collaborative provision withdrawal and teach out processes, which are aligned to the University's withdrawal and teach-out processes for its own provision, as set out in QHS SB7.
- 9.3 Validation Service collaborative provision follows the Validation Service withdrawal and teach-out processes, which are aligned to the University's withdrawal and teach-out processes for its own provision, as set out in QHS VS11.
- 9.4 Partnerships, courses delivered in partnership with Wiley, placements and higher education apprenticeships are subject to the university's standard withdrawal and teach-out processes as defined in QHS 5G.
- 9.5 Where a University course is being withdrawn, the SASQC should consider the impact of withdrawal on any collaboration, partnership or apprenticeship arrangement.

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Policy owner
CADQ

Change history			
<i>Version:</i>	<i>Approval date:</i>	<i>Implementation date:</i>	<i>Nature of significant revisions:</i>
Sept 2016	30.09.16	01.10.16	New section Changes to oversight of Collaborative Register
Sept 2017	12.09.17	01.10.17	Addition of higher education apprenticeships Title change to 10D: placements
Sept 2018	12.09.18	01.10.18	Further embedding of higher education apprenticeships throughout

Equality Impact Assessment		
<i>Version:</i>	<i>EIA date:</i>	<i>Completed by:</i>
Sept 2016	NA	