

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

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ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item 8

COVER SHEET

AFFILIATE STUDENT STATUS AND HESA REPORTING

To note the process for registering students with Affiliate (Ulster University Overseas Student) Status.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

### **Affiliate (Ulster University Overseas Student) Status and the 2+2 in-country Outcentre Model**

#### Purpose of paper:

For ASQEC to note the process for registering students with Affiliate (Ulster University Overseas Student) Status from year 1 where they are studying (in-country) at a Transnational Outcentre, as per the DUFE 2+2 in-country model.

#### Context:

In 2019, Senate approved a new Affiliate Student status which is aligned to collaborative provision at Affiliate Colleges. Senate also approved the subcategory of Ulster University Overseas Student for students studying overseas via Franchised or Outcentre provision. These students would belong to Ulster University but with some restrictions on their rights and privileges (Annex 1). Crucially, these students would still retain access to electronic library resources and to Blackboard Learn; however, consideration was not given to HESA reporting at that time which raised challenges for the DUFE model in terms of Library licensing and access to resources.

#### DUFE model:

The recently-approved DUFE partnership is based on a 2+2 in-country Outcentre model whereby students articulate into Ulster (UUBS) courses in year 3. At this point, they would normally acquire Affiliate (UU Overseas Student) status. However, the Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) required DUFE students studying on these pathways to be given Affiliate (UU Overseas Student) status from year 1, with the associated privileges. Specifically, access to Ulster's electronic library and Blackboard Learn.

A working group was convened to explore the most appropriate way to enable this status with associated privileges, whilst aligning with appropriate HESA reporting categories. An initial idea was to set up an occasional course code to enable B00 numbers with access to the portal, email and Blackboard. However, it was concluded that learners associated with this code would not be HESA returnable as there would be no HE credit associated with it. Students would be classified as 'articulating students' only, and the current library licence would not cover these additional cohorts.

#### Solutions:

Given that a proportion of modules in years 1 and 2 of the DUFE course(s) are to be delivered by Ulster Recognised Teachers (a requirement of MoE), there was scope for these modules to be registered on credit-bearing provision to enable HESA reporting. DUFE also required for credit accumulation, from these modules, to be captured in some way.

Consequently, for 2+2 Transnational Outcentre (in-country) models such as DUFE, two course registration options for Affiliate students were identified, and both are viable in terms of HESA Aggregate Offshore Collection (AOC) reporting:

- i. a credit-bearing course code with no terminal award (i.e. use of Faculty UG Credit course codes) or;
- ii. an award-bearing (Certificate) course code on the Flexible Framework

Regardless which option (i. or ii.) is pursued, faculty colleagues should liaise with Planning to set up distinct Course Codes so that learners can be identified and: a) excluded from the main HESA Student Collection and; b) included in the HESA AOC. This is a critical step as inclusion in the HESA AOC determines student coverage under library licensing agreements.

For the DUFE programme(s), the credit-bearing Course Code option was chosen and the original DUFE course code was populated with (RUT-delivered) credit-bearing modules using the CA9 process. This unique Course Code (for DUFE) is listed on Banner and students would receive B00 numbers with portal, email and Blackboard access. These Ulster modules delivered by RUTs would be given module instance CRN codes. Further RUT delivered modules could be added to the Course Code for year 2 so that DUFE students would stay on the HESA return for both years. Students would transfer to the main degree programme at the articulation point at year 3. Separate Course Codes would then be established for the 2 pathways on the main programme: one for in-country, one for home campus. Additionally, the course would be nil fee overseas partner status, so students will not be charged (additional) fees for these modules. As Affiliate students from year 1, and fully registered students from year 3, students would then have access to Ulster's electronic library resources for the duration of their study with no impact on current library licence arrangements.

The credit-bearing course code option was deemed suitable in this context due to the limited number of Ulster modules delivered in the first 2 years. It would be unlikely for students to accumulate enough credit for an award in this instance.

Students on fully franchised Ulster awards, including through international partners e.g. City College, Doha, will be registered on an award-bearing course from day 1 and will have Affiliate (UU Overseas Student) status with access to all resources.

This solution meets the requirements of: the Chinese Ministry of Education; our DUFE partner; as well as HESA reporting and library licensing processes. It is proposed that all future non-UK Outcentre collaborations, similar to the DUFE 2+2 in-country model follow this arrangement.

*Transnational Outcentre provision: where the University uses the premises of another organisation to deliver all or part of the programme. In addition, the University may contract with the institution to use its staff to teach or otherwise support delivery or may contract with a recruitment agency to appoint Recognised Teachers. Students belong to the University but with some restrictions on rights and privileges.*

**Table 1: HESA Reporting Status – DUFE example in green**

		Franchised	Outcentre	Validated
UK-Based	UU Campus	Branch (LON, BIR)	UU NI (BT, MG, JN, CE)	No
	HESA	Student	Student	No
Non-UK	UU Campus	Branch (DHA)	UU NI (BT, MG, JN, CE)	No
	HESA	AOC (TYPE=1)	AOC (TYPE=2)	AOC (TYPE=4)

**NOTE:**

*Student = HESA Student Collection*

*AOC = Aggregate Offshore Collection*

**Annex 1 - Student Status Mapping for Collaborative Provision**

	Collaborative Model			
	Validated	Franchise (UK)	Outcentre (UK)	Transnational Franchise/ Outcentre
	Student Status			
General Regulations	Associate Student	Affiliate Student	Ulster Student	UU Overseas Student
Borrowing and access rights in the University Library*	x	x	x	x
Access to University electronic journals, books and databases		x	x	x
Access to University online services e.g. BBL, Turnitin, Studiosity		x	x	x
Membership of the University sports centre (subject to payment) *	x	x	x	x
Entitlement to join the University's Sports Union	x		x	
Right of appeal and complaint to the University		x	x	x
Right of appeal and complaint to university following completion of internal procedures of the partner institution where appeals shall only be heard on the grounds of procedural irregularity	x			
Entitlement to join the Students; Union			x	

Access to University bursaries, scholarships, prizes or other financial support packages offered by the University			<b>x</b>	
Access to University academic and pastoral support, including careers guidance and counselling			<b>x</b>	
Access to off-campus counselling services (i.e. Inspire)		<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Eligibility for the privileges afforded to the families of registered students of the University			<b>x</b>	

*\*Affiliate and UU Overseas students may have **access** to the library, sports facilities should they have the opportunity to visit Ulster University within their enrolment period.*