

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/19/23

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

17 June 2019

Agenda Item 14

PROPOSAL FOR AN AFFILIATE STUDENT STATUS

COVER SHEET

*In attendance to present: Mrs N Bartholomew*

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below.

To receive a discussion paper for a proposal for an Affiliate Student status for students at Affiliate Colleges.

Discussion Paper:  
Proposal for an Affiliate Student Status for students at Affiliate Colleges

This paper raises an emergent issue concerning the status of students within different models of collaborative provision, particularly with international partners. The paper invites a discussion on a proposal to add an additional level of student status aligned to collaborative provision at Affiliate Colleges.

The University's Regulations for the Enrolment of Students currently identifies two levels of student status. Students can either be registered students of the University with full privileges and rights, or they are accorded Associate Student status with restricted privileges.

Associate Student status is accorded to students of partner institutions leading to University awards under the Validated model of collaborative provision. Associate students have restricted privileges as it is the responsibility of the validated partner to provide the necessary resources and support. Validated partners are typically well-established education institutions with well-developed policies and procedures and are well placed to supply this support.

Under current Regulations, students of Affiliate Colleges, on franchised programmes, are identified as Registered Students of the University with full rights and privileges. Due to the growth of business within the international market, and the range of potential providers, it is proposed that full student status may no longer be appropriate for this domain. This is due to the economic viability of remote provision, and the logistics of international students being able to access the full range of support from Ulster University.

Although the responsibility for the provision of information resources and student support ultimately lies with the Affiliate College, potential partners within the franchise domain may be private organisations or institutions that are not so well-established as validated partners. The University must still be assured that appropriate levels of support are offered to students on franchised programmes, therefore the rights and privileges will be greater than those accorded to Associate Students. A new 'Affiliate Student' category would enable access to core academic support, namely all online resources and rights of complaint and appeal directly to the University. Affiliate students may also avail of sports facilities should they have the opportunity to travel to Ulster University within their enrolment period. The proposed rights and privileges afforded to Affiliate Students are outlined in the student status mapping grid (Annex 1). This mapping grid also aligns the different collaborative models to the different levels of student status.

The Due Diligence process is applied prior to approval of collaborative provision to ensure that the University is satisfied of standards, quality and the capacity of the proposed partner to offer the proposed programme.

Outcentre provision currently recognises students as belonging to the University, with full rights and privileges. The University may use the premises of another organisation to deliver all or part of the programme. However, Outcentres may also have under-developed in-country infrastructure for student support. In these circumstances, there is scope to grant students Affiliate status. This may better represent the deliverable and accessible support available to those students.

The proposed general regulations for Affiliate Students are identified in Annex 2.

## Annex 1 - Student Status Mapping for Collaborative Provision

	<b>Collaborative Model</b>		
	Outcentre	Validated	Franchise
	<b>Student Status</b>		
<b>General Regulations</b>	Ulster Student	Associate Student	Affiliate Student
Borrowing and access rights in the University Library*	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Access to University electronic journals, books and databases	<b>x</b>		<b>x</b>
Access to University online services e.g. VLE, Turnitin, Studiosity	<b>x</b>		<b>x</b>
Membership of the University sports centre (subject to payment) *	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Entitlement to join the University's Sports Union *	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Right of appeal and complaint to the University	<b>x</b>		<b>x</b>
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		<b>x</b>	
Entitlement to join the Students; Union	<b>x</b>		
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>
Eligibility for the privileges afforded to the families of registered students of the University	<b>x</b>		

*\*Affiliate students studying overseas may have access to the library, sports facilities should they have the opportunity to travel to Ulster University within their enrolment period.*

## Annex 2

### GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR AFFILIATE STUDENTS

- 1 Affiliate Students are persons who have been formally admitted to an Affiliate College to study franchise programmes developed and approved by Ulster University but delivered at the franchise partner institution. Affiliate College status will have been approved under Ordinance XVIII Recognition of Institutions
- 2 Affiliate students shall be subject to the rules and regulations of Ulster University.
- 3 Upon payment of the appropriate charges by the partner institution in accordance with Ordinance XXIX a student record shall be created for each affiliate student. Affiliate students shall be accorded the following rights and privileges of the University:
  - a) borrowing and access rights in the University's Library. Access to the University's electronic journals (i.e. databases, electronic journals and electronic books);
  - b) access to the University's Virtual Learning Environment and other electronic study skills support i.e. Studiosity and Turnitin;
  - c) entitlement to membership of the University's sports centre, subject to payment of the appropriate charge by the individual student;
  - d) right of appeal and complaint to the University.
- 4 Affiliate students shall not:
  - a) be eligible for membership of the Students' Union nor the University's Sports Union;
  - b) have access to University bursaries, scholarships, prizes or other financial support packages offered by the University;
  - c) have direct access to University academic and pastoral support, including careers guidance and counselling;
  - d) be eligible for the privileges afforded to the families of registered students of the University.
- 5 Affiliate students shall be subject to the Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the University, including the Student Discipline procedure as set out in Ordinance XLI, while using University facilities or present on University premises. Conduct outside the University which brings, or is liable to bring, discredit upon the University or disrupts or interferes with the normal working and good order of the University or impedes members or employees of the University going about their lawful University business or results in substantial complaints from the general public or responsible authorities outside the University will also be considered a breach of University discipline.
- 6 Affiliate student status shall cease when a student ceases to study for an award of the University at a partner institution or the status has been revoked by or on behalf of the Council and Senate of the University.