

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING JOINT PROGRAMMES ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

Preamble

1. The HKIE Accreditation Board notes the increasing trend of joint initiatives among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across jurisdictions. One of these initiatives is to develop joint programmes through their existing accredited programmes. Such programmes can enhance the learning experience and widen the horizon of students in different learning environments. The Accreditation Board welcomes the availability of high-quality joint programmes, but it is also the duty of the Board to ensure that these programmes continuously meet the HKIE graduate attributes as well as the graduate attributes of Educational Accords, i.e. Washington Accord, Seoul Accord and Sydney Accord as appropriate so as to protect interest of the students enrolling in these joint programmes.

Pre-requisites

2. Joint programmes across jurisdictions involve multiple monitoring by different bodies. The HKIE is a signatory of Washington Accord, Sydney Accord and Seoul Accord, and the accreditation is conducted with compliance to the requirements of these educational accords. To ensure programmes accredited by the HKIE will continuously meet the requirements of respective accords, the HKIE will only consider joint programmes of which the jurisdiction concerned is also a signatory of the respective educational accord. With this common background, the HKIE will only evaluate the joint programme that is formed by two accredited programmes, one of which is a HKIE-accredited programme, and graduates of this joint programme will be conferred with two diplomas by the two HEIs concerned.

Areas of Joint Programme for Evaluation

The following describes the areas of joint programme to be used for evaluating the part of joint programme that is also a part of a HKIE-accredited programme:

- (a) Students in the joint programme are required to take at least 50% of total credit units of the corresponding HKIE-accredited programme for graduation.
- (b) Sufficient learning and administrative support to students enrolling in the joint programmes is in place.
- (c) The requirements set for students joining the joint programmes should ensure that these students have the required competence to complete the study in different learning environments.
- (d) The medium of instruction in English for programme delivery is preferable so as to address the concern about the adequacy of the English language instruction in the joint programme that would allow the graduates to practice effectively in Hong Kong.

- (e) Student outcomes should be adequately measured to reflect the attainment of programme intended learning outcomes and the HKIE graduate attributes.

Information Required for Consideration

The following information to be provided by the HEIs concerned would be necessary for evaluation:

- (a) Extract of the agreement on the joint programme between two HEIs
- (b) Study plans for students who join in the joint programme
- (c) Curriculum mapping with the programme accredited by the HKIE for students who join in the joint programme
- (d) Syllabuses of the courses offered to students who join in the joint programme
- (e) The mapping between the courses that students will take in the joint programme and the programme learning outcomes of the corresponding HKIE-accredited programme
- (f) Details about the delivery of final year projects

In addition to the above-mentioned information, the HEIs could provide other useful information, if any, that would facilitate the HKIE to evaluate the joint programme.