

ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

Introduction

Heriot-Watt University engages in collaborative arrangements with partner institutions based in the UK and overseas.

The University has primary and ultimate responsibility for academic standards and quality across all its provision. It works collaboratively with other bodies whose roles include accreditation, licencing and regulation in the UK and overseas.

All partnership arrangements go through a rigorous approval process. This process ensures authorisation is given by colleagues with particular responsibilities within the University.

1. Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) is the umbrella term given to a very diverse group of professional and employer bodies, regulators and those with statutory authority over a profession or group of professionals. PSRBs engage with higher education as regulators. They provide membership services and promote the interests of people working in professions; accredit or endorse courses and programmes that meet professional standards, provide a route through to the professions or are recognised by employers.

2. Reviews of Overseas Provision of UK Higher Education Institutions by the Quality Assurance Agency

Many UK institutions offer higher education programmes through partnership links with organisations abroad, or deliver programmes on overseas campuses.

Higher education institutions are responsible for the academic standards of their awards, whether delivered inside or outside of the UK. As part of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)'s work, it reviews the arrangements that UK higher education institutions have formed with overseas campuses/partners in other countries to deliver UK programmes.

3. Overseas Registration

In order to deliver programmes in some overseas countries, the University (through the relevant School) ensures that the programmes are registered by the relevant in-country accreditation bodies. These bodies provide accreditation services for non-local learning programmes that require registration or exemption from registration.

4. Overseas Annual Returns

In certain countries, for example, Hong Kong, annual accreditation returns for the non-local programmes have to be completed by the University (through the relevant School) and submitted to the relevant overseas accreditation bodies as part of the registration process.

5. Overseas Accreditation/Recognition

With regard to partner institutions located overseas, and as part of the negotiation and preparatory approval documentation, the School ensures that the respective overseas government approval and accreditation is in place.

Accreditation is the status granted to an institution or programme that has been found, through self-evaluation and peer review, to meet or exceed stated guidelines of educational quality.

6. Overseas Campus Accreditation/Recognition

The University has two overseas Campuses: one in Dubai and one in Malaysia. The University is required to submit annual returns to the relevant government authorities (in Dubai, the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA). In Malaysia, the University seeks Provisional and Full Accreditation for each programme delivered at the Malaysia Campus from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE).