NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

REPORT TO
UNIVERSITY LEARNING, TEACHING & STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (ULTSEC)
FROM
EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS SUB-COMMITTEE

Report from the meeting of the Educational Partnerships Sub-Committee held on 25 January 2013 and the Standing Committee on Collaborative Provision held on 27 November 2012

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL AT ULTSEC

Recommendation for the approval of the following institutions as collaborative partners of the University:

• Wuhan University in respect to the proposed 4+0 articulation arrangement in the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences.
• Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology for a proposed 3+2 APL arrangement leading to a dual award with the School of Mathematics and Statistics.
• The University of Ghana for the delivery of the MSc Marine Technology (International) programme with the School of Marine Science and Technology

The minutes for the consideration of the above are presented in Appendix 1

• Shanghai Jiao Tong University for a proposed 2+2 articulation arrangement leading to a dual award with the School of Marine Science and Technology

The minutes for the above are presented in Appendix 2. The conditions have been approved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Collaborative Provision.

ITEMS FOR NOTING AT ULTSEC

Strategic Partnerships with Xiamen University

The Committee considered the paper outlining the proposed collaborations with Xiamen University to ensure awareness of the potential projects which could come under the remit of the committee.

EPSC felt that it is important to undertake initial early stage due diligence activities on the Xiamen Group, particularly on the members of their Board to ensure that the University will not be compromised in any way by the partnership.

The Committee therefore recommends to ULTSEC that it should ensure that the Internationalisation Executive Group undertake early stage due diligence on the Xiamen Group prior to developing the framework for the strategic partnership.
9. Wuhan University

Received:
- Document A – Criteria for approval
- Document B - Criteria for approval of partnerships
- Document C – Initial Proposal Template
- Document D – Partner Profile
- Document E – Visit Report
- Document F – Business Plan

Noted:
1. That the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences are proposing a 4+0 arrangement with Wuhan University. Wuhan is a well ranked university with which the University has existing links including 2+2 APL arrangements in CEGS and HaSS.
2. That Manchester and Dundee both run programmes with Wuhan University in similar subject areas; however, the model is the traditional 2+2 model rather than the one which is proposed here.
3. That in order for approval to be gained through the Chinese Ministry of Education for this programme at least one third has to be delivered by Newcastle. To meet this requirement Newcastle will help Wuhan develop an international four year programme from which up to 20 students will be able to progress to Stage 2 of specified Newcastle degree programmes. The programme will be designed to have a strong UK element. Intellectual property rights will have to be considered during the development.

Those students who do not progress to Newcastle will continue on the Wuhan University programme.
4. That the fees in China are much less than Newcastle’s and it was questioned whether this would impact on recruitment to the programme. The programme will be marketed as an international programme; therefore students applying will know from the start of their studies that coming to the UK is part of the programme and that higher fees would be charged for the final two years.
5. That the requirement of the Chinese government for Newcastle to deliver a third will be achieved in part by Wuhan recruiting new staff who will deliver the Newcastle material. Newcastle will be involved in the recruitment process for these staff.

6. That staff training would be provided for those staff recruited to Wuhan. To ensure a wider understanding of Newcastle processes and culture attendance on the CASAP or a CASAP style programme may be required.

7. That the School and Wuhan wish to focus on the development of this arrangement and to encourage students to undertake Masters level study at Newcastle a 4+1 arrangement may be pursued in the future.

8. That the proposal will not lead to a dual award arrangement.

Resolved:

9. To recommend to ULTSEC that Wuhan University be approved as a collaborative partner of the University.

10. That the proposal should proceed to the programme approval stage through the SAgE Faculty.

10. **Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST)**

- Document G - Criteria for approval of partnerships
- Document H – Initial Proposal Template
- Document I – Partner Profile
- Document J – Business Plan

Noted:

1. That the proposal was initially intended to be a 3+2 APL arrangement whereby students who had completed 3 years of a BSc in NUIST could apply for direct entry to Stage 3 of the MMath and MMathStat programmes; however the Chinese Ministry of Education would not approve the arrangement as it does not recognise Integrated Masters programmes. NUIST has now proposed a 3+2 arrangement which is similar to the Wuhan proposal whereby a third of the programme will be delivered by Newcastle and will lead to a dual award. Students will now only be permitted to progress to Stage 2 of BSc programmes in the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

2. That the additional year of study in NUIST will incorporate additional English language provision to ensure students have the required ability to be successful on an UK based programme.

3. That those students who are unable to progress to Newcastle will be able to complete their degree in NUIST.

4. That NUIST has developed a number of arrangements with UK universities including a 3+2 programme in Atmospheric Science with Manchester University.
5. That the proposal does not lead to guaranteed entry to Newcastle and each student will be considered individually. The proposal therefore comes under the scope of this committee due to the dual award aspect.

Resolved:
6. To recommend to ULTSEC that Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology be approved as a collaborative partner of the University.
7. That subject to the outcome of the ULTSEC discussion on dual awards on 30 January 2013 the proposal should proceed to the programme approval stage through the SAgE Faculty.

11. University of Ghana

Received:
- Document K – Flying Faculty Approval Template
- Document L – Initial Proposal Template
- Document M – Partner Profile
- Document N – Visit Report

Noted:
1. That the School of Marine Science and Technology are proposing to deliver the MSc Marine Technology (International) programme in Ghana. Currently this programme is approved to run in Singapore and Dubai.
2. That the Dubai programme has not recruited well in part due to financial issues in the region.
3. That the University of Ghana (UoG) will be responsible for recruitment of students and liaising directly regarding accommodation and pastoral matters rather than any academic related issues which will be dealt with by Newcastle staff.
4. The UoG will be used as a base for the flying faculty teaching and the use of well established University facilities to deliver the programme was regarded as positive. Hosting short course provision is an area which UoG has experience of providing.
5. That the UoG was established in 1948 and until it received its own degree awarding powers in 1961, awards were made through the University of London. The institution therefore has knowledge of and a background in the UK higher education system.
6. That the UoG recognises that the offshore oil industry is likely to boom in the region. UoG is currently focussed on marine science and would like to move to a model such as MAST incorporating both science and technology elements. The longer term aim may be to develop programmes in this area, at undergraduate level in the first instance.
7. That it is hoped as part of the wider relationship that UoG may send their staff to Newcastle to undertake Masters or doctoral level study. This would help
support projects in Ghana in the longer term to provide support on the ground rather than at a distance.

8. That Newcastle staff will be provided with accommodation on campus.

9. That students will access most library materials online and have key text delivered to them prior to the start of the programme.

10. That modules are delivered on a two year cycle by 3-4 staff within the School therefore it is not expected that additional workload will negatively impact on other activity.

11. That the business case will need re-visiting due to the tax position and Arun Dev who is based in Singapore and involved in the delivery of the programme will require individual tax advice.

12. That the programme will not run with fewer than 10 students. UoG have suggested that up to 25 students may be recruited; however, it is unclear whether these students will have the financial resources to pay for the programme.

13. That strategically the University having a presence in West Africa is important and Ghana is the sensible choice to base the programme in.

Resolved:

14. To recommend to ULTSEC that the University of Ghana should be approved as a partner of the University for the delivery of flying faculty provision.

15. That the business case be reviewed taking into account the tax position in Ghana.
Appendix 2 Newcastle University
Standing Committee on Collaborative Provision
27 November 2012
2+2 Articulation Arrangement with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)

Present:
Professor Jane Calvert, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Medical Sciences (Chair)
Dr Alan Tully, Computing Science, SAgE representative
Mr Alan Tuck, Research and Enterprise Services
Ms Alison Tate, International Office
Ms Laura Johnstone, QuILT

Apologies: Dr Chris Phillips, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, SAgE

Representatives from the School of Marine Science and Technology: Dr Yongchang Pu

Received:
- Section 2 of the University’s Policies and Procedures for the Quality Assurance of Collaborative Provision relating to the procedure for the approval of partner organisations Document A
- Annex 3 of the University’s Policies and Procedures for the Quality Assurance of Collaborative Provision outlining the criteria for the approval of partner organisations Document B
- Initial Proposal Template Document C
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University Self-profile Document D
- Articulation Arrangement Template Document E
- Visit Report Document F
- Business Case Document G
- Draft Memorandum of Agreement Document H
- Notes of meeting held on 24 September 2012 Document I
- Responses to initial SCCP questions Document J

Noted:

1. That the Standing Committee on Collaborative Provision initially met on 24 September 2012 to consider SJTU as a collaborative partner. The Committee were assured at the time that an articulation arrangement was not being sought and therefore did not take the proposal further. Subsequently further discussions necessitated the Standing Committee to reconvene to reconsider the partner as it was established that the proposal was an articulation arrangement.

2. That within the arrangement SJTU wished to also award a degree once the students returned to China after completing the Newcastle University programme. This does not fit with the University’s current principles for the development of dual degree programmes and therefore the Committee was not in a position to fully approve the
partnership and would defer the decision until a University decision on the approach to this type of arrangement was reached.

*Secretary’s Note: A proposal for the framework for such arrangements will be considered by ULTSEC at its meeting of 13 December 2012.*

**Condition:** That the final decision on the award be deferred until confirmation of the University’s position on dual awards from ULTSEC.

3. That the Committee did not have information to enable it to confirm that criteria (x) that the prospective partner organisation is financially stable. Information has been requested from the Corporate Finance Team and would be forwarded to the Chair on receipt.

**Action LJ:** To follow up the request with Corporate Finance

4. That the Committee felt that the proposed English language requirement of 6.0 was too low and suggested that IELTS 6.5 was more appropriate. Students entering Stage 2 directly face additional challenges from those starting the programme in Newcastle at Stage 1 therefore it is important to ensure that students have the appropriate English language skills so as not to put them at a disadvantage.

**Condition:** To raise the English language entry requirement to IELTS 6.5

5. That it was confirmed that although it appeared within Document E that the Newcastle modules were much more specialist than the equivalent SJTU modules the difference was more apparent than real. Dr Pu explained that the first year MAST modules were less specialist than the titles suggested and covered the same subject areas.

6. That the mapping exercise identified an additional module which students will have to undertake at SJTU which will be in addition to student’s existing studies. Dr Pu assured the Committee that this additional work will be possible and not put an unreasonable workload on students.

7. That the School have discussed the means by which students will be able to catch-up on the topics identified which will not be covered in the SJTU syllabus. Methods will include the provision on online help, additional reading and access to ReCap. Some of the Year 1 Newcastle activities could be replicated in Shanghai, for example visits to shipyards.

8. That section 8.4 in the agreement was not consistent with an articulation arrangement through which the University must accept all students who met the progression threshold; there can be no restriction the numbers of students to accept once students are on the programme.

The School wish to have a maximum of 15 students per year entering Newcastle through this route. SJTU are expected to recruit around 80 students to their programme and only when on the course will the students be able to express an interest to come through the Newcastle route. At this point in SJTU it will be possible to specify a maximum number of students on the Newcastle stream.

**Recommendation:** Remove Section 8.4 of the agreement and make clear that the number of students which will be accepted onto the Newcastle stream will be capped at SJTU.
9. That the Agreement makes reference to the use of an agent which is incorrect. The International Office’s member of staff based in Shanghai will be able to provide assistance for the programme.

**Recommendation:** Remove reference to an agent in Section 7.2 of the Agreement.

10. That the business case did not include a full costing for the programme and did not account for the growth in student numbers and related costs.

**Recommendation:** The Business case should be revisited with assistance from Karen Scrivens.

Resolved:

11. That the Standing Committee recommends subject to the conditions outlined below that Shanghai Jiao Tong University be approved as a collaborative partner of the University:

   - Receipt of confirmation of the financial standing of SJTU
   - Confirmation of the University’s position on the issue of dual awards.
   - To raise the English Language entry requirement to 6.5 IELTS.