

**Designation of Associate Colleges**

***Criteria for designation***

1. With the approval of the Council, collaborative partner institutions that are not part of the UWTSD Group may be designated as Associate Colleges of the University provided that the following criteria are met:

* The partner institution’s mission and strategic goals are consistent with those of the University and it is committed to engaging with the University in shared initiatives to widen access to higher education and to increase progression opportunities; and
* The partner institution has substantial experience of offering higher education provision; and
* The partner institution has an independent relationship with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) (or, for international partners, the equivalent regulatory body) and the most recent external reports confirm that its arrangements for managing quality and standards are appropriate; and
* The partner institution is committed to ensuring that at least 40% of its higher education students are registered on programmes leading to awards of the University; and
* The partner institution has at least two years’ experience of collaborating formally or informally with the University or its predecessor institutions.

***Process for designation***

1. Applications for Associate College designation must normally take one of the following forms:

* A written application to Senate, signed by the Chief Executive (or equivalent) of the partner institution, describing how the partner institution meets the relevant criteria. In such cases, Senate shall consider the application on the basis of the information provided and shall make a recommendation to Council. Where appropriate, Senate may request additional documentation before making its recommendation;
* A written submission within the documentation provided by the partner institution for the purposes of Partnership Review. In such cases, scrutiny of the relevant information and an initial recommendation to Senate shall be made by the Partnership Review Panel and Senate’s subsequent recommendation shall be made to Council.

1. In the event that Council approves a recommendation for Associate College designation, the designation shall be reflected in a revised Memorandum of Agreement between the University and the partner institution. The designation shall normally be for the duration of the Agreement and may be reviewed and renewed as part of the Partnership Review process described above and in the Academic Quality Handbook.

***Entitlements and obligations of Associate Colleges***

1. An Associate College shall be permitted to describe itself as ‘an Associate College of UWTSD’ in publicity and other materials. The designation otherwise confers no additional privileges or entitlements.
2. An Associate College shall be required, in its annual overview report to the University’s Academic Quality and Standards Committee, to describe how it is continuing to meet the relevant criteria. If it is apparent that the criteria are no longer met, the Academic Standards Committee shall report the matter to Senate, which shall determine the action required.