

International Dual-Credential Degree Programs

Policy Category: General Policy

Subject: International Dual-Credential Degree Programs

Subsections: Guidelines for Establishing International Dual-Credential Degree Programs (Undergraduate); Guidelines for Establishing International Dual-Doctoral and Research Master's Degree Programs

Related Policies: [Articulation Agreements with External Colleges](#); [MAPP 1.26 – Establishing International Academic Partnerships](#); [List of Educational Partnerships](#)

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GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL DUAL-CREDENTIAL DEGREE PROGRAMS (UNDERGRADUATE)

1. Preamble

International Dual-Credential Degree Programs provide a unique opportunity to enhance student experience at each of the participating institutions. The development of educational programs with excellent peer universities or institutes in other countries allows students from each partner to gain unique educational exposure and valuable international academic and cultural experiences. The global nature of these International Dual-Credential Degree Programs strengthens students' careers, provides professional opportunities and enhances the stature of Western wherever such partnerships are established.

Western has always welcomed the best students from anywhere in the world to study here. By awarding a Dual-Credential Degree the partner institutions acknowledge the additional international experience and effort of each student. Additionally and more practically it allows the educational background and core competencies of each student to be clear in each jurisdiction.

2. Definition

International Dual-Credential Degree Program

An International Dual-Credential Degree Program is defined as a program of study (within the same area of proficiency) offered by The University of Western Ontario (including the Affiliated University Colleges) and one (or more) other peer universities or institutes outside of Canada. Completion of the Dual-Credential Degree requirements is confirmed by awarding a separate degree/diploma document by at least two of the participating institutions, one of which is The University of Western Ontario.

3. Principles

The following guiding principles shall be considered in developing an International Dual-Credential Degree Program at the undergraduate level:

- a. The proposed program shall create a high quality, innovative program of study that provides enhanced opportunities for students.
- b. There shall be consistency with University and Faculty academic standards and regulations.
- c. The International Dual-Credential Degree Program shall satisfy the degree-level expectations of each of the originating programs and include a qualitative and/or quantitative value-added element that distinguishes it from the originating programs.
- d. The initiative should support the Departmental, Faculty and University academic plans and priorities, and be premised on a complementary educational philosophy between the participating programs/institutions.

4. Procedures for Review and Approval

4.1 Criteria Guiding the Development of an International Dual-Credential Degree Program

An International Dual-Credential Degree Program at Western may be comprised of an existing program or a newly created one. All proposals will be developed in accordance with the criteria set out below.

In addition, if a new program is established at Western as part of the proposed International Dual-Credential Degree Program, the New Program Evaluation Criteria and approval process also must be followed. The New Program Evaluation Criteria and approval process are set out in documents here: [<http://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/iqap/index.html>].

(i) Objectives and Program Content

Demonstration that:

- The International Dual-Credential Degree Program's content aligns with the unit/faculty/university academic plans.
- The program satisfies the University's established degree-level expectations.
- The degree requirements can be mapped onto an existing Degree-level expectation in the originating program (for example, maps onto an existing Specialization or Honors Specialization).
- If applicable, the proposed program enhances the local program to reflect the qualitative and quantitative elements unique to the Dual-Credential Degree program.

(ii) Quality Indicators

- Provide evidence of the excellence of the proposed partner university and the specific unit/department/program.
- Provide information as to how the progress of each student will be monitored, especially for Western students studying abroad.

(iii) Admission Requirements

- Demonstration that the existing admission requirements for any existing program will continue to be met, including language proficiencies or demonstration of the appropriateness of the unique admission requirements for the International Dual-Credential Degree program's learning expectations and University degree-level expectation.

(iv) Structure of the Program

- Demonstration that the structure of the International Dual-Credential Degree Program will meet the program-level and Degree-level learning expectations.
- Confirmation that the academic requirements of the existing program remain unchanged, or that proposed revisions are necessary and appropriate for the Dual-Credential Degree program.
- Confirmation that students will spend at least one academic year at each institution.
- Confirmation that students will take at least 10.0 courses offered by Western.
- Confirmation that the mode of delivery is unchanged from the existing program(s), including at partner institutions; or provide evidence of the appropriateness of the proposed mode(s) of delivery to meet the specified program learning expectations and University degree-level expectations.

(v) Assessment of Teaching and Learning

- Confirmation that the methods for the assessment of student achievement of the International Dual-Credential Degree program learning expectations and University degree-level expectations are substantially similar to that of the existing program; or
- Completeness of plans for documenting and demonstrating the level of performance of students, consistent with the University's established degree-level expectations.

(vi) **Enrolment Projections and Resources**

- Indication of the demand and community interest for the program.
- Inclusion of enrolment projections and the anticipated steady-state enrolment.
- Statements from:
 - Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian confirming the adequacy of library holdings and support;
 - Relevant programs/units confirming consultation on the new program;
 - Approval of the relevant EPC committee or equivalent.

4.2 Approval Process

Applicants seeking to establish an International Dual-Credential Degree Program must notify the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs), who will coordinate the development of the agreement. The Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) will consult with the Vice-Provost (International) regarding the proposed partnering university and any support needed for prospective international students.

Proposals will be subject to the normal Department and Faculty approval process prior to submission to the Subcommittee on Program Review (Undergraduate (SUPR-U) and/or the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA). SCAPA will evaluate the academic aspects of the proposal and if satisfied, it will forward its recommendation to establish the International Dual-Credential Degree Program to the Senate for final approval.

International Undergraduate Dual-Credential Degree Programs will not be implemented and the agreement with the partner institution will not be signed prior to Senate approval of the proposed Program.

GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL DUAL-DOCTORAL AND RESEARCH MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

1. Preamble

International Dual-Credential Degree Programs provide a unique opportunity to enhance student experience at each of the participating institutions. The development of educational programs with excellent peer universities or institutes in other countries allows students from each partner to gain unique educational exposure and valuable international academic and cultural experiences. The global nature of these International Dual-Credential Degree Programs strengthens students' careers, provides professional opportunities and enhances the stature of Western wherever such partnerships are established.

The term "research master's degree" is used in this document to differentiate between Category 1 research degrees, and Category 2 professional degrees, which

are not intended to be covered by this document.

Western has always welcomed the best students from anywhere in the world to study here. By awarding a Dual-Credential Degree the partner institutions acknowledge the additional international experience and effort of each student. Additionally and more practically it allows the educational background and core competencies of each student to be clear in each jurisdiction.

2. Definition

Dual-Doctoral and Research Master's Degree Programs

An International Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program is defined as a program of study (within the same area of proficiency and research expertise) offered by The University of Western Ontario and one other peer university or institute outside of Canada. Completion of the Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree requirements is confirmed by awarding a separate diploma document by each of the participating institutions, one of which is The University of Western Ontario. The University of Western Ontario views doctoral and research master's programs as research-intensive programs.

3. Principles

The following guiding principles shall be considered in developing an International Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program:

- a. The proposed program shall create a high-quality, innovative program of study that provides enhanced opportunities for students.
- b. There shall be consistency with University and School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies academic standards and regulations for all program requirements including the thesis/dissertation.
- c. The Dual-Doctoral and/or Research Master's Degree Programs shall satisfy the doctoral or master's degree-level requirements of each of the participating programs and shall include a qualitative and/or quantitative value-added element that distinguishes them from the originating programs. For example: Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Programs enhance graduate student development in several areas of the OCAV Graduate Degree Level Expectations. Overseas study and research promotes the development of intercultural competence and provides graduates with experience working in multinational research teams, exposes graduates to multiple disciplinary and research perspectives and contributes to the development of professional capacity/autonomy. The proposal should indicate guidelines for time allocation at each of the institutions.

- d. The initiative should support the Faculty and University academic plans and priorities, and be premised on a compatible educational and research-intensive philosophy between the participating programs/institutions.
- e. Doctoral students will be funded at the appropriate doctoral level during their period of eligibility.

4. PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

4.1 Criteria Guiding the Development of an International Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program

An International Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program at Western will be composed of an existing approved program. All proposals will be developed in accordance with the criteria set out below.

(i) *Objectives and Program Content*

Demonstration that:

- The International Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program's content aligns with the unit/faculty/university academic plans.
- The program satisfies the University's established doctoral or research master's degree-level expectations.
- If applicable, the program enhances the local program to reflect the qualitative and quantitative elements unique to the Dual-Doctoral Degree program.
- The Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program meets all of the requirements and milestones of the program as previously evaluated and approved by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies or Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Process, including requirements regarding the oral examination of the dissertation.

(ii) *Quality Indicators*

- Provide evidence of the excellence of the proposed partner university and the specific unit/department/program.
- Provide information about how the student will be supervised jointly by a supervisor at each university.
- Provide information as to how the progress of each student will be monitored, especially for Western students studying abroad.

(iii) *Admission Requirements*

- Demonstration that the existing admission requirements for the existing program will continue to be met, including language proficiencies or demonstration of the appropriateness of the unique admission

requirements for the Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree program's learning expectations and University doctoral or research master's degree-level expectations.

(iv) **Structure of the Program**

- Demonstration that the structure of the Dual-Doctoral Degree Program will meet the doctoral degree-level learning expectations.
- Confirmation that the academic requirements of the existing program remain unchanged, or that proposed revisions are necessary and appropriate for the International Dual-Doctoral Degree Program.
- Confirmation that students will spend at least three academic terms at each institution.
- Confirmation that students will complete all requirements of the Western doctoral or research master's program.
- Confirmation that the mode of delivery is unchanged from the existing program(s); or provide evidence of the appropriateness of the proposed mode(s) of delivery to meet the specified program learning expectations and University doctoral or master's degree-level expectations.
- Confirmation that the academic requirements of the existing program remain unchanged, or that proposed revisions are necessary and appropriate for the international Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program.
- Confirmation that students will be funded appropriately during the full period of eligibility, including when studying abroad (doctoral only – master's-level funding expectations vary by program)
- Detailed description of the tuition payment scheme for participants.

(v) **Assessment and Evaluation**

- Confirmation that the methods for the assessment of student achievement, in terms of coursework, research and major milestones (e.g., qualifying exams and/or comprehensive exams) in the Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program are substantially similar to that of the existing program; or
- Completeness of plans for documenting and demonstrating the level of performance and achievement of students, consistent with the University's and the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' expectations.

(vi) **Enrolment Projections and Resources**

- Indication of the demand and community interest for the program.
- Inclusion of enrolment projections and the anticipated steady-state enrolment.
- Statements from relevant programs/units confirming consultation on the new program.

4.2 Approval Process

Applicants seeking to establish a Dual-Doctoral or Research Master's Degree Program must notify the Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), who will lead the development of the agreement. The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will consult with the Vice-Provost (International) regarding the proposed partnering university and any support needed for prospective international students. The verification of the international partner institution's credentials is the responsibility of the Vice-Provost (International) and Western International.

Dual-Doctoral and Research Master's agreements based on existing programs at Western do not require approvals by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA). A list of new agreements will be presented to SCAPA and Senate for information only by the Office of the Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) annually.

For a complete list of Dual-Credential Degree Programs visit the website of Western International <http://international.uwo.ca/>.