

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

TEACHING COMMITTEE

Policy Statement on Combined Degree Programmes

1 Scope

This Policy statement applies to all combined programmes that lead to a taught award of the University. It does not apply to the University's collaborative provision (including programmes at Hull York Medical School).

It seeks to consolidate the key information regarding combined degrees into a single reference document.

2 Related policies and documentation

The Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Standard Terms of Reference of Board of Studies (BoS) and Policy for the Operation of BoS
- Programme Leader Role and Responsibilities
- Explaining Programme Governance: Guidance and Scenarios
- University Policy on Taught Student Supervision

3 Curriculum and identity

Combined programmes have the same status within the University as single honours programmes and the structures and processes that support them have the same regard for excellence, programme coherence and student experience. The programme leader for combined programmes has the same responsibilities and authority as a single honours programme leader to ensure students receive a well designed and monitored educational experience.

Each combined programme will have its own Programme Specification (the Programme Design Document) with its own unique Statement of Purpose and Programme Learning Outcomes. Departments should explore and encourage opportunities for joint teaching in their curriculum design. All combined degree programmes should normally offer students:

- the opportunity to take a 'bridge module' designed to bring the combining disciplines into dialogue and to explore interdisciplinarity where cohort size permits;
- the opportunity to take an independent research module, such as an extended essay or research project, that combines the two disciplines.

4 Governance arrangements for combined degree programmes

Combined programmes are governed by the Board of Studies of the Department in which the Programme Leader is a member of staff. See Ordinance 1 and 2 for information regarding the constitution of Boards of Studies.

The role and relationships of the Programme Leader, Associate Programme Leader, Supervisor, Programme Advisor and administrative support staff should be made clear to students at induction.

Clear statements should be provided in publications (including departments' prospectus pages and web pages) about what the combined programme offers. Departmental information for combined programme students should be customised, e.g. separate handbooks or sections of home departmental handbooks. All programmes must be referred to as 'combined' rather than 'joint'.

It is also necessary, from a systems perspective for each Combined Programme to have a designated administrative 'home' in SITs. This SITs affiliation is distinct from leadership with respect to academic governance. The administrative 'home' will normally determine the Department with which combined students graduate.

5 Supervision and support of combined degree students

Combined programme students should have a single Supervisor from one department and access to a Programme Advisor from the other. Each department should manage the allocation of its supervisors/programme advisors. The Policy on taught student supervision sets out requirements for the supervision of students on combined programmes.

6 Modifications

The Standard Terms of Reference of Boards of Studies details the process for ensuring that where changes are proposed by the Board of Studies responsible for the programme that will affect a Partner Department, appropriate notice, discussion and approval is sought from the Partner Department before any proposal is approved. It is intended that this process is applied with a common-sense, collaborative approach that safeguards students' interests and the Partner Department, but without constraining the responsible Board of Studies' ability to make decisions about programmes for which it is responsible.

Document control:				
	Approved:	Starts:	Amendments:	Next review:
Dates	21/2/2019	Immediate implementation	Amendments to align with revisions regarding programme governance (approved by Senate in July)	1/07/2020

			2018) arising from the discontinuation of Combined Boards of Studies (approved by Senate in January 2018)	
Ownership	Committee: University Teaching Committee (UTC)		Responsibility to update: Student & Academic Services	
<p>Related policies, procedures, guidelines and regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Terms of Reference of Board of Studies (BoS) and Policy for the Operation of BoS • Programme Leader Role and Responsibilities • University Policy on Taught Student Supervision 				
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