



Policy on the Awarding of Collaborative Degrees

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POLICY ON THE AWARDING OF COLLABORATIVE DEGREES

Preamble

Against the background of the dream to be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care, the Council of the North-West University (NWU) has adopted this policy and set of rules to award joint degrees on 18 March 2021.

1 Interpretation and Application

This policy must be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with the –

- 1.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;
- 1.2 Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997;
- 1.3 Policy Framework for Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa, 2017; and
- 1.4 Statute of the North-West University, 2017.

2 Rules, Guidelines and Procedures

- Rules, guidelines and procedures for the management and administration of the award of collaborative qualifications must, subject to the approval of the University Management Committee and after consultation of the Senate, be prescribed and reviewed annually by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation (the DVC).
- All rules, guidelines and procedures relating to research and innovation must be maintained and made available by the DVC to the employees and students of the NWU.

3 Definitions

In this policy related rules, guidelines and procedures –

“collaborative qualification” refers to a qualification awarded by the NWU in collaboration with other South African or foreign institutions of higher education, and may be awarded in one of the following forms:

- a “joint degree”, which is awarded by an agreement between the partner institutions at the successful completion of a single study programme jointly offered by two or more higher education institution, or
- a “co-badged” degree, which is a degree awarded on completion of a collaborative or partnership programme in terms of which a part of the curriculum is offered by a partner or partners, but where the degree is –
 - (a) accredited by the relevant qualification authority (QA) in the country in which the enrolling institution is located, and
 - (b) awarded by the enrolling institution only.

The awarding institution recognises the contribution of one or more other institutions to a collaborative qualification by a reference on the degree certificate, which may include the names and badges of the other partners.

“participating institutions” refer to the NWU and an institution(s) with which the NWU collaborates for the purpose of awarding a collaborative degree.

4 Purpose

The purpose of this policy contemplated in paragraph 2 is to establish criteria and standard, fair and transparent procedures according to which collaborative degrees may be awarded by the NWU to reflect the university’s values and support its goals.

5 Policy statement

It is the policy of the university that the NWU may confer degrees as master's and doctoral level in collaboration with foreign universities upon students who successfully completed the requirements of such degrees, provided that –

- 5.1 the relevant legal requirements applicable to both the NWU and the participating institution are met;
- 5.2 the degree is awarded in terms of a bilateral agreement between the participating institutions;
- 5.3 all the academic requirements of the participating institutions are complied with; and
- 5.4 joint supervision for each candidate is guided by a cotutelle agreed upon by the participating institutions and the candidate.

6 Application

This policy applies to all collaborative degrees at the master's and doctoral level if a student enrolls for the degree in programmes approved by participating institutions.

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