



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Ensuring Quality

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International Programmes



International Programmes: a history

- Students first registered for External Degrees of University of London in 1858.
- First overseas exams held in Mauritius in 1865.
- All Universities in England founded between 1850 and 1950 initially offered External Degrees of the University of London.
- First relationships with Teaching Institutions overseas established in the mid 1980s.
- Rebranding of the External System to the University of London International Programmes took place in 2009.
- Currently c54,000 students studying over 100 degree and diploma programmes in over 180 countries.



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University of London model: an overview

- Two main models: the independent student model and a Teaching Institution model.
- The University of London does **not** validate or franchise any of its programmes or academic provision.
- All Students on both models register directly with the University of London.
- Independent students follow the programme of study for which they receive study materials in hard copy, and have access to a VLE.
- Students at Teaching Institutions attend classes at the Institution which run parallel to the programme of study and materials provided by UoL centrally.



UoL model: an overview (cont.)

- Local Institutions can apply to become part of our Teaching Institutions Recognition Framework (TIRF).
- There are three categories of Institution recognition: Candidate, Registered and Affiliate.
- On average it takes between 3-4 years to become a Registered or Affiliate Institution.
- Inspection takes place at a minimum every 5 years but more normally 3 years.
- Inspection teams are made up of academics and senior administrators from the University; present formal reports through the University of London governance framework.



Programme development model

- Development of programmes is based on a partnership model between the International Academy, a central academic body of the University of London, and the federal Colleges (known as the Lead Colleges).
- Investment for programmes is provided by the University of London and approval to proceed must be granted by the University of London International Programmes Finance Committee, with final approval through the Board of the International Programmes and, ultimately, the University's Collegiate Council.
- The academic content and structure of all programme proposals are assessed by an independent review panel which must include external non-University of London academics.



Responsibilities and Accountabilities

- The Lead Colleges are responsible for all academic content including curriculum development, study material content and assessment.
- The International Academy is responsible for all aspects of the administrative student lifecycle. They are also responsible for fee payments and VLE development and maintenance and for the appointment of all categories of examiner.
- There is shared responsibility for quality assurance, programme governance and marketing although the University is ultimately accountable for all QA matters as defined in the Quality Code.



Modes of Assessment

- UG assessment primarily by final exam, ranging from 100% exam, to 80%-20% time-constrained exam to course work ratio.
- All exams are conducted through 600-plus approved local examination centres. All centres are independently inspected.
- PG programmes range from 100% exam for our LLM programme to 50% unseen exam 50% coursework .
- All summative assessment is set and marked by 2 examiners appointed by the University of London.
- Overseas regulators acknowledge our assessment methodology as a strength of our operating model.



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Governance

- **Committee structure with representation from Lead Colleges, the University central bodies, students and externals.**
- **The senior committee is the Board of the International Programmes chaired by the Vice Chancellor, who also chairs the Finance Committee**
- **The Academic Committee is chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor International and CEO of the International Programmes.**
- **Four subcommittees: Quality and Student Lifecycle, Learning Teaching and Assessment, Systems and Technology, Institutions.**
- **An Inclusive Practice Panel assesses all special education need requests, eg. exam arrangements, study materials formats.**



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Academic standards in summary

- **Programmes of study developed and approved by a College or group of Colleges to the same standards and requirements as would be applied in the College(s).**
- **Colleges are responsible for the academic management and content of all programmes.**
- **Colleges approve programme regulations and syllabuses as described within programme specifications, and nominate Boards of Examiners.**
- **Learning materials are written and examinations set and marked by academic staff employed by the Colleges, and required to apply the University's and Lead College's academic standards.**
- **Independent External Examiners are appointed to every programme. Their role is to ensure that students have been assessed to the College standards and that the UK's national standards have been met.**



Uniqueness of the University of London model

- Absolute control over summative assessment.
- One-size fits all contractual basis for TIRF.
- Relative flexibility in teaching arrangements.
- Consistent quality reputation.
- This high intensity quality assurance process allows us to work extensively with the private sector whatever the local regulatory environment.



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