Joint and double degrees as recognition of qualifications to support harmonisation, transnational education and mobility

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Aims of the workshop

• Share experience
• Recognition of qualifications
• Mobility
• Harmonisation
• Quality assurance
Joint and Double Degrees at Stellenbosch University

• University policy adopted in 2009 (amended in 2010)
• Master’s and Doctoral level
• Only with universities outside South Africa
• Bilateral or multilateral agreements • Plus Cotutelle agreements for candidates
• Any discipline already offered by the partners
Choosing partners

- Aligned with Stellenbosch University’s vision, mission and goals
- Reputational gain
- Expertise
- Mobility flows
- Track record of cooperation and strong prospect of sustainability
Quality Assurance

• Meet the quality assurance requirements in countries of origin
  • HEQC Minimum Criteria for Partnerships
• Meet all the legal and academic requirements of both parties and both countries
• Need for inter-agency agreements?
Joint & Double PhD Degrees thus far

- Multi-lateral: SU and individual European universities
  - Belgium (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Ghent)
  - France (École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de St-Éttienne)
  - Germany (Universität Leipzig, Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jenna, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)
  - the Netherlands (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
  - UK (University of St Andrews)
Double Masters Degrees thus far

- Multi-lateral: SU and individual European universities
  - Universität Leipzig (German-as-foreign language)
  - Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Lexicography)
  - Universität Göttingen (Economics)
  - Dortmund Universität (Industrial Engineering)
- Multi-lateral
  - Consortium of European Universities, expanded to include Stellenbosch University (Mathematics)
  - UNIVERSITÉ BORDEAUX I (coordinating university), CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS SUD 11, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
Quality assurance of ALGANT double degree

The members of the consortium are part of the national university system of their respective countries, as a consequence their activity is evaluated on a regular basis by external certified bodies. Furthermore Internal Quality Assurance Protocol will be operating, care of the ALGANT consortium. Every year, a visiting committee shall be invited to overview the overall functioning of the ALGANT masters course and to produce a report. Evaluations by the students (both single units evaluations and overall program evaluations) will be organized. On the basis of the information gathered, the Commission of the ALGANT consortium together with the Administrative committee will ensure permanent revisiting, updating and improvement of the program (see Annex 2).
9.1 The maintenance of academic standards and the management of procedures for quality assurance and enhancement are the collective responsibility of both parties.

9.2 Any concerns raised about the quality of the programme, in annual reports or at any time, shall be initially referred to the appropriate Dean who shall advise the supervisors of the concerns raised.

9.3 Local and institutional reviews required as part of quality-related mechanisms shall be co-ordinated by the institutions in order to avoid duplication of effort as much as possible.

9.4 Each institution shall respond to reasonable requests for information in relation to such reviews.

9.5 Both parties will ensure that the programme meets, in all respects, the requirements of the quality assurance authorities of South Africa and the United Kingdom.
Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme

- Africa and the Caribbean & Pacific regions
- TRECCAfrica: Transdisciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa
- Partners: UoGhana, MekelleU-Ethiopia, UoNigeria-NSUKKA, UoNairobi-Kenya and UoDar-es-Salaam
- Associate partners
Implications of joint proposals

• Commitment to facilitating cooperation on recognition of studies and qualifications
• Contribution to improvement of quality of higher education through promotion of internationalisation and harmonisation of programmes and curricula within participating institutions
Stellenbosch initiatives

- PANGeA: Partnership for Africa’s Next Generation of Academics - [www.sun.ac.za/ada](http://www.sun.ac.za/ada)
  - Makerere University
  - University of Malawi
  - University of Botswana
  - University of Tanzania
- ADA: African Doctoral Academy - [www.pangeaonline.org](http://www.pangeaonline.org)
Conclusions

• Cautious first steps
• Policy vacuum
  • Ongoing policy development
• Pitfalls
  • Legal recourse in case of disputes
  • Quality
  • Certification