

Equality and Diversity in Academic Partnerships

Middlesex University requires all prospective partners to submit with their application for Institutional Approval, their Equality and Diversity Policy/Statement or equivalent document. All partner institutions are subject to Institutional Re-approval every 6 years. At this time they must submit to the University their (updated) Equality and Diversity (E&D) Policy/Statement or equivalent document. Irrespective of the process, whether Institutional Approval or Institutional Re-approval, the University adopts the same approach to the review of the (prospective) partner's E&D policy.

The Academic Quality Service (AQS), the division of the University responsible for the approval and review of partners, examines the E&D policy to ensure that it aligns with the University's own E&D policy and does not conflict with our requirements under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. AQS considers the partner's admissions process, student life-cycle – in particular academic and pastoral support available and access to resources and facilities – and staff recruitment and development to ensure that each area is covered by the E&D policy. We seek to ensure that the nine Protected Characteristics are incorporated into the policy. Where the partner is located overseas, the E&D policy will be subject to local laws but must be, broadly speaking, in line with the University's own. An institution will not be (re)approved without a satisfactory E&D policy/statement or equivalent.

AQS also undertake broader due diligence to ensure partners align with the University's Mission and Values, as well as meeting regulatory requirements including Public Sector Equality Duty.

Further details of the documents requested as part of the Institutional Approval and Re-approval process can be found in the Learning Quality Enhancement Handbook Section 5 – Collaborations with other institutions - and in appendices 5a, 5b, and 5d.

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/academic-quality/handbook/lqe-handbook-section-5>