



Inter-institutional Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding

**For the purpose of enabling graduate research student mobility and credit exchange across
Universities in the Republic of Ireland**

Between

**University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, Maynooth University,
University of Galway, University College Cork and the University of Limerick**

1. University of Limerick having its principal place of business at Castletroy, Limerick, Ireland
2. University College Cork, National University of Ireland Cork, having its principal place of business in Western Road, Cork, Ireland
3. University College Dublin, National University of Ireland Dublin, having its principal place of business at Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
4. The Provost, Fellows, Foundation, and Scholars and the other members of Board of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin, having its principal place of business at College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
5. Dublin City University, having its principal place of business in Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland
6. Maynooth University, National University of Ireland Maynooth, having its principal place of business in Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland
7. University of Galway, having its principal place of business at University Road, Galway, Co Galway, Ireland

Hereinafter are known as "the universities" or "the parties".

1. Background

The IUA Deans of Graduate Studies Group is committed to enabling the development of inter-institutional collaborative graduate research programmes in Ireland. An inter-institutional collaborative agreement encompassing module delivery, student mobility and credit exchange in formally institutionally approved collaborative graduate programmes was signed in January 2011 to expire on 30th August 2013; an addendum to that agreement was signed in October 2012.

The agreement, with the 2012 addendum incorporated, was extended in October 2013 for a further three years to 30th August 2016, further extended for 3 years to 30th August 2019, further extended for 3 years to 30th August 2022, and extended for a further three years to 30th August 2025 (and included the Technological University Dublin, then a member of the IUA, for that period). This new memorandum of understanding (MOU) extends the agreement for a 5 year period to 30th August 2030.

This agreement removes the requirement for a research student registered to an IUA member University to be on a formally agreed collaborative graduate research programme in order to avail of student mobility and credit exchange between IUA Universities.

2. Purpose

This Inter-Institutional Collaborative MOU between the parties is to enable module delivery, student mobility and credit exchange in graduate research programmes across the IUA member universities.

3. Agreed Guiding Principles

All parties, in accordance with the principles of equality, module delivery and mutual benefit, hereby agree mutually to recognise modules provided by each of the universities, in accordance with the following guiding principles:

3.1 Individual modules are mainly the responsibility of the host university. This primary university is known as the "module provider" or "hosting university", in respect of a specific module. In this regard:

- The internal quality systems for modules in each of the universities are recognised by all parties.
- Modules will be provided at an appropriate advanced level.
- The module provider is responsible for module quality, delivery and assessment.
- Several universities may contribute to the development and delivery of the module.
- 1 credit is equivalent to 20-25 hours of student effort.
- Where possible, module information may be mirrored on the systems of other universities as well as the module provider.

- Students must be approved by their supervisor and/or Programme Coordinator in their home university (as defined below), as appropriate, to take a Graduate module and accepted by the academic owner (module coordinator, graduate programme lead or head of academic unit as appropriate) in the hosting university.
 - Students must be in good standing in their home institution.
- 3.2 Each Individual student will be registered to the university from which their degree will be received ("the home university"). In the case of joint award programmes, the student's registration status will be covered by separate agreements between the relevant universities.
- 3.3 Students attending modules in the hosting university should be granted visitor/external status in the university, which may incur an application fee. Hosting universities reserve the right to charge an application fee.
- 3.4 Records of student achievements in each university delivering modules will be maintained for the purpose of tracking their achievements and activities. Where the electronic student information system allows, students should be designated "visiting/external status" commensurate with their needs, and their activities/achievements entered into the hosting university's system.
- 3.5 The hosting university should ensure they adequately accommodate student mobility, concerning both space allocation and, where appropriate, an *a priori* resource allocation.

4. Student Health, Safety and Insurance

- 4.1 The module provider will be responsible for directing and supervising the student while he or she is attending modules in the hosting university. The module provider will ensure, in so far as is reasonable and practicable, the safety, health and welfare of the student at all times for the duration of their attendance at the hosting university and will provide relevant health and safety training, instruction and equipment to the student. To the extent that the student is required to adhere to any policies, procedures or safety statements of the module provider, the hosting university shall draw these to the attention of the student at the commencement of their time at that university. The module provider is responsible for identifying any hazards that he or she may encounter and for bringing these to the attention of the student.
- 4.2 The module provider will comply with all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, relevant employment, health and safety and data protection laws.

4.3 The module provider will provide evidence of its public liability and employer's liability insurance policies to the satisfaction of the home university.

4.4 The students will be required to comply with the same academic and disciplinary regulations as other students attending the module provider, in addition to adhering to the home university's standards of conduct and student code.

4.5 Each student attending a module provider under the terms of this MOU shall be indemnified by their home university in the same manner and to the same extent as they are indemnified when attending their home university.

5. Miscellaneous

5.1 This MOU does not supersede or replace any existing Memoranda of Understanding or other agreements between or among the universities, save that the inter-institutional collaborative agreement signed in October 2013 referred to in Paragraph 1, is superseded by the terms of this MOU with effect from 31st August 2025.

5.2 This Inter-Institutional Collaborative MOU has been put in place to facilitate module delivery, student mobility and credit exchange graduate research programmes. This MOU shall be effective from **31st August 2025** until **30th August 2030**, at which point the MOU will be reviewed.

5.3 For the avoidance of doubt, this MOU is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, but rather to form the basis for the conduct of an academic and operational relationship between the parties on a non-legally binding basis only. Nothing in this memorandum of understanding constitutes the establishment of a legal partnership between the parties.

5.4 This MOU is governed by the provisions of Irish law.


5.5 This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the different parties to this MOU on separate counterparts each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute an original and all such counterparts together constituting but one and the same instrument.

6. Signatures: To be signed by the Registrar or their equivalent from each IUA member university

Signature (1): University of Limerick

Name Professor Ann Ledwith

Position: Interim Provost & Deputy President

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (2): University College Cork

Name: Professor Stephen Byrne


Position: Deputy President and Registrar

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (3): University College Dublin

Name Professor Colin Scott

Signature: Position: Registrar & Deputy President

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (4): Trinity College Dublin

Name Professor Orla Sheils


Position: Vice-Provost/CAO & Deputy President

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (5): Dublin City University

Name: Professor Lisa Looney

Signature: Vice President for Academic Affairs & Registrar

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (6): Maynooth University

Name Professor Ronan Farrell

Position: Vice President Academic & Registrar

Signature: 
Date: 6/10/25

Signature (7): University of Galway

Name Professor Becky Whay

Position: Deputy President & Registrar

Signature: 
Date: 6th October 2025

