



POLICY GUIDELINES FOR JOINT AND DUAL DEGREES AT UCC

Introduction

With the increasing demand on universities to remain competitive and relevant to current and emerging challenges of society, and dwindling state financial support, it has become important for universities to design innovative and demand-driven programmes to ensure their sustainability. One such innovation is the introduction of joint and dual degree programmes especially, at the postgraduate level. The request for such programmes at UCC has already started but, there must first be a policy framework for institutionalization and implementation.

Policy

The University of Cape Coast (UCC) through the School of Graduate Studies shall offer dual/joint postgraduate research degree programmes (i.e. MPhil/M.Com/MN/PhD). **Joint degree programme** here, refers to a degree programme that is designed and delivered by UCC and one or more partner institutions within or outside Ghana, and a student receives a single certificate endorsed by each partner institution. **Dual degree programme** is a degree programme that is designed and delivered by UCC and one or more partner institutions within or outside Ghana, and a student receives a separate certificate from each of the partner institutions.

Joint/dual degree programme may be confined to a single discipline/programme (e.g. History) leading to the award of a degree in History (e.g. PhD in History). It can also involve a combination of two programmes (multidiscipline) leading to the award of a multidisciplinary degree (e.g. PhD in History with Communication Studies). The School of Graduate Studies will further offer multidisciplinary postgraduate degree programmes amongst departments within the University, where a student will receive a single certificate depicting the specialized programmes (e.g. MPhil in Economics with Law; PhD in Tourism with Economics).

Depending on the programme design, a student in a joint/dual degree programme shall spend all the programme duration at UCC or the partner institution. It can also be a **Split-site Programme** where the student spends part of the programme duration at UCC and the other at the partner institution. A Split-site Programme may not necessarily be a joint/dual degree programme, it may involve a student registered at UCC, who spends a significant period of the research at another approved academic institution, usually out of the country, but receives UCC degree.

Modalities for the Implementation of the Joint/Dual Degree Programmes

1. A College/School/Faculty/Department that wishes to establish a joint/dual programme in whatever form (single, multidisciplinary, split-sit etc.) should collaborate with the

partner institution/department to develop a feasible proposal within the policy framework of the University.

2. A dual/joint degree programme proposal, supported by a memorandum of agreement between the partner institutions/departments must be approved by the Boards of SGS. The SGS will not allow for individualized dual/joint degree programmes for specific students. Proposals must include a strong rationale for the programme and credit requirements to satisfy the joint/dual degree. The University of Cape Coast allows for credit transfer from recognized academic institutions.
3. A candidate seeking admission into a joint/dual degree postgraduate programme at the University of Cape Coast will have to meet the entry requirements for the programme, as specified by the SGS and the memorandum of agreement that established the programme.
4. Candidates who apply and gain admission into joint/dual degree programmes shall follow the SGS policies and regulations and other requirements specified by the memorandum of agreement that established the programme. This will involve taking and passing specific courses, supervision arrangements, travels, credit transfer and examinations.
5. Candidates for split-site programmes should submit evidence of admission to a partner institution(s) through his/her College/School/Faculty/Department for consideration and approval by the SGS.

Advantages

Joint/dual degree programmes have a number of advantages for students and the University:

1. Dual degree programmes promote multidisciplinary approach to learning by breaking compartmentalization of knowledge, where it allows students for example, with strong scientific interests as well as strong art and design skills to bring all their talents to bear. It can also promote departmental/institutional collaboration and cooperation for teaching, learning and multidisciplinary research.
2. Joint/dual degree programmes that require a single thesis by both partner institutions with advisors from both institutions at the same time provide students the opportunity to learn and incorporate different approaches and perspectives in their theses. It also reduces the study period required if one is to do the programmes separately.
3. Where it involves split-site, students will be able to see different types of study environments, teaching and learning styles from the locations/programmes and can take advantage of the strengths of each. This can make the graduates more versatile and increase their employability.
4. Joint/dual degree programmes will increase both students and the University's chances of building network, and advancing internationalization, as it creates a platform for contact with academics, students, and professionals in the programmes/locations. Certainly, it will enrich the organizational culture of UCC as we get to know different academic cultures closely.

Anticipated Challenges

The School of Graduate Studies anticipates some challenges with the joint/dual degree policy which together, we can address to benefit from its merits:

1. The need for Colleges/Schools/Faculties/Departments to collaborate with other institutions/departments within and outside to design/re-design joint/dual degree programmes that are multidisciplinary and demand-driven. This will require some

sacrifices and flexibilities from the SGS/Colleges/Schools/Faculties/Departments to accommodate differences in requirements.

2. Developing appropriate teaching methodologies to manage additional workload and studies accompanied with joint/dual degree programmes, to ensure successful and timely completion of the programmes.