

Document

Document Name	Pathway Approval and Review
Responsible Owner	Academic Registry
Issue Date	June 2024
Document Audience	Navitas UPE Staff Members
Brief Description of Policy	This document sets out the Navitas University Partnerships Europe (UPE) policy and procedure for Pathway Approval and Review.

Version Control

Date	Version	Summary of Changes	Approver
January 2023	2022/01	Changes included in line with other relevant UPE policies and processes to ensure alignment	NUKH Academic Board
June 2024	24_01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New policy template • Changes included in line with other relevant UPE policies and processes to ensure alignment • Formatting changes 	NUKH Academic Board

Key Related Documents

Document Name	Location
QS01_01 Pathway Approval Form	College website, Policy HUB
QS01_04 Portfolio expansion Form	College website, Policy HUB
QS01_05 Module Management Approval Form	College website, Policy HUB
QS01_06 Programme Modification Form	College website, Policy HUB

Contents

Introduction	2
Development and Approval of Pathways.....	2
Strategic Approval	3
Periodic Review of Programmes	9
Portfolio Expansion.....	9

Modifications	10
Policy Review	10

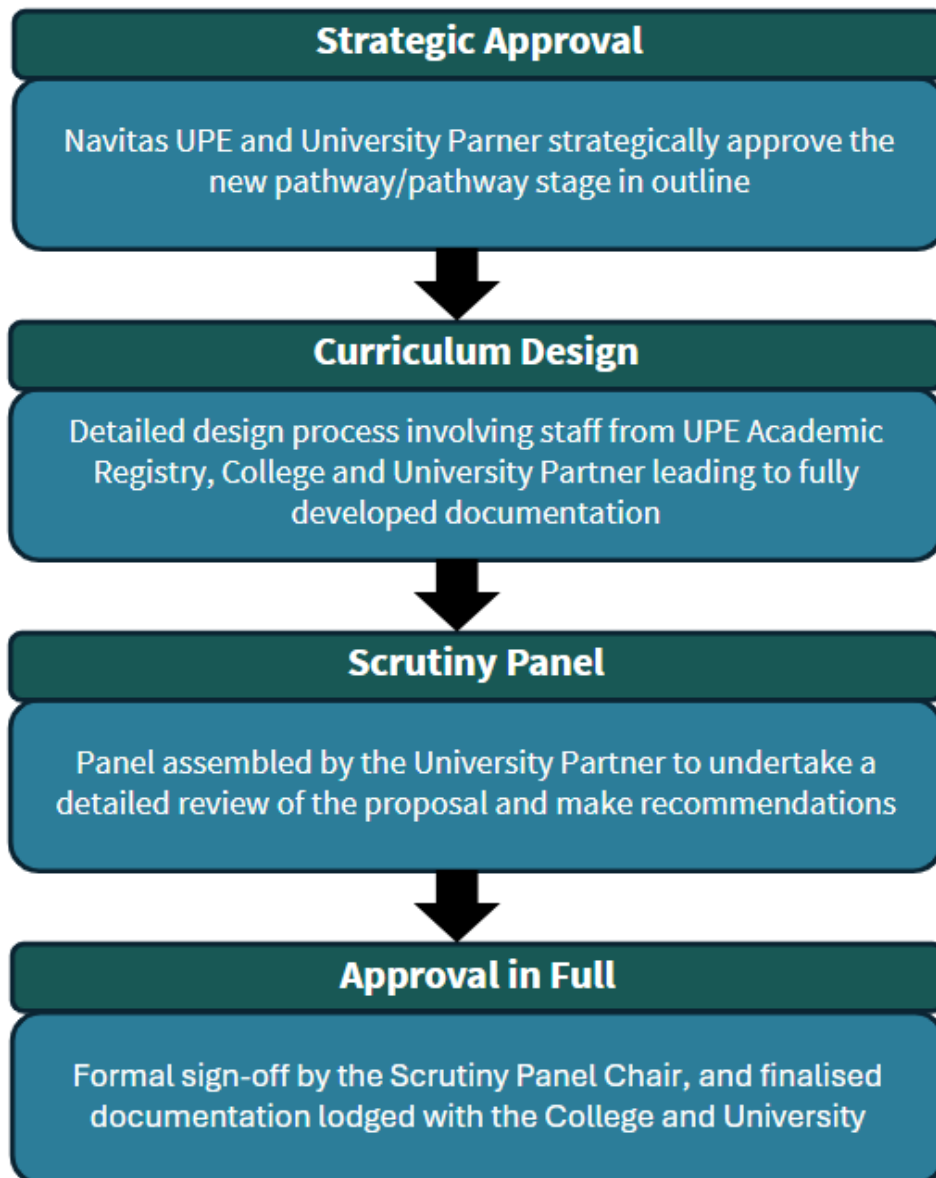
Introduction

This document sets out the Navitas University Partnerships Europe (UPE) policy and procedure for Pathway Approval and Review. Navitas UPE has, as part of its corporate code of practice, a commitment to continuous improvement and the UPE College* network has demonstrated its adherence to this commitment through the implementation of a Student Support procedure in each College. Navitas UPE has a long history of, and commitment to, the provision of quality services and support to students. It recognises the importance of engaging students early in their learning experience and places immense value on the Student Voice. Working together with students, our teaching and support staff are committed to providing an education and student experience that is shaped, reviewed and enhanced in spirit of partnership and co-determination.

**Please interpret 'College' as 'Campus' where applicable*

Development and Approval of Pathways

Proposals for a new pathway/stage of study will be subject to an approval process undertaken jointly by the appropriate Faculty/School of the University Partner and the College. There are four stages to the development and approval of new pathways/programmes as shown below, however although it applies to all Colleges, the procedures may vary in detail according to the differing practices of University Partners.



Strategic Approval

New pathways and/or stages under discussion with a Faculty/School of the University Partner must be given Strategic Approval prior to any in-depth curriculum development or marketing activities.

QS01_01 Pathway Approval Form: Section A should provide a clear definition of the type of pathway and/or stage of study being proposed and the business case should be completed by the College Director/Principal (CDP) and a University Proposer (normally the Academic Lead within the relevant School/Faculty). A draft Programme Specification or Pathway Framework and associated marketing collateral are also prepared.

It will then be submitted to the relevant Navitas University Partnerships Europe (UPE) Executive General Manager (EGM) and Head of Education. Once approved, the form is passed to the University Partner for consideration and approval by the relevant University Partner authority. Formal notification of the decision on strategic approval will be made to the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC), the Joint Strategic Partnership Management (JSPM) Board and the relevant University Partner Committee.

Strategic Approval, once granted, allows the marketing of a pathway to fully commence and for the College to issue Offers of Admission. The phrase 'subject to approval' must be contained in all marketing literature until such time as the pathway has been fully approved.

Curriculum Design

Once a new pathway and/or stage of study has been granted Strategic Approval, the draft Programme Specification or Pathway Framework can be fully developed into a full Programme Specification along with draft module Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and associated documentation, as required. This process should involve Academic Registry and College Academic Services with input from appropriate staff of the University Partner (e.g., pathway/programme leaders).

Pathway and programme development will be undertaken by the College together with input from appropriate subject specialist staff of the University Partner. The process will be overseen by Academic Registry.

In undertaking the development work, the following considerations must be considered.

All pathways will incorporate the following design principles:

1. Aim to integrate the following programme learning outcomes, where suitable for the University Partner:
 - **Sustainability:** Students will learn the value of global citizenship, with an awareness of how sustainability, accountability and social responsibility can affect professional practice

- **Digital Fluency:** Students will learn to use digital tools and services to create clear and informative content, articulate concepts through a range of digital media and use digital technologies to manage and facilitate the learning process
 - **DEI & Wellbeing:** Students will identify opportunities to support and develop a diverse, resilient and inclusive culture where fairness, justice and wellbeing are respected
 - **Employability:** Students will develop employability skills by building resilience, adaptability and critical thinking through team activities, discussions and problem solving
2. Adhere where appropriate to the learning needs of an international cohort and to national guidelines on credit volume, thus enabling students to achieve the outcomes expected at each stage of study
 3. Facilitate accessibility
 4. Anticipate disparities in the learning backgrounds of students and strive for equity
 5. Provide the appropriate balance of core learning skills, linguistic competence, practical skills, transferable skills, and disciplinary knowledge and understanding
 6. Provide a contemporary and flexible learning system relevant to the pathway of study
 7. Provide an increasing level of demand on students as they progress through a pathway and to ensure learning preparedness and self-reliance for the mature environment of higher education
 8. Consider the views and the needs of College students (inclusive of disability and special needs) and the subject specialists of the University Partner
 9. Consider the requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)
 10. Provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon skills and attributes required for further study, professional development and employment
 11. Ensure that all intended learning outcomes are clearly identified, developed and assessed as appropriate for progression to the next stage of study
 12. Ensure that pathways accurately reflect the requirements of onward University Partner study

College Stage Design should:

1. Provide and agree appropriate content with the relevant School/Faculty of the University Partner to ensure progression to degree awards at a designated point in the pathway provision
2. Reflect the outcomes of market research among potential applicants
3. Consider aims and learning outcomes to the onward stages of study at the University Partner
4. Consider relevant University Partner strategies and policies (e.g., Assessment Regulations, skills requirements)
5. Operate within the Navitas UPE approved Policies and Regulations (NPRs)
6. Provide an appropriate level of academic challenge and rigour
7. Develop students' capability and autonomy, including the ability to learn and to manage their own learning
8. Ensure that students will have attained the prescribed level of interdisciplinary language competence described as 'Proficient User' by the Council of Europe by inclusion of the appropriate version of the Navitas UPE module 'Interactive Learning Skills and Communication (ILSC)'
9. Where possible, offer students some choice in the degrees available from an articulation point
10. Provide opportunities for exit with a Confirmation of Attainment or transfer to other cognate areas offered by the College or the University Partner

English language provision will be provided by the College, or by the University Partner under arrangements detailed in the Recognition and Articulation Agreement (RAA). The provision will meet any immigration regulations to meet the delivery cycles of College cohorts. All English language will be delivered separate to and prior to progression to the academic stages of a pathway. Any English language part of a pathway must be successfully completed according to standard progression criteria before a student moves to the next stage of studies.

Integrated delivery, where proposed, will be based upon currently approved provision. The majority of the modules will be delivered and assessed by University Partner staff and the ILSC module by College staff. Operational, liaison, assessment and Progression Board procedures will be defined via the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) and reported to the Joint Strategic Partnership Management Board (JSPMB).

At the conclusion of the curriculum design process, the following documentation will be submitted to the University Partner:

- Programme Specification
- Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) or Module Outlines
- Pathway Approval Form
- Other relevant documents as appropriate

Scrutiny Panel

The University Partner will facilitate a Scrutiny Panel, according to its procedures for the approval of collaborative provision, to determine the appropriateness of the proposed curriculum for the level of articulation required.

Membership of the Panel will depend on University Partner practices, but will normally comprise:

- The relevant Associate Dean or nominee, who shall normally be Chair
- At least two other Faculty/School representatives – Head of School and relevant Programme Leader(s)
- College Director/Principal
- College Director of Academic Services or equivalent
- Navitas UPE Head of Education or nominee
- An External (where appropriate)

The University Partner will provide a secretary to the Scrutiny Panel.

The remit of the Scrutiny Panel is to consider:

- The appropriateness of the curriculum for progression to the prescribed articulation point with the University Partner provision in terms of its level, learning outcomes and academic rigour
- Progression criteria
- College management arrangements for the pathway/stage
- Resources will not normally be the focus of discussions, since resource requirements will have been reviewed and agreed at the Strategic Approval stage and minuted at the

Operational Advisory Committee (OAC). However, if during discussions additional requirements or issues of concern are identified, these should be noted at the Scrutiny Panel and in the subsequent Report

- Agree any amendments to the proposals as documented

At the end of the meeting, the Scrutiny Panel will conclude whether the pathway/stage of study meets Navitas requirements and those of the University Partner or whether additional development is required. The outcome of the Scrutiny Panel will be one of the following:

- a) Full approval which may be subject to specified conditions, and/or recommendations
- b) More development work is required before further consideration by the Scrutiny Panel

In each case, the Panel will specify dates by which revised documentation should be submitted.

In the case of outcome (a) above, the College in consultation with University Partner representatives will address any conditions and/or recommendations, revise the documentation accordingly, and submit a statement of how the conditions and/or recommendations have been addressed, together with a copy of revised documentation, to the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel. The Chair will consult with members of the Panel and must be satisfied that there is evidence that all conditions of approval have been fulfilled and recommendations appropriately considered before granting Full Approval under Chair's action.

In the case of outcome (b), the Scrutiny Panel will give clear guidance on the areas where further development is required.

Final Approval

Once a new pathway and/or stage of study has been granted Full Approval by a Scrutiny Panel, the College will complete **QS01_01 Pathway Approval Form: Section B** and submit it to Academic Registry together with the final agreed versions of the Programme Specification and required DMDs. Academic Registry will then formally incorporate the pathway/stage into the College provision.

Academic Registry will instruct the College Director/Principal to formally notify the University Partner of the outcome of the Scrutiny Panel, and forward final versions of the pathway documentation.

On notification, the University Partner may commence Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number assignment and issue of CAS Statements to applicants holding Offers of Admission.

Formal notification of Full Approval including the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel will be made to the AAC, the JSPMB and the relevant University Partner Committee.

Periodic Review of Programmes

Periodic review of College pathway stages will take place according to the requirements and practices of the University Partner. This will be either (a) according to the University Partner's collaborative provision review procedures, or (b) as part of the periodic review of the linked university provision. In both cases, the processes will be those of the University Partner. Exceptionally, the provision of a College may be the subject of periodic review initiated by Navitas. In such cases, Navitas will adopt the process of the University Partner after suitable adaptation.

Portfolio Expansion

Portfolio expansion refers to the addition of further degree awards to an existing College pathway. In practice, portfolio expansion arises when a University Partner adds one or more degree award variants to an existing degree programme. Such expansion requires approval from the Head of Education.

A College's Senior Management Team (SMT) will discuss a proposal for portfolio expansion and maintain a record of its decision. The SMT will consider market research data supporting the expansion and costs related to meeting the required student target.

The CDP (College Proposer) and the University Partner Proposer will complete the **QS01_04 Portfolio Expansion Form** and submit to the relevant Executive General Manager and the Head of Education for approval.

Portfolio Expansion may be granted by the Executive General Manager with support from the Head of Education via email. This notification of approval should be attached to this Form and noted in Section C by the College Proposer.

Modifications

Modifications are dependent upon the change being proposed/made, and whether it constitutes a change to a module or pathway/stage of study.

Changes to a module must be notified to Academic Registry by the CDP or nominee via the **QS01_05 Module Management Approval Form** along with the revised Module documentation for approval.

Routine changes to a programme must be notified to Academic Registry by the CDP or nominee via the **QS01_06 Programme Modification Form** along with the revised Programme documentation for approval.

Changes to a pathway/stage of study must be notified to the EGM and Academic Registry by the CDP. If the changes are substantive, a full re-approval procedure must be carried out as set out in the **QS01_01 Pathway Approval Form** accompanied by all associated curriculum documentation.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years unless there are internal or legislative changes that necessitate an earlier review.