



## CHE Resolution 342/12

### Academic Guidelines for Joint Programs between Israeli and Foreign Higher Education Institutions

The Council for Higher Education (hereinafter – the CHE) decided on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 to adopt the recommendation of the supreme subcommittee for recognition, accreditation and licensing in regard to academic guidelines for joint programs between Israeli and foreign higher education institutions (hereinafter – HEIs), with the following changes:

- a. This document applies to all joint study programs offered by Israeli higher education institutions in cooperation with a foreign HEI.
- b. The term "Joint program" will subsequently refer to a joint degree offered by two institutions, an Israeli HEI and a foreign one, awarding the graduates one joint diploma indicating the two institutions.

The second option in force is a multiple degree that will award for the same curriculum and degree two separate diplomas, one signed by the Israeli institution and a second by the foreign institution. In this case, the degree title must be identical on both diplomas. The geographical location of the courses attended as well as a statement clarifying that the diploma awards a joint degree will be listed in detail on the academic transcript. A joint program executed by more than two institutions, of which at least one institution is from Israel, will be called a "multi-degree program". The guidelines specified in this document will also apply, with necessary changes, on an application for a multi-degree program.

- c. The Council wishes to emphasize that the rules in force today, allowing the institutions to individually recognize a student's academic record from a different academic context, can be applied in this framework as well.
- d. In order to open and offer a joint program including a foreign HEI, the Israeli HEI is required to apply for approval from the Israeli Council for Higher Education. This applies to all degree levels.
- e. Both partner institutions in the program must be accredited as degree awarding HEIs by the regulatory bodies and in accordance with the law in the respective country and the program must be accredited in each institution separately.
- f. Each institution must provide at least 40% of the program's curriculum. The courses must be taught by permanent faculty of the institution, including faculty from other departments that are not part of the joint program.
- g. Students must study at least one semester in each partner institution and must be physically present at the campus during the study period. It is possible to include a short term intensive semester course of no less than 5 weeks' duration. In this case the regulations

about the minimum of 40% of the curriculum as mentioned in article "f" does not apply. This curriculum can be completed by additional courses taught at the second partner institution.

h. In order to ensure genuine cooperation between the institutions, the applying institutions must anchor their partnership in an agreement and submit a draft of this agreement to the CHE and the PBC as part of the application's documentation.

i. The study program will be open to the all students in Israel who will meet the admission and acceptance requirements of the program. Each of the partner institutions will publish the program on their website or in their newsletter and will allow registration to the joint program. The foregoing is not intended to affect programs aimed mainly at Israeli students.

j. As for the Israeli partner, the admission requirements of the joint program will be at least equivalent to the admission requirements in place for the original program approved by the CHE.

k. Both institutions will set joint academic mechanisms for the development, operation and oversight of the joint study program. These mechanisms will include, inter alia, the establishment of a steering committee and the appointment of a head of the program on behalf of each participating institution. This will be outlined in detail in the application for approval to the CHE.

l. In a joint program in fields that include practical training as part of the program of study, the partner institutions must ensure that the opportunity for practical placement will be given to students in a way that will assist them to practice the occupation in their home country. It should be noted that a joint study program with practical placement might require additional approval from the regulatory bodies relevant to the field. In addition, in the case of a request to open such a joint study program involving practical training in fields in which the practical training is considered a limited national resource, the approval of the program will be subject to detailed planning examination by the regulatory bodies regarding the priorities in utilizing this resource.

m. In exceptional cases, and with specific reasons, permission may be granted to apply for a study program which partially exceeds the rules above, but only if it is justified and explained in the application and does not harm the overall guidelines described in this document.

n. The study program must have approval from both the PBC (planning and budgeting Committee) and the CHE, as it is customary for all academic study programs.

The application procedure for a joint degree program is as follows:

The Israeli Higher Education Institution is requested to submit a detailed application to receive approval for the opening of a new joint or multiple study program. The application should include all the details required according to the general CHE/PBC guidelines for new study programs. In addition, the request for a joint or multiple degree should include the following:

- Written proof that the foreign partner institution is recognized as HEI by the regulatory body in the respective country and that the HEI is authorized to award the degree in question.
- Written proof of the foreign institution's academic quality in general and the quality of the specific study program in particular (with reference to rankings, prominent staff

members, vision and objectives, syllabus of the program, students, research in the field, existing infrastructure, quality of teaching and learning).

- A statement about the program of study, including the rationale of the program, its mission and goals and an explanation of the added value of the partnership between the involved HEIs.
- Description of the joint candidature and admission requirements including a comparison to those in the original program in both institutions, and details about their differences. The joint candidature and admission requirements will also be reported as they appear in the partner institution's publications abroad in English (or a different foreign language as relevant to the particular program).
- Details of the program's compliance with the conditions set out above.
- Details of the teaching staff of both partner institutions according to the general application procedures for study programs in Israel.
- The draft agreements between both partner HEIs must be attached to the application, including financial agreements.
- The language of instruction.
- In the case of an existing study program, all changes in relation to the original program approved by the CHE must be specified.

1. After the assessment of compliance with the above mentioned guidelines, the request will be registered and then forwarded for examination, in accordance with the CHE regulations.
2. If the request refers to an existing and operating program of study within the applying institution, the Council will take this into account and adjust the examination process and the time-table to this fact.
3. The program examination will, inter alia, ensure that the application is according to the rules mentioned above. The relative quality of the programs participating will be examined in particular, according to the following questions: what are the justification and existing academic infrastructure for a joint or double degree in the requested field; have the relevant adjustments been made to the original program for the purpose of creating a joint degree without detracting from the quality of the original program, which was approved for the same institution in the past; have the core subjects in the requested field of study been included in the program?

Higher education institutions that currently operate joint degree programs with a recognized foreign institution, including those awarding two diplomas, will adapt their programs to the conditions mentioned in article 1, starting from the academic year 2013-2014. Institutions that have not been granted approval by the CHE for their joint degree programs, will apply according to the above mentioned guidelines no later than September 2013.

\*In the case of conflicting meanings between language versions, the Hebrew version prevails.

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