

# Some thoughts on the establishment of MOUs between institutions

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Dr Benjamin Chan  
Dean of OUHK LiPACE



# Different arrangements

How is advanced standing granted?

- By year of entry, e.g. to Year 2 or Year 3 of a 4-year Bachelor's Degree. This applies to our articulation agreements with UK, HK, Taiwan, Japan institutions
- By no. of credits exempted, e.g. block credit exemption + specific credit exemption. This applies to a part-time Dip programme where students can complete a second Bachelor's degree of one US institution in a shorter period of time

How are MOUs signed?

- At institutional level (involving a range of programmes)
- At programme level (normally for a single programme or a suite of related programmes)

# Shortcomings

- Insufficient recognition of eligible credits due to constraint imposed by year of study
- Inability to experiment with other models of credit transfer, such as the 75/45 or 90/30 in US system, thus limiting HK to a “2 + 2” arrangement only
- MOU execution relies heavily on the relationship of partners (at many times this boils down to personal trust built between PLs) and is unsystematic
- Communication channels can be lost when critical staff left their posts
- Information exchanges on subject revision or curriculum revamp lack mandatory notification requirement

# Future strategies

- Common syllabuses for introductory courses across subdegree institutions to facilitate **block credit transfer to university (e.g. languages, GE, foundation subjects in different disciplines)**
- Mechanism and requirement for notification of subject revision/curriculum revamp to be included in the MOU
- PLs or contact person for programmes to be provided on a common search platform with their full contact details, updating once a year or when there are changes to personnel
- Fully implement credit transfer based on the “Policy, Principles and Operational Guidelines for CAT under QF in HK” issued by the EDB in March 2016. This should include credits obtained via recognition of prior non-formal and informal learning.

<https://www.hkqf.gov.hk/en/KeyFeatures/cat/index.html>