

Memorandum of Understanding

Universities Australia (UA)

and

The Japan Association of National Universities (JANU)

Universities Australia and the Japan Association of National Universities, herein referred to as “the Parties” wishing to cooperate in the promotion of academic and research links between their two countries, in the interests of the universities in both countries, make the following agreement:

ARTICLE 1

Purpose

1.1 Under this agreement the Parties intend to promote co-operation which will advance university educational and research activities as well as faculty, staff and student exchange to contribute to enhancing the functions of universities in both countries.

2.1 All member institutions of the Parties shall be eligible for consideration as participants in the program of co-operative activities.

ARTICLE 2

Fields of Cooperation

2.1 Cooperation between the parties will involve the following areas:

- Information sharing
- Student mobility and exchange
- Recognition of qualifications
- Research collaboration
- Staff development and exchange
- University management

2.1 Further areas for cooperation may be agreed from time to time.

ARTICLE 3

Implementation

3.1 To implement this agreement, Parties will establish a Joint Working Group. The Joint Working Group will develop a program of activities for cooperation under this agreement referred to as the “Work Plan”. This Work Plan will be updated as needed. The Joint Working Group will meet annually via teleconference or in person to discuss progress against the Work Plan.

ARTICLE 4

Duration

4.1 This Agreement enters into effect from the date it is signed for a period of five years. Following this period, it will remain in force until one of the Parties requests otherwise, it can be amended with the consent of both Parties.

Either Party may withdraw from the arrangement at any time following written notification of the other Party. A Party intending to withdraw from the arrangement must provide the other Party with twelve months’ notice of its intention to withdraw.

This Agreement is executed in Japanese and in English; copies in either language have equal validity.

Date: 03/09/2015

Ms. Anne-Marie Lansdown
Deputy Chief Executive

Professor Dr. Kyosuke Nagata
Vice President

Universities Australia

Japan Association of National Universities

Attachments:

* Work Plan

* Recognition of Academic Qualifications between Australia and Japan

Work Plan
for the implementation of the
Memorandum of Understanding between
Universities Australia (UA)
and
The Japan Association of National Universities (JANU)

Universities Australia and the Japan Association of National Universities, herein referred to as “the Parties” agree to execute a Work Plan to implement the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 03/09/2015.

The Work Plan consists of activities aimed at promoting academic and research collaboration that will be jointly implemented by the Parties and their members.

Item 1: Information Sharing

The Parties agree to meet annually via teleconference or in person to share information about the current higher education environment in their respective countries and will report on progress against this Work Plan.

Item 2: Student Mobility and Exchange

The Parties agree to discuss options and promote opportunities for increasing two-way student mobility, aligned with relevant government programs such as Australia’s New Colombo Plan and Japan’s Tobitate Young Ambassador Program.

The Parties agree to consider the development and promotion of “best practice” models for joint and double degree and cotutelle programs for Australian/Japan partnerships.

Item 3: Recognition of Qualifications

The Parties agree on and will promote the recognition of periods of study, nationally recognised higher education awards – or their equivalents – and other higher education qualifications granted by a competent authority of one of the two countries in order to promote study in the higher education institutions in the partner country.

Item 4: Research Collaboration

The Parties will consider options for building on existing collaboration and exchange to facilitate greater research cooperation between the two countries.

Item 5: Staff Development and Exchange and University Management

The Parties will consider developing and implementing a joint staff and faculty development program with a focus on middle management and administration in university international offices, to support closer university partnerships and increased exchange and collaboration.

Recognition of Academic Qualifications between Australia and Japan

This agreement is designed to support further mobility between the partner countries and thereby partly implement the ideals expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding between Universities Australia (UA) and the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU), herein referred to as “the Parties”, concluded on 03/09/2015.

The Parties, taking into account the tradition of cooperation and exchange that exists between Australian and Japanese higher education institutions, the desirability of encouraging mobility by students in each of the two countries and the fact that the professions are regulated by specific national legislation, have agreed the following points:

Article 1

Objective of the Agreement

The objective of the agreement is to encourage the recognition of periods of study and nationally recognised higher education qualifications granted by a competent authority in one of the two countries in order to promote study in higher education institutions of the partner country (as defined in Article 2.2 below)

Article 2

Application

2.1 This Agreement applies to:

- students who hold higher education awards and qualifications that were acquired in their country of origin;
- students who have undertaken periods of study in their country of origin and have not completed the full cycle of studies necessary for granting of a qualification, but have nevertheless been officially recognised by examination or certificate issued by a competent authority certifying that these studies were completed satisfactorily. Such periods of study may be recognised by the institutions of the recipient country and lead to the granting of advanced standing exempting students from the need to undertake courses of like learning outcomes delivered by the receiving institution.

In both cases the program in which students may enrol will be determined by the competent academic authorities. Advanced standing for prior studies will be granted for programs within a similar field of study or similar field of professional training.

2.2 This Agreement covers:

- In Japan, all institutions which are members of JANU.
- In Australia, all institutions that are members of UA.

The list of Australian and Japanese institutions covered by this Agreement is at Annex 1.

This Agreement is based on respect for the principle of institutional autonomy applying in the higher education systems of both Australia and Japan.

Article 3

Higher education qualifications awarded in Australia and Japan as well as the organisation and structure of the higher education systems of the two countries are presented in Annex 2.

Article 4

Entry by the holders of Australian qualifications to Japanese higher education institutions

The Parties acknowledge that in determining the eligibility to study, Japanese institutions will determine the required qualifications, academic achievement and prerequisite knowledge according to their own policies and in accordance with the conditions applied to Japanese students.

4.1 Access to undergraduate studies (Bachelor level)

- A student holding an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, accompanied by evidence of an appropriate tertiary admissions rank or other evidence of his/her acceptance into an undergraduate program in Australia may enrol in the first year of studies at a Japanese university.

4.2 Access to postgraduate studies (Master level)

- The Australian Bachelor Degree requiring four or more years of full-time study may be considered as corresponding to the acquisition of the Japanese Bachelor Degree (学士号).
- The Australian Bachelor Degree requiring three or more years and less than four years of full-time study may be considered as corresponding to the acquisition of the Japanese Bachelor Degree (学士号), on condition that the revision of the Ordinance of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology(MEXT), Japan has been implemented, and the revised Ordinance has come into force.
- The holder of an Australian Bachelor Degree may enrol in the first year of a Master Degree program in his/her field of study under the same conditions as apply to Japanese students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record.

4.3 Access to postgraduate studies (Doctoral level)

The Australian Masters Degree may be considered as corresponding to the acquisition of the Japanese Master Degree (修士号). The holder of an Australian Masters Degree may admitted to a doctoral program under the same conditions as apply to Japanese students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record and the proposed research area.

4.4 Entry with advanced standing to the intermediate years of program of study is based on the requirements presented in Article 6 below.

Article 5

Entry by the holders of Japanese qualifications to Australian higher education institutions.

The Parties acknowledge that in determining the eligibility to study, Australian institutions will determine the required qualifications, academic achievement and prerequisite knowledge according to their own policies and in accordance with the conditions applied to Australian students.

5.1 Access to undergraduate studies (Bachelor level)

- The holder of the Japanese Upper Secondary School Certificate of Graduation (高等学校) may be admitted to a Bachelor Degree program subject to consideration of the student's academic record.

5.2 Access to postgraduate studies (Master level)

- The holder of a Japanese Bachelor Degree (学士号) may be admitted to a Masters Degree program in his/her field of study under the same conditions as apply to Australian students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record.

5.3 Access to postgraduate studies (Doctoral level)

- The holder of a Japanese Master Degree (修士号) or another Award at Master level granted on completion of a program designed to establish the Award holder's aptitude for research may enrol in a doctoral program in his/her field of study under the same conditions as apply to Australian students, subject to consideration of the student's academic record.

5.4 Entry with advance standing to the intermediate years of program of study is based on the requirements presented in Article 6 below.

Article 6

6.1 Upon application by the student concerned, higher education institutions in either country may grant students advanced standing for acquired credits and/or successfully completed periods of higher education study which have not led to the award of a qualification and which were undertaken in the other country. This will usually be done on the basis of a system of credits.

6.2 The competent authority in terms of the recognition of periods of study for the purposes of advanced standing is the higher education institution at which the student intends to study.

Article 7

Japanese and Australian institutions may develop partnership arrangements to offer both joint and double degrees.



Article 8

The two parties undertake to keep each other informed about the operation of their respective systems of higher education and of any changes to higher education policy in their respective countries.

Annex 1

A: Australia

- Australian Catholic University
- Bond University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- CQUniversity
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Federation University Australia
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Southern Cross University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The Australian National University
- The University of Adelaide
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of New England
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Notre Dame
- The University of Queensland
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Canberra
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast

- University of Western Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- Victoria University

B: Japan

- Hokkaido University
- Hokkaido University of Education
- Muroran Institute of Technology
- Otaru University of Commerce
- Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
- Asahikawa Medical University
- Kitami Institute of Technology
- Hirosaki University
- Iwate University
- Tohoku University
- Miyagi University of Education
- Akita University
- Yamagata University
- Fukushima University
- The University of Tokyo
- Tokyo Medical and Dental University
- Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- Tokyo Gakugei University
- Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology
- Tokyo University of the Arts
- Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
- Ochanomizu University
- The University of Electro-Communications
- Hitotsubashi University
- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
- Ibaraki University
- University of Tsukuba
- Tsukuba University of Technology
- Utsunomiya University
- Gunma University
- Saitama University
- Chiba University

- Yokohama National University
- The Graduate University for Advanced Studies
- Niigata University
- Nagaoka University of Technology
- Joetsu University of Education
- University of Yamanashi
- Shinshu University
- University of Toyama
- Kanazawa University
- Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
- University of Fukui
- Gifu University
- Shizuoka University
- Hamamatsu University School of Medicine
- Nagoya University
- Aichi University of Education
- Nagoya Institute of Technology
- Toyohashi University of Technology
- Mie University
- Shiga University
- Shiga University of Medical Science
- Kyoto University
- Kyoto University of Education
- Kyoto Institute of Technology
- Osaka University
- Osaka Kyoiku University
- Hyogo University of Teacher Education
- Kobe University
- Nara University of Education
- Nara Women's University
- Nara Institute of Science and Technology
- Wakayama University
- Tottori University
- Shimane University
- Okayama University
- Hiroshima University
- Yamaguchi University
- Tokushima University
- Naruto University of Education

- Kagawa University
- Ehime University
- Kochi University
- Fukuoka University of Education
- Kyushu University
- Kyushu Institute of Technology
- Saga University
- Nagasaki University
- Kumamoto University
- Oita University
- University of Miyazaki
- Kagoshima University
- National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya
- University of the Ryukyus

Annex 2

A: Australia

1. Qualifications in the Australian Qualifications Framework

This Agreement covers the following qualifications in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF):

Senior Secondary Certificate of Education; Diploma; Associate Degree/Advanced Diploma; Bachelor Degree; Graduate Certificate; Graduate Diploma; Masters Degree; Doctoral Degree.

Note that accredited AQF qualifications may be issued by:

- universities
- Other self-accrediting higher education institutions
- Non-self-accrediting higher education institutions approved by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency

AQF qualifications have the same status, regardless of the awarding institution.

2. Organisation of Studies

The Australian Qualifications Framework is based on outcomes and function and is not an accumulative model/framework.

Senior Secondary Certificate of Education

The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is a generic title: the specific name of the qualification is determined by the State or Territory making the Award. The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is a multi-purpose qualification and the learning outcomes are consistent in all States and Territories. Universities may determine an individual student's admission on the basis of their final academic senior secondary education results based on the final examinations in some States, or a combination of continuous assessment and final examinations in others.

Diploma

The Diploma is awarded in both the higher education and vocational education and training (VET) sectors, in the VET sector it is a competency-based qualification, but higher education institutions offer a range of programs at this level.

The purpose of the Diploma qualification is to qualify individuals who apply integrated technical and theoretical concepts in a broad range of contexts to undertake advanced skilled or paraprofessional work and as a pathway for further learning.

Diploma graduates can continue to further education in the higher education sector with up to one year of credit granted towards a related Bachelor degree program.

Associate Degree/Advanced Diploma

The Associate Degree provides the foundational underpinnings of one or more academic disciplines. It typically articulates with full credit into a Bachelor Degree in the same field, but is also an qualification in its own right.

The Advanced Diploma is at the same level as the Associate Degree and is awarded in both the higher education and the VET sectors.

As with Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas are typically more vocational and content-specific than the various degree programs.

Advanced Diploma graduates can continue to further education in the higher education sector with between one and two years of credit granted in a related Bachelor Degree program. Associate Degree graduates can continue to further education with usually one-and-a-half to two years of credit granted towards a related Bachelor Degree program.

Bachelor Degree

The structure of the Bachelor Degree depends on the subject area studied and on the department/faculty concerned. The Bachelor Degree provides initial preparation for professional careers and postgraduate study. It commonly requires three years of full-time study or the part-time equivalent. A number of Bachelor Degrees are four or more years in duration. Apart from Honours Degrees (see below) this is most common in professional education, where additional time may be required to prepare students to operate in a professional context. Bachelor Degrees in professional fields including law and medicine may be offered as graduate entry programs, requiring three or four years of study following a Bachelor Degree in another discipline.

Bachelor Honours Degree and Degrees with Honours

In most disciplines a Bachelor Honours Degree typically adds an additional year of study to a Bachelor Degree on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in the Bachelor Degree program. The additional year normally involves specialised study in one subject involving research and the submission of a thesis. This is often referred to as an “Extension Honours” program.

In some disciplines a Degree with Honours may be awarded to a student completing a regular Bachelor Degree course of four years or more, for example, in engineering or law, with a record of superior achievement. In some cases additional courses and/or designated subject options may be required for the degree with Honours. This is often referred to as an “Embedded Honours” program.

Only a small minority of undergraduate students are awarded with Honours. The holder of a Bachelor Honours Degree may be admitted to the second year of a Master Degree program, subject to consideration of the student’s academic record. Honours graduates with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Upper Division) are in principle eligible to gain direct admission to Doctoral programs, without completing a Masters degree.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma

Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas are generally designed for specific professional purposes, either the broadening of skills and knowledge already gained in an undergraduate program, or developing skills and knowledge in a new professional area.

Although the duration of program may vary, the typical requirement is one semester of full-time study for the Graduate Certificate and two semesters of full-time study for the Graduate Diploma.

Entry is normally based on successful completion of a Bachelor Degree but other pathways are available, usually involving a combination of sub-bachelors qualifications and work experience.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma graduates can continue to further education in the higher education sector and credit may be granted towards a related Masters Degree program.

Masters Degree

The Masters Degree has three distinct forms: Research; Coursework and Extended. Research Masters are centred on a single large research project and are intended to prepare a student for research and scholarship careers. Coursework Masters focus on specific unit courses at a higher level than offered in Bachelor Degrees, and are often undertaken to enhance professional practice. Extended Masters contain elements of both research and coursework, typically serve as graduate entry pathways to some professions, and take up to twice as long to complete as the other Masters Degrees.

Doctoral Degree

The Doctoral Degree represents the highest level of postgraduate study. In Australia, the Doctoral Degree most commonly undertaken is the research doctorate or the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) which usually involves a searching review of literature, experimentation or other systematic approach to the relevant body of knowledge. This qualification recognises a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, or application and interpretation of existing knowledge. It normally requires three years full-time study following a Masters or Bachelor Honours Degree (First Class or Second Class, upper division).

Requirements for the professional doctorate are similar, but include significant professional practice either prior to and/or as part of the program, and have research outcomes that advance professional practice rather than deepen a field of knowledge.

B: Japan

1. The Japanese higher education system

Japanese universities are divided into three categories according to their founding entities: national universities originally founded by the national government (today each national university's founding entity is its respective national university corporation); public universities founded by local governments or public university corporations; and private universities founded by educational corporations. There are also other types of higher education institutions, such as colleges of technology providing five-year practical and creative education designed to prepare students to seek professional careers immediately after graduation, as well as advanced courses of special training schools (specialized vocational training colleges) aiming to develop skills necessary for professional or daily lives and increase literacy.

2. Types of higher education institutions and degrees they award

2.1. Types of higher education institutions and degrees

- Universities and graduate schools

Universities and graduate schools award bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees to their graduates.

Universities award bachelor's degrees to students upon their completion of bachelor's programs. After that, master's degrees and doctoral degrees are conferred on students who have completed master's programs and doctoral programs, respectively. In addition, professional degrees, which are equivalent to master's degrees, are awarded to students at the time of their completion of professional graduate programs.

Universities may award doctoral degrees to individuals who are recognized as having the same academic ability as those who have passed the doctoral thesis review and examinations that their graduate schools conduct and who have earned doctoral degrees, regardless of whether they have actually enrolled in doctoral programs.

- Junior colleges

Junior colleges confer on their graduates associate degrees.

Qualifications of Post-Secondary Non-University Education

- Colleges of technology

Colleges of technology award the title of Associate to their graduates.

- Professional Training College (Specialized Training College, Postsecondary School)

Those who have completed the professional training college (specialized training college, postsecondary school) approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology may qualify as holders of the Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

2.2. Awarding of degrees by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)

NIAD-UE awards bachelor's degrees to learners who have, after graduating from a junior college, a college of technology or a professional training college, acquired academic credits to fulfill the prescribed requirements according to the NIAD-UE's criteria and have sufficient academic attainments in the particular disciplinary field. Credits can be earned by participating in an undergraduate program at a university in Japan as a non-matriculated student or in a NIAD-UE approved advanced program offered by a junior college or a college of technology. NIAD-UE evaluates applicants' academic ability by examination of earned academic credits and a submitted work such as thesis, work of art or musical performance.

NIAD-UE awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees to those who successfully complete a program at the NIAD-UE recognized educational institutions which have been established by ministers other than the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and provide education equivalent to a university undergraduate program or a graduate school's master's or doctoral program. NIAD-UE evaluates applicants' academic ability by examination of earned academic credits. Applicants for master's and doctoral degrees are required to defend their theses.

2.3. Standard periods necessary for earning a degree

Bachelor's degree: 4 years

Master's or professional degree: 2 years after earning a bachelor's degree

Doctoral degree: 5 years after earning a bachelor's degree

2.4. Requirements for graduation and program completion

(1) Bachelor

To graduate from bachelor's programs, students are required to study in a university for at least four years and obtain 124 credits or more.

(2) Master

To complete master's programs, students are required to study in a graduate school for at least two years (or one year for students with outstanding achievements), obtain 30 credits or more, receive necessary research guidance, pass the review of their master's theses or research results concerning specific themes as well as relevant examinations, depending on the purposes of the graduate programs they are enrolled in.

(3) Professional

To complete professional degree programs, students are required to study in a professional graduate school for at least two years, obtain 30 credits or more, and attend other relevant courses.

(4) Doctoral

To complete doctoral programs, students are required to study in a graduate school for at least five years (or three years for students with outstanding achievements), obtain 30 credits or more, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the review of their doctoral theses and relevant examinations.

2.5. Requirements for earning a credit

For each course, 45 class hours of study is calculated as one credit.

3. Admission qualifications

In Japan, qualifications necessary for entering universities are set forth by such laws as the School Education Law. Each university recruits students on the basis of the admission standards that it set in compliance with the university admission qualifications stipulated by said laws.

3.1 Qualifications for entering universities

Those who have completed 12 years of school education, such as graduates from high schools or secondary schools, are eligible to enter universities. However, those with particularly outstanding qualities are recognized as eligible for university admission after completing 11 years of school education.

Described below are details of qualifications of eligible individuals.

- (1) Those who have graduated from high schools or secondary schools
- (2) Those who have completed the advanced courses of special needs school or the third year of the colleges of technology
- (3) Those who have completed 12 years of school education overseas
- (4) Those who have passed a 12-year education equivalency examination given overseas
- (5) Those who have completed schools for children of foreign nationals in Japan which are designated as being equivalent to overseas high schools
- (6) Those who have completed school education at overseas education institutions that are designated as equivalent to high school
- (7) Those who have completed the advanced courses of designated special training schools
- (8) Those who have completed schools, etc. that were founded under Japan's pre-war education system
- (9) Those who hold overseas university admission qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate, the Abitur, and French baccalauréat
- (10) Those who have completed 12 years of school education in schools for children of foreign nationals in Japan that are authorized by international accrediting organizations (WASC, CIS, ACSI)
- (11) Those who have passed the high school equivalency examination (former university entrance qualification examination)
- (12) Those who have completed 12 years of school education in high schools etc. and have been admitted as a result of an individual university's own selection procedures

3.2. Qualifications for entering graduate schools (qualifications for enrolling in master's programs or the first stage of doctoral programs)

Those who have completed 16 years of school education, such as those who have graduated from universities or who are deemed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to have abilities that are equivalent to or higher than a university graduate, are eligible to enroll in master's programs or the first stage of doctoral programs. However, those with particularly outstanding qualities are recognized as eligible to enroll in relevant graduate programs after completing 15 years of school education.

Described below are details of qualifications of eligible individuals.

- (1) Those who have graduated from universities
- (2) Those who have been awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation
- (3) Those who have completed 16 years of school education overseas
- (4) Those who have completed 16 years of school education of other countries by taking correspondence courses in Japan that are offered by schools in such other countries
- (5) Those who have completed school education provided by foreign schools in Japan that are designated as equivalent to foreign universities (Locations in Japan of a foreign university designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- (6) Those who have completed the advanced courses of designated special training schools (List of the Advanced Courses of Special Training Schools designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- (7) Those who have completed studies at schools, etc. under Japan's old education system
- (8) Those who have completed studies at schools affiliated with Japan's ministries or agencies, such as National Defense Academy, Japan Coast Guard Academy, and Meteorological College
- (9) Those who have been admitted as a result of an individual graduate school's own selection procedures (master's programs)

3.3. Second stage of doctoral programs

Those who hold master's or equivalent degrees or who are deemed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to have abilities that are equivalent to or higher than a master's degree holder are eligible to enroll in the second stage of doctoral programs.

4. International Cooperative Curricula Scheme (joint degree with foreign universities)

Under the Japanese legal system, a new scheme was put into effect to allow Japanese universities (including junior colleges) to organize academic programs with foreign universities jointly ("International Cooperative Curricula Scheme") to confer « joint degrees » in their names and the names of partner universities in foreign countries on those who have completed prescribed programs.