

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Accreditation	The formal approval of the value assigned to external professional activities.
Advance HE (formerly HEA)	The national UK body for promoting good practice in learning and teaching.
Articulation	A formal credit rating and transfer agreement between two institutions, one of which agrees to recognise and grant specific credit and advanced standing to applicants from a named programme of study offered by the other institution. These allow students undertaking Higher Education Studies at another HEI to transfer some or all of the credit thus acquired to contribute to an award of the University.
Assessment	A process whereby formal judgement can be made by examiners of the achievement of students against the learning outcomes established in the approved curriculum, using the assessment scheme approved when the programme was validated.
B3 metrics	Student outcome data on continuation, completion, progression that is reviewed against sector wide benchmarks by the Office for Students as part of their Conditions of Registration for all registered higher education institutions.
Collaborative Partner Institution	An institution or other body with which the University enters into an agreement to collaborate.
Collaborative Provision	Refers to the relationships between Middlesex University as a degree awarding body with other providers of higher education academic programmes, such that these providers may offer higher education programmes leading to awards of the University, which may be offered jointly with the University, franchised to the collaborative partner or be validated by the University and offered only by the collaborative partner.
Credit	Each module carries a credit rating, as agreed within the University Learning Framework. Modules are typically 30 credits, or multiples thereof.
Credit rating	A means of quantifying and recognising learning, expressed as 'numbers of credits' at a specific credit level. Normally one credit represents 10 notional hours of learning (including individual study).
Diploma Supplement	A record of the modules and credits taken by a student which may detail other aspects of the student experience (eg language and location of study and assessment). It is issued as quantitative evidence to support an award certificate.
DiscoverUni	Information and data about full-time and part-time undergraduate courses available for application for the next academic year.
Distance Education	Distance Education is defined as programmes, parts of programmes, or short courses explicitly designed to be provided for students who are geographically removed from the University (or partners validated to provide such provision) and who will not access physical resources provided by the University (or partner).

Double Degree	An award for a student who has studied for one degree at Middlesex University and one or more institutions, all of which have degree awarding powers. The degree requires a greater amount of credit than would normally be required for a single qualification. Students will spend time studying at all institutions and must meet the requirements of all awarding bodies in order to receive the award. For example, level 4 and 5 studied in France, level 6 studied in England, level 7 studied in France. Two separate diploma supplements and award certificates, one from each awarding institution, are issued. The diploma supplement issued by Middlesex University will refer to the existence of the other.
Dual Degree	The University operates with a partner institution which also has degree awarding powers in its own right. The curricula for the award are exactly the same at both institutions, however the partner institution also has an additional element(s) in order to meet their own national or cultural requirements to award the degree. Two separate diploma supplements and award certificates, one from each awarding institution, are issued.
External Examiner	External examiners are usually experienced academics in higher education who offer an independent assessment of academic standards and the quality of assessment. External Examiners provide one of the principal means for the maintenance of nationally comparable standards.
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	The framework for higher education qualifications describes the achievement represented by higher education qualifications. They apply to degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards granted by a higher education provider with degree awarding powers.
Franchised Programme	A University Programme, or part thereof, leading to a qualification of the University, designed, assessed and quality assured by the University but delivered at, and by, a Partner Institution.
HESA	Abbreviation for the Higher Education Statistics Agency which is the national UK body responsible for collecting statistical data relating to all aspects of higher education, including students.
Institutional Approval	A process by which the University assures itself of the probity and appropriate standing of a potential Partner Institution, and that the general educational ethos of the collaborative partner is compatible with that of the University.
Institutional Monitoring	A process which is intended to provide assurance that there are no major problems or issues that span different subjects or schools within an academic year or recurring concerns within a specific programme or subject.
Institutional Review	Where major concerns are raised following Institutional monitoring at a collaborative partner, Institutional Review is a formal review mechanism by which the University assures itself that the collaborative partner continues to meet the quality processes and requirements continue to be met following quality issues being raised.

Institutional Visit	As part of the institutional approval process a potential collaborative partner institution may be visited by a University panel to meet with staff and students and tour facilities.
Joint Programme	A University Programme, or part thereof, leading to a qualification of the University, developed, delivered and assessed jointly with a Partner Institution (or institutions) and quality assured by the University.
Learning Framework	An institution wide approach to the design of the curriculum and provision of support for learning and teaching opportunities
Learning outcome	What a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to demonstrate after completing a defined element of study. Learning outcomes features within the programme specification must align with module descriptors.
Level	An indicator of the relative difficulty, complexity, depth of study and autonomy required of a learner (used in credit frameworks). This means that successive years of study within a programme are not necessarily at progressively higher levels: whether they are, or not, will depend on the level of their intended assessed outcomes. The levels of years of study will be approved at programme validation/review.
Level descriptor	A statement that provides a broad indication of learning appropriate to attainment at a particular level, designed to support the assignment of specified learning outcomes to particular modules.
Link Tutor	The main contact between the University and a collaborative Partner Institution at the level of programme/s operation. Link Tutors are nominated members of staff known as the University Link Tutor (ULT) and Institution Link Tutor (ILT). The ULT is an academic post; the ILT is normally an academic post but exceptionally it may be agreed that staff with a sufficient overview of the organisation may be appointed to the post (for example, administrative staff). A ULT and ILT are appointed for each programme.
Memorandum of Co-operation	The formal agreement which must be approved, agreed and signed by the University and Principal (or equivalent) of the relevant partners for every collaborative Programme or module run by a Partner Institution with or for the University.
National Student Survey (NSS)	National Student Survey circulated to all undergraduate finalist students to elicit students' views on their programme of study and their student experience
Office for Students (OfS)	Regulator of higher education providers in England, on behalf of students. The aims include helping students get into and succeed in higher education, help them stay informed, protect their interests and make sure that they get a high quality education that prepares them for the future. Currently acting as the Designated Quality Body for higher education providers in England, and able to undertake quality assessments of institutions/programme areas (other than apprenticeships).
Ofsted	Abbreviation of Office for Standards in Education which is the body established by the UK government to inspect schools and institutions providing training for teachers with a view to enhancing and maintaining high standards. Also responsible for assessing the quality of apprenticeships at all level.

Partnership Agreement	The formal agreement which must be signed by the University (Chief Executive) and Principal (or equivalent) of the relevant partner institution detailing the contractual obligations to which both parties must adhere
Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)	PRES is organised by the HEA and is available biannually to all postgraduate research students to elicit their views on the experience on their research programme at Middlesex.
Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)	PTES is organised by the HEA and is available to all postgraduate taught students to elicit their views on the experience on their programme at Middlesex.
Professional Statutory and/or Regulatory Body Accreditation	A professional body or similar organisation which accredits University programmes for some form of professional recognition eg. nurses, teachers, and programmes counting in full or in part towards professional accreditation
Programme	Academic provision, which may be at the level of a named award or parts of an award.
Programme Specification	A concise statement about the intended learning outcomes from a particular programme, information about the teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated, and shows how the modules and units of study which make up a programme will relate to levels of achievement recognised in the qualifications' frameworks.
Programme Voice Groups	Two meetings held per year for each student intake to provide a forum for students, academic staff and other staff associated with the Programme to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of all aspects of the curriculum and student experience on the programme.
Progression agreements	Agreements which facilitate the movement of students from pre-degree studies, or preparatory study in some form, onto the initial stage of an undergraduate programme. Under these agreements, no academic credit from prior study contributes to the credit required for degree programmes. Examples of these include those for foundation programmes.
QAA	Abbreviation for the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education which is a body established to support institutions in improving the quality of UK higher education.
Qualification	A degree, diploma, certificate or other similar formal mark of recognition of successful completion of a programme of study. Some qualifications also qualify their holders in more specific ways: for example, a degree may permit or facilitate entry to a particular vocation or profession, or exempt the holder from part or all of a professional examination.
Recognition of Prior Learning	Accreditation of learning from experience or credit related courses on an individual basis in relation to entry with advanced study into the University.

Programme Review	A process which allows a panel to evaluate the operation of the programme and achievements of the students over a period of years (previously also known as revalidation).
Student Protection Plan	A published document in which a higher education provider details how it would ensure continuity of provision for its students in the light of various risks to business continuity.
Subject Benchmark	Explicit national statements of academic standards or outcomes, at subject level. Subject benchmarking information of this type provides a reference point against which outcomes can be measured.
Validated Programme	A Programme of study, developed, assessed and delivered by a Partner Institution, awarded by and ultimately quality assured by the University.
Validation	The process by which the School and the University ensures that any new Programme, or any significant change to an existing Programme, is academically sound ie. the academic standards are appropriate, the curriculum can deliver the standards, assessment measures achievement of standards. In addition, the Validation ensures adequate Programme-specific resources are available to support the proposal.
UK Engagement Survey	Student questionnaire circulated to all students annually to elicit students' views on their academic student experience