



This Briefing Paper specifies where local modification and contextualisation of courses offered in different locations and modes are permitted and encouraged as per the [Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes, and Courses](#). Schools should support local adaptations in line with the University’s fundamental principle of “identical academic standards; diversity of learning experiences”.

Identical vs Local Variability

IDENTICAL*	LOCAL VARIABILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning outcomes • Core curriculum • Course credit structure • Mandatory courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course content • Course assessment (formative, summative, weighting) • Teaching materials, resources and approaches • Learning activities • Optional courses

* See [Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes, and Courses](#) for exceptional variations, which require approval by the University Studies Committee or the School Studies Committee, depending on the type of variation.

Managing local variability

	<p>COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>The University’s global academic management structures support the creation of cross-campus collaborative teaching teams, which jointly develop and revise multi-location/mode courses.</p>
	<p>EMPOWERING STAFF</p> <p>Schools should support local adaptations and provide a framework that empowers staff at all campuses to take responsibility for developing, implementing, and reviewing local adaptations of the courses they teach.</p>
	<p>LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Global teaching teams are encouraged to promote local adaptations and offer staff at all campuses the opportunity to take on the roles of Course Leader and Global Course Leader.</p>
	<p>STUDENT AWARENESS</p> <p>Students should be informed that variations between campuses are encouraged by the University and do not imply differences in quality and academic standards. They should, in fact, be encouraged to recognise the value of these local variations.</p>

Resources

- Read the full [Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes, and Courses](#) and the associated [Briefing Papers](#) for comprehensive guidance.
- View the [Global Academic Management Structures Briefing Paper](#)
- Visit the [Programme Directors’ Toolbox on the LTA Hub](#) for help with programme development, approval, and review processes

Reviewed: This Learning & Teaching Briefing Paper was produced as part of a series of Academic Quality advice and guidance. Visit our [SharePoint Hub](#) for further information.

