# **AQDC017 Collaborative Course Closure Action Plan**

A Course Closure Action Plan should be agreed and completed to manage the course closure process and teaching out arrangements (see Section 27 of the [Collaborative Academic Partnerships Processes](https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/about/academic-quality-and-development/quality-manual/collaborative-partnerships/) document). This follows the approval for Course Closure by the Collaborative Partnerships Committee (CPC).

It is crucial that when discussing the closure of a course that the experience of the remaining students is safeguarded. It would usually be expected that remaining groups of students are informed of the decision in a timely manner or are involved in the process of reaching the decision to close a course. To this end, it would be expected that the partner and London Met agree a joint communication for the remaining cohorts of students.

Attention should be given to the impact of the removal of the course on staffing, student support and other key services and any potential impact that this may have on quality assurance. Enhanced monitoring of the student experience during the teach-out period is best practice and additional agenda items could be added to the Course Committee meetings agendas, and the Academic Liaison Tutor (ALT) visits as deemed appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the relevant School to ensure the action plan is maintained and that all actions required are expedited by the target dates. The School LTQC will monitor progress against the action plan with the expectation that the action plan is reported on at the Collaborative Partnerships Committee (CPC) which will monitor the teach out and confirm the course closure once all students have completed the course or reached the end of their registration period.

Further guidance for the action plan is provided in the template below.

**Section One: General Information**

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| **School and Subject Area:** |  |
| **Partner Institution:** |  |
| **Course(s):** |  |
| **Dates action plan created and revised:** |  |
| **Individual responsible for action plan (name/role:** |  |

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| **Date for course closure to new entrants:** |  |

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| **Date all students (incl P/T) will complete:** |  |
| **Date School LTQC agreed plan, + review date(s)** |  |

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| **Confirmation and date that the Partnerships Office and AQD informed** |  |
| **Confirmation that formal correspondence between partners has been undertaken** |  |
| **Is this course closure part of a planned termination of the partnership overall?** |  |

**Section Two: Action Plan**

This section should outline how the Course Team/School/Partner Institution has committed to manage the run out of the course following a decision to close. Each response should articulate steps that will be taken to assure the student experience and quality of academic standards.

**1. Prospective Students**

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| **Closure of recruitment and removal of related publicity materials**  Ensure that both the University and the partner organisation have closed recruitment activity and removed course/s from UCAS and other promotional materials, websites, etc.  When all students have completed, ensure that all references to the University in course related materials are removed from partner public information, including hard copy and web-based (and vice versa in University publications, including programme specifications, prospectus, website).  Where the partnership has closed, the partner organisation will be deleted from all relevant University public information. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**2. Applicants**

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| **Notification and communications to applicants**  It is essential that applicants, including those who have been offered a place on a course but not yet accepted, deferred offers and those who have accepted a place but not yet registered, are informed of the course closure and options available to them. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**2. Current Students**

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| **Notification and communications to students**  Students must be kept informed of any changes that may affect them in relation to the closure and student representatives should be involved in planning and managing course closure. This may include arrangements for teaching and supervision, support for placements/internships, PSRB requirements, reassessment and plans for retake modules and for temporarily withdrawn students and students taking a leave of absence from studies.    Students should be informed in a meeting so that they can be given reassurances about arrangements to ensure the quality of their experiences through the ‘teach out’ of the course, ask questions, raise any concerns as well as receive written confirmation of arrangements if necessary.  It is important to agree who will have the communication responsibility. Normally the relevant School (in liaison with partners) is responsible for communications with current students and the University and the partner should agree any communications with or to be sent to students.  **Please label and append copies of communication (emails / letters etc) that have been agreed between the University and the partner and issued to students.** | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Student progress, temporary withdrawals, referral and retake students**  Confirmation of numbers of existing students and modes of study on each course/cohorts and predicted completion dates. Provision must be made for students with referrals and arrangements agreed for potential retakes and temporary withdrawal students. Students should not be disadvantaged due to the closure and arrangements should take full account of their needs.  **Please append a spreadsheet showing:**   * Students (names or ID numbers) * Route: FT/PT/DL * Number of credits completed * Number of credits outstanding * Any reassessments * Expected date of completion | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Course Management and Delivery**  Seek and provide assurances that the course can be delivered as approved until completion of the final students registered on the course. Where this is deemed to be at risk, agree alternative arrangements to secure the student experience with the PVC (Student Experience) and Academic Registrar and consult with students prior to final agreement. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**4. Examination Boards and PSRB**

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| **Examination Boards**  Confirm arrangements for marking, moderation and attendance at examination boards. Agree timings of subject/examination boards including a plan to manage students with referrals, retakes or who are temporarily withdrawn. Notify external examiner of arrangements. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**External Examiner appointments -** *Check with AQD that External Examiners contracts related to the course(s) do not finish before the predicted end of the course. It may be necessary, in liaison with AQD, to review and extend a contract, or appoint new externals to see the closure out.**External Examiners must be notified by AQD of the closure of the course(s) and the arrangements made for completion of students, particularly if this varies from the norm.*

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| **Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs)**  If any professional bodies are associated with the course, they should be advised of the closure and their advice considered. Agree who will communicate with PSRBs. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Notification to Partnerships Office, Student Recruitment and Business Development, AQD, Academic Information, Systems, Student Records and Finance**  The Officer to CPC will maintain the post-CPC/APC log with key information of any closures and predicted dates of completion. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**5. Partnership Agreement (IMoA and / or CLA)**

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| **Formal letter to collaborative institution** (if not already sent/or received and acknowledged)  If a formal letter has not been sent but the decision has been made to close the partnership or a particular course at a collaborative partner, please state here who will write the letter, who will sign the letter and when the letter will be written.  Where a partner has decided to terminate, the same information must be entered here in relation to both the termination letter from the partner, and the formal acknowledgement of the termination from the University. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Partnership Agreement**  If the IMoA and / or CLA is due to expire before the students complete, then an interim agreement or an amendment to the existing agreement must be considered to safeguard the student experience. Discuss with the Partnerships Office and AQD.  The Agreement can only end when the last student completes their course, there are no outstanding referrals or retakes and ‘teach out’ arrangements are agreed. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Registered Lecturers**  Once the course has closed and all students completed, approved partner lecturers must be formally notified by the School that their status as approved and registered lecturers of London Met for that course has ended. If this is their only course responsibility with London Met, any associated entitlements would normally be withdrawn.  All London Met accounts, e.g. email, access to WebLearn, etc will be terminated by the School. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Intellectual Property**  Due consideration must be given to the clauses of the agreements related to intellectual property and confirmation of rights. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Copyright issues**  Any issues of copyright for the programme operated at the partner are to be considered. | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

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| **Data Protection**  Consider the supply of student data in relation to the Data Protection Act, before agreeing to pass on students’ records etc | |
| Actions required: |  |
| Responsibility: |  |
| Target dates: |  |
| Progress: |  |

**Section Three: Closure Commentary**

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| **Lessons Learned**  Please complete this section as the closure progresses or when the closure is complete; the closure action plans will be reviewed and monitored at School LTQC and the Collaborative Partnerships Committee. Any information that can assist colleagues in the future will be reviewed and used for guidance. |
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