

Qualification to be Awarded in the Event of Withdrawal of Validation

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Department / Function: Academic Quality & Standards

Policy Owner: Dean, Dr Manoj Ponugubati

Oversight Committee: Academic Board

Approving Body: Academic Board (Recommended) / Board of Governors (Final Approval)

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Regulatory Alignment with Office for Students (OfS) Conditions

The Qualification to be Awarded Policy forms part of the London Academy for Applied Technology's (LAAT) academic governance and student protection framework. The policy sets out the institutional arrangements that ensure students are able to receive an appropriate qualification where a validating partner withdraws programme validation or where the validation agreement is terminated.

The policy supports **OfS Condition C3 (Student Protection Plan)** by ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to protect students' academic interests and enable them to complete their studies or receive an appropriate qualification where disruption occurs.

The policy also supports **OfS Condition B1 (Academic Experience)** by maintaining the integrity of academic standards and the recognition of credits achieved by students. In addition, it aligns with **OfS Condition C1 (Consumer Protection Law)** by ensuring transparency regarding the qualification outcomes available to students in circumstances beyond their control.

Through this policy, LAAT demonstrates its commitment to protecting students' academic progression, recognising learning achievements, and maintaining clear and fair qualification outcomes.

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students studying at the London Academy for Applied Technology (LAAT) are able to receive an appropriate qualification where the

validating partner withdraws validation of a programme or where the validation agreement is terminated.

The policy outlines:

- the institutional arrangements for protecting students' academic interests
- the options available for students to complete their studies
- the recognition of credits already achieved
- the circumstances in which alternative or exit qualifications may be awarded

The primary objective is to ensure that students are not disadvantaged and that appropriate academic outcomes are provided wherever possible.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Students currently enrolled on programmes delivered by LAAT that are validated by an external awarding body or validating partner
- Students who have accepted offers to study on such programmes
- Students undertaking reassessment or approved breaks in study

The policy applies where:

- a validating partner withdraws validation of a programme
- a validation agreement between LAAT and the partner institution is terminated
- a programme delivered under a validation arrangement is discontinued

LAAT will work collaboratively with the validating partner to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to support affected students.

3. Principles

LAAT's approach to qualification outcomes in validation withdrawal situations is guided by the following principles:

Protection of students' academic interests

Students should be able to complete their studies or receive appropriate recognition for completed learning.

Continuity of study

LAAT will prioritise arrangements that allow students to complete their intended programme wherever possible.

Transparency and communication

Students will be informed promptly about any changes affecting programme validation or qualification outcomes.

Recognition of academic achievement

Credits successfully achieved by students will be recognised and appropriately certified.

Fairness and equality

All decisions will ensure fair treatment and consider equality impacts.

4. Circumstances Where This Policy May Apply

This policy may be activated where circumstances arise that affect the continuation of programme validation.

These circumstances may include:

4.1 Withdrawal of Validation

The validating partner withdraws validation of a programme delivered by LAAT.

4.2 Termination of Partnership Agreement

The institutional validation agreement between LAAT and the partner institution ends.

4.3 Programme Closure

A validated programme is discontinued due to academic, operational, or regulatory reasons.

5. Arrangements for Student Protection

Where validation is withdrawn or the partnership agreement ends, LAAT will implement appropriate measures to ensure students are supported.

5.1 Teach-Out Arrangements

Where possible, the validating partner may allow students to complete their studies under existing validation arrangements through a **teach-out period**.

During this period:

- teaching and assessment will continue under agreed academic regulations
- academic standards will remain overseen by the validating partner
- students who successfully complete their programme will receive the validated qualification.

5.3 Transfer to Another Institution

Where continuation at LAAT is not possible, partnered body will support students in transferring to another higher education provider delivering similar programmes.

5.4 Exit Awards

Where students cannot complete the full programme, they may receive an **appropriate exit qualification** reflecting the credits achieved from the partnered university.

Examples may include:

- Certificate of Higher Education
- Diploma of Higher Education
- other recognised interim awards in accordance with programme regulations.

6. Implementation

If validation withdrawal or programme closure occurs, an implementation plan will be developed to coordinate the institutional response in arranged with partnered university. The decision to activate this policy will normally be made by the **Dean or Principal** in consultation with the **Academic Board and Senior Management Team**.

Implementation actions may include:

- assessing the impact on students
- determining appropriate qualification outcomes
- communicating with affected students
- providing academic advice and support.

7. Communication with Students

LAAT will ensure that affected students receive clear and timely communication from the partnered university regarding changes to programme validation or qualification outcomes.

Communication may include:

- formal written notifications
- student briefings or meetings
- individual academic guidance sessions.

Students will be informed about:

- the reason for the change in validation arrangements
- available study options
- qualification outcomes and timelines.

8. Monitoring and Review

Oversight of this policy will be provided through LAAT's governance structures, including:

- Academic Board
- Senior Management Team
- Board of Governors

The policy will normally be reviewed annually or sooner if regulatory or institutional changes occur.

9. Responsible People / Roles include

- **Dean (Policy Owner): Dr Manoj Ponugubati**
Provides strategic oversight of qualification outcomes and ensures implementation of this policy.
- **Programme Lead: Mr Amarjeet Singh**
Monitors programme delivery and supports academic arrangements for affected students.

- **Governance Lead: Dr Abul Hossain**
Ensures policy compliance, documentation, and governance oversight.
- **Student Experience Lead: Dr Ruchi Singla**
Coordinates communication and student support during validation changes.

List of people and contact

Role	Name	Contact Email
Dean	Dr Manoj Ponugubati	manoj@laat.ac.uk
Governance Lead	Dr Abul Hossain	mdabul.hossain@laat.ac.uk
Student Experience Lead	Dr Ruchi Singla	ruchi.singla6@laat.ac.uk
Programme Lead	Mr Amarjeet Singh	Amarjeet.singh@laat.ac.uk

10. List of Document

Student Protection Plan Policy
 Refund and Compensation Policy
 Academic Regulations
 Programme Approval and Review Procedures

11. Evidence

Programme validation agreements
 Programme closure or modification documentation
 Student communication records
 Academic transcripts and credit records
 Student transfer arrangements

Mapping Table for Evidence Items Related to OfS Conditions

Evidence Item	Purpose / What it Demonstrates	Relevant OfS Condition

Programme validation agreements	Demonstrates formal validation arrangements and responsibilities between LAAT and validating partners.	Condition B1 – Academic Experience
Programme closure or modification documentation	Shows that structured procedures exist for programme closure and that students are supported appropriately.	Condition C3 – Student Protection Plan
Student communication records	Demonstrates transparent communication with students regarding programme changes or validation withdrawal.	Condition C1 – Consumer Protection Law
Academic transcripts and credit records	Demonstrates that students’ academic achievements are formally recognised and documented.	Condition B1 – Academic Experience
Student transfer arrangements	Shows that students can transfer to alternative providers or programmes where continuation is not possible.	Condition C3 – Student Protection Plan