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Cross Disciplinary Review Steering Group

**Combining Subjects at Leeds:
Undergraduate Interdisciplinary and Joint Honours Programmes**

Following internal changes to the administration of joint honours programmes, it has been agreed that the brand of 'joint honours' will continue and the programme catalogue has been updated to allow a programme to be identified as a joint honours programme regardless of the parent School. It is necessary to identify which programmes are joint honours programmes for:

- marketing in coursefinder and the University prospectus;
- application of the joint honours eligibility rule; and,
- defining the remit of the sub group of TSEB tasked with oversight of the joint honours portfolio.

It is now necessary to redefine what constitutes a joint honours programme. The proposed definition below is intended to inform the identification of joint honours programmes by programme leaders and catalogue coordinators, and to provide the context for the approval of a programme as a joint honours programme through the University's formal Taught Student Education committees

The University of Leeds

Definition of a Joint Honours Programme

There are a number of ways of combining subjects in undergraduate programmes at Leeds. Depending on the programme, most students have the opportunity to study electives, which are modules outside of the main subject. There are also programmes which bring together different subjects in a formal, organised way. These are called **interdisciplinary programmes** and they combine two or more subjects in varying proportions.

A **joint honours programme** is a particular kind of interdisciplinary programme where students combine two different subjects in approximately equal proportions. A joint honours award demonstrates that you have the capacity to perform at honours standard in *both* subjects.

Definition

A joint honours programme is a programme in which:

- students undertake study up to level 3 in two named subjects;
- the subjects are combined in approximately equal proportions in every year of the programme (at least 40 credits in each subject each year); *and*,
- both subjects are named, and given equal weight, on the award certificate.

A joint honours programme allows the study of two disciplines to the same depth as single honours but with less breadth in each discipline. This means that students are required to reach the same academic standard as single honours students, although, because study time is shared between two subjects, students won't be able to cover as wide a range of topics.

Joint honours programmes are characterised by a degree of choice within and between the two subjects. Rules vary by programme, but students will usually have optional module choices in both subjects, and the opportunity to choose electives in a third subject. This is in addition to the core course (compulsory modules) in each subject which are typically derived from the equivalent single honours programmes.

Eligibility Rule

To be eligible for a joint honours award, students must meet the University's credit requirements and any rules for the individual programme, *and* must pass at least 40 credits at level 2 and 40 credits at level 3 in each of the named subjects. (If excess credits beyond those needed are obtained at a higher level, it is possible for these to 'back count' against a shortage of credits in that subject at a lower level).