

Criteria for Selecting International Partner Institutions

When planning international partnerships, there are several considerations that institutions must address. Below is a checklist for assessing the viability and long-term health of international partnerships with the University of Mississippi.

COMPATIBILITY AND FIT

General institutional compatibility with the University of Mississippi

- Similar missions
- Similar areas of excellence (to build synergy)
- Complementary areas of excellence (to fill gaps)

Compatibility with the international goals of the University of Mississippi

- Will this partnership support achievement of the goals in international teaching, research, engagement, and institutional advancement?

Fit with the range of existing partnerships

- Does this partnership build on areas of strength for UM?
- Does this fill gaps and not stretch institutional resources too thinly?

Quality and integrity of potential partner

- Accreditation
- Ranking
- Academic Programs
- Business and partnership practices

PARTNER DESIRABILITY AND MUTUAL GAIN

What interest from UM exists already?

- Is this partnership in an area of the world of interest to UM?
- Do faculty and/or programs from UM already have connections with the potential partner?
- Does this partnership build on UM's strengths or fill gaps in targeted areas?
- Does the partnership mirror the international connections in our surrounding community or peer institutions?
- Is the partner in a nation that is a source of international students, or a place UM students would like to go?
- Will the partnership be of mutual benefit to all participating institutions?

MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION

Have productive discussions with the potential partner already taken place?

- Has trust and rapport been built?

- Has mutual understanding (including what the partnership means) been reached?
- Have common projects and interests been identified?
- Have relevant decision-makers been engaged?
- What level of commitment has been determined?
- Have possible roadblocks and negative impacts been identified and addressed?
- Have resources and financial arrangements been negotiated?
- Have regulatory issues been addressed?
- Have language issues been addressed?
- Who is the UM champion for the partnership?

MANAGING PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Do resources and structures exist to support the partnership over time?

- Does faculty and departmental buy-in exist?
- Is funding for travel available?
- Are revenue neutral exchange structures in place?
- Are course articulations possible?
- Can/has a system of regular communication be/been established?
- Does each side have a team or office to manage its part of the partnership?
- Does each institution have the capacity to provide language instruction, cultural, and national framing for work with the partner (or can it be developed)?

Has the proposed partnership undergone appropriate reviews at UM?

- Has it followed agreed-upon procedures?
- Has it obtained necessary approvals?
- Has it been discussed by all relevant constituencies?
- Has it been reviewed by legal counsel?
- Is a system of on-going review and re-evaluation in place?
- Is an exit strategy in place?