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Annual Conference 2018

Monday 26
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INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION

Annual Conference 2018

Building effective partnerships with universities

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Partnerships :: A validator’s perspective

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26 November 2018

The Open University

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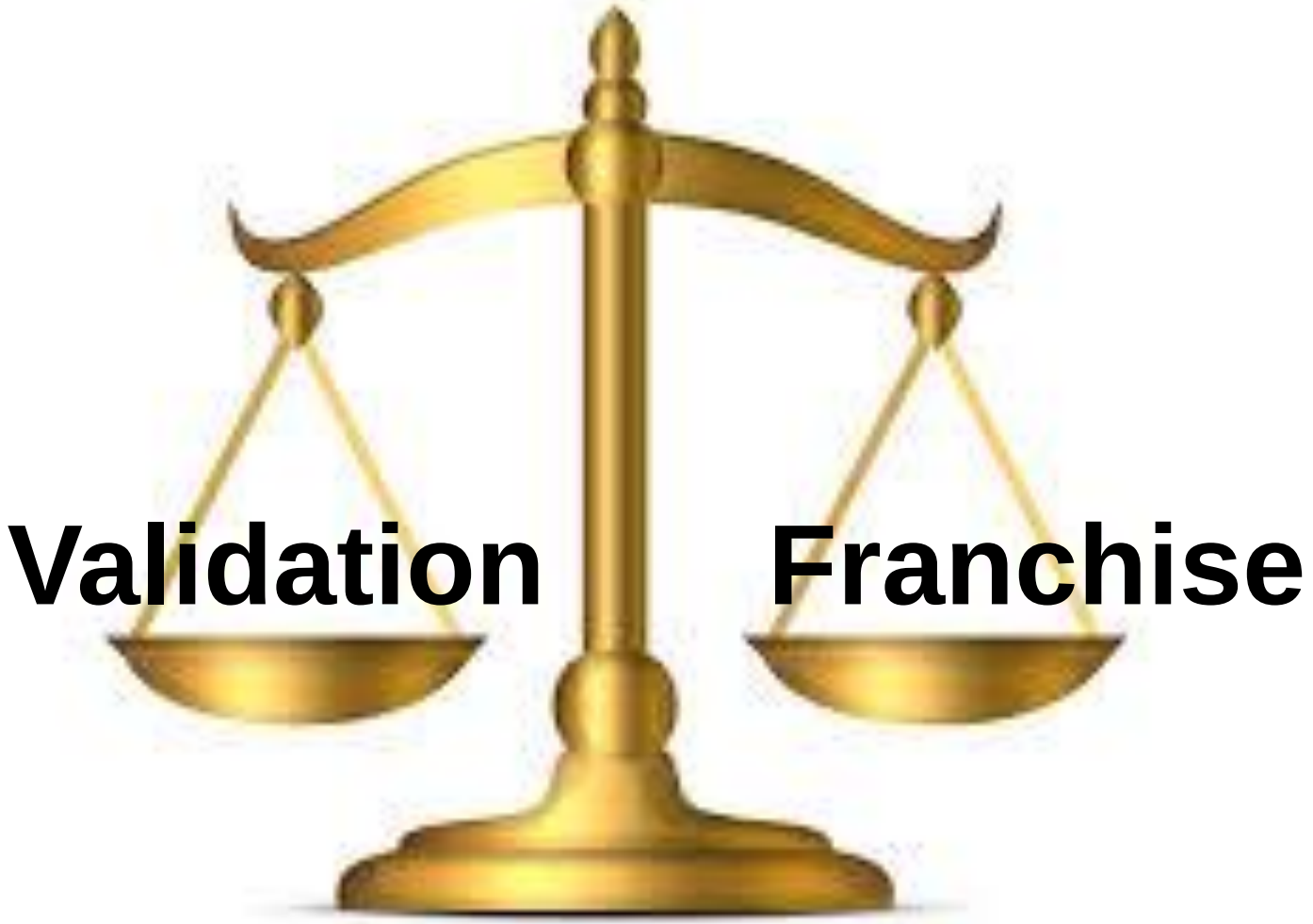
Why validation?

Why validation?



Why validation?

Validation

1. A validated course is a module or programme which a degree awarding body approves to contribute, or lead, to one of its awards. The validated course is delivered by the provider that designed it and students on the course normally have a direct contractual relationship with that provider and not the validating provider. The validating provider remains responsible for the academic standards of the award granted in its name.

2. The QAA defines validation as ‘a process by which a degree-awarding body judges a module or programme developed and delivered by another organisation and approves it as being of an appropriate standard and quality to contribute, or lead, to one of its awards. Students normally have a direct contractual relationship with the delivery organisation’.

Why validation?

Franchise (aka subcontractual arrangements)

1. A relationship, based on a formal contract, in which a body with degree awarding powers (the lead provider) allows another provider (the delivery provider) to deliver all, or part, of a programme which has been designed, approved and owned by the degree awarding body. The lead provider or subcontracting provider retains overall control of the programme's content, delivery, assessment and quality assurance arrangements. Sometimes described as a franchise arrangement.

2. A course is considered to be part of a subcontractual arrangement if, typically:
   a) There is a written, legally binding agreement in place between the lead provider and the delivery provider that sets out the conditions of the arrangement.
   b) The student has a contractual relationship with the lead provider.
   c) The fee and/or fee loan is paid to the lead provider.
   d) The student is registered as a student of the lead provider and is included in its data returns.

Benefits of validation

Benefits of validation

Students

1. Provides an avenue for collaboration between partner providers and industry experts
2. Expands educational opportunities for students
3. Diversify the regional HE offer
4. Enhancing the learning experience of students
5. Student support

Benefits of validation

Universities

1. Facilitates greater access and progression
2. Latest developments
3. Broadens the range of awards
4. Widens external profile and reach

Benefits of validation

Partner providers

1. Facilitates the delivery
2. Quality-assurance-and-enhancement systems
3. Externality
4. Collaboration
5. Access to Wider community
6. Greater scope for programme development

Managing the partnerships

Managing the partnership

1. Mutual trust
2. Understanding the validator's perspective
3. Don't assume
4. Keep them informed
5. Give them assurance
6. Look for opportunities for wider engagement
7. Really consider it a partnership

Future considerations

Future considerations

1. OfS review of validation
2. UK Quality Code Guidance
3. Degree awarding powers
4. Post-18 review

THANK YOU

Pearson College London

Building effective partnerships with universities

Sarah Macdonald, Vice-Principal,
Pearson College London

26/11/2018

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Managing the Relationship

- Choosing a partner and getting off on the right foot
- Perception of “competition”
- Regulations and timescales
- Changing partners

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An Example: PCL Validating Partne

- Royal Holloway
- Ashridge Business School
- University of Bradford
- University of Kent

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Change Management

- Managing transition between partners
- Working within different sets of regulations
- Ensuring students have the right information and are clear on the processes and regulations that apply to them

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Choosing the right validating partn

- Strategic Fit
- Buy-in at senior level
- Collaboration and a two-way relationship

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THANK YOU