

**Note:** This Memorandum of Understanding was approved by *An Bord Rialaithe*, Mary Immaculate College, on 15 June 2007 and by the Governing Authority, University of Limerick, on 26 June 2007.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
in regard to the  
Academic Linkage  
between  
Mary Immaculate College  
and the  
University of Limerick**

**Context**

In 1991, an academic linkage was established between Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick. The terms of the linkage were set out in a Memorandum of Understanding mediated by the Department of Education & Science and adopted by both institutions for the period 1991 to 1994. This initial memorandum provided for a review at the end of this period. It was subsequently agreed by both institutions to extend the time scale governed by the initial memorandum to 1996 and to complete a comprehensive review of the terms of the memorandum in the Academic Year 1996/97. Following detailed discussion between the Institutions, a revised Memorandum of Understanding was agreed for the period 1997/98 to 2002/2003.

This document sets out the terms of a new Memorandum of Understanding to govern the relationship in the years ahead.

1. Arising from its relationship with the University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College shall be known as the "University College of Mary Immaculate".
2. UL shall be the academic accrediting body for all University-level (NQAI Levels 6-10) programmes at MIC, save where other arrangements are jointly agreed by UL and MIC
3. Students of MIC shall be registered students of MIC and of UL.
4. MIC shall manage discipline issues relating to students of MIC. MIC students shall have the right of appeal to the Academic Council (AC) of UL in respect of the implementation of UL's Academic Regulations.
5. The Academic Regulations of UL shall apply to all UL-accredited programmes of study offered by MIC. Exceptions to this stipulation may be requested by MIC through formal proposal to AC.
6.
  - 6.1 AC shall determine the basic matriculation requirements for MIC but MIC may prescribe additional requirements generally or in respect of particular programmes of MIC.
  - 6.2 For all programmes up to and including Level 9 (NQAI), AC shall delegate decisions regarding the approval of new programmes at MIC and

the modification of existing MIC programmes to *An Bord Acadúil* (ABA) of MIC. A formal report of such decisions shall be submitted to the chair of AC by ABA within two months of such decisions having been made.

6.3 For programmes at Level 10, ABA shall submit proposals regarding the accreditation of such programmes directly to APRC.

6.4 AC may refer the content and structure of any programme offered at MIC to a committee consisting of the VPAR, *LeasUachtarán Gnóthaí Acadúla* and two nominees of the Presidents of each institution. The recommendations arising from any such review shall be communicated to AC by the VPAR.

6.5 AC shall retain the power to appoint external examiners to the programmes offered by MIC. The functions of such external examiners shall be those set out in the University's Handbook of Academic Administration.

6.6 MIC shall conduct regular quality reviews in accordance with the 1997 Universities Act or other legislative requirements on a schedule to be agreed between MIC and UL. The recommendations arising from any such review shall be communicated by *An tUachtarán*/MIC to the President/UL. MIC will be required to satisfy AC regarding the implementation of the recommendations of such reviews.

7. AC shall delegate the processing of all awards to Examination Boards within MIC and to ABA. The outcomes of this process shall be submitted by MIC to the AC for ratification.
8. *An tUachtarán* and *LeasUachtarán Gnóthaí Acadúla* of MIC shall each be entitled to nominate a member of AC. The Deans of Faculties at MIC shall be *ex officio* members of the AC (up to a maximum of three).
9. The VPAR shall have the right to nominate one member of any selection board established by MIC for full time academic appointments in excess of one year.
10. Programmes offered by MIC shall be clearly identified as such, including the specification of CAO codes.
11. Academic and other services exchanged between MIC and UL shall be reimbursed on a real cost basis. MIC shall be responsible for the collection of fees from students of MIC or from the relevant agency paying the fees.