Case study

University of Bradford’s franchised degrees at Namal College

About the University of Bradford
• Bradford, North England
• Established in 1832 as the Mechanics Institute
• 5 Faculties: Engineering and Informatics; Health Studies; Life Sciences; Management and Law; and Social Sciences
• 11,525 students in the UK
• 1,940 international students in the UK
• 5,635 TNE students

About Namal College
• Mianwali, Punjab, Pakistan
• Established in 2008
• University of Bradford and Namal College
• Franchised degrees to associated College
• 275 students registered with University of Bradford

The University of Bradford supports Namal College to grow its capacity, with a view to the College achieving its own degree-awarding powers in due course. Namal College was constructed in 2008, but needed staff to deliver its intended programmes. The University of Bradford joined with the College to teach two-year programmes. The offer was soon extended and Namal College students can now study undergraduate degrees in engineering and computer science.

The University of Bradford develops and owns all degree materials, which Namal College then tailors to the local context. Students are assessed through the same means as those in the UK and graduate with University of Bradford degrees.

The University of Bradford was familiar with the local context from working with a local hospital to deliver radiography training. Since establishing its partnership with Namal College, the University of Bradford maintains its local connections and prioritises regular communication with the College. Staff visit Pakistan once a year, but frequent virtual communications between visits ensure that any issues are flagged and resolved dynamically. This is important when Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice means that the University may, at times, place restrictions on staff travel to Pakistan.

Namal aims to get degree-awarding powers. This would be evidence of real capacity-building, as the institution didn’t exist before Bradford was involved.

Rizwana Ahmed, Academic Partnership Officer, The University of Bradford

Success factors
• Familiarity
• Quality of students
• Robust governance
• Adapting to local requirements

Familiarity
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Quality of students
Namal College has a strong reputation in Pakistan, with high entry standards. More eligible applications are received for the programmes than spaces available. The College focuses on recruiting the very best students, and offers financial support to ensure this.

Robust governance
The Academic Partnership Sub Committee at the University of Bradford reports directly to the University’s Learning and Teaching Committee. The Sub Committee meets every 4-6 weeks to review activity, ensuring timeliness and transparency of oversight. Complete partnership reviews take place every five years.

Adapting to local requirements
The Pakistani Engineering Council only accredits four-year degree programmes, but the University of Bradford’s engineering degree is just three years. To accommodate the Council’s requirements without changing the programme, the University accredits a Foundation year in Pakistan which attaches to the degree course. This year is akin to the Foundation Certificate offered in the UK, maintaining comparability of programmes between the UK and Pakistan.