

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Academic Link Tutor (ALT)	The main academic contact between the University and a collaborative partner institution. Academic Link Tutors are nominated members of staff. The ALT is an academic post, and they are appointed for each partner/programme.
Academic Misconduct	Academic misconduct is any action through which a student gains, attempts to gain or attempts to help others gain, an unfair academic advantage in an assessment. This can be through cheating, plagiarism, or collusion, and includes using Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to cheat, plagiarise or collude.
Academic Support Tutors (AST)	A member of academic staff who will be a students' Academic Support Tutor (AST) for duration of the students' time at RAU.
Accreditation	The formal approval of the value assigned to external professional activities.
Advance HE (formerly HEA)	The national UK body for promoting good practice in learning and teaching.
Annual Programme Monitoring	A process to provide assurance that there are no major issues or recurring concerns within a specific programme or subject. A university should have various methods of obtaining this data and at different times of the academic year. Annual programme monitoring includes the student experience.
Articulation	A formal credit rating and transfer agreement between two institutions, one of which agrees to recognise and grant specific credit and advanced standing to applicants from a named programme of study offered by the other institution. These allow students undertaking Higher Education Studies at another HEI to transfer some or all of the credit thus acquired to contribute to an award of the University.
Assessment-Formative and Summative	<p>A process whereby formal judgement can be made by examiners of the achievement of students against the learning outcomes established in the approved curriculum.</p> <p>Formative assessment - an ongoing, informal process used to monitor student learning and development, providing feedback to improve performance.</p> <p>Summative assessment - evaluates student learning and achievement at the end of a learning period to determine overall progress and attainment, often with a formal grade or qualification.</p>
OfS B3 metrics	Student outcome data on continuation, completion, progression that is reviewed against sector wide benchmarks by the Office for Students as part of their Conditions of Registration for all registered higher education institutions.

Blended learning	A method of teaching that combines face-to-face interactions with online activities.
BTEC	Stands for Business and Technology Education Council. It is a practical, work-related qualification that is considered an alternative to A-Levels.
CEFR	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This is an international standard for describing language ability. The scale is from A1 for beginners to C2 for those who have mastered a language.
Code of Practice	A set of principles and guidelines that outline expected behaviours and practices for institutions, staff, and students, often focusing on areas like quality assurance, admissions, research, and ethical conduct.
Collaborative Partner Institution	An institution or other body with which the University enters into an agreement to collaborate for programme awards (jointly or solely) or give credit towards an award based on education delivered. This can include institutions in the UK or overseas.
Collaborative Provision	Refers to the relationships between RAU as a degree awarding body with other providers of higher education academic programmes. There is a partnership arrangement, normally where one higher education provider delivers a course and another grants the award. RAU has the legal powers to collaborate with other degree-awarding bodies. - in the UK or trans-nationally - to jointly provide programmes of study.
Credit	Each module carries a credit rating which relates to the study size. These are agreed within the Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes. Modules range in size from 15, 20, 30, 40, and 60 credits whereby each credit equates to 10 hours of study.
Diploma	A qualification awarded for a programme of study of higher education.
Diploma Supplement	The Diploma Supplement is a document attached to a higher education qualification aimed at improving international 'transparency' and at facilitating the academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates, etc.).
Double Degree	Students pursue and study two distinct degree programmes simultaneously or consecutively, often from different disciplines or institutions, rather than just completing one degree. Graduands receive an award from each institution.
EDI	Stands for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion . RAU promotes the fair treatment and full participation for all; valuing difference, ensuring everyone feels welcome and has equal opportunities.

External Examiner	External examiners are experienced academics in higher education who offer an independent assessment of academic standards and the quality of assessment. External Examiners provide one of the principal means for the maintenance of nationally comparable standards.
Foundation Degree	A foundation degree is a 2 year standalone qualification at level 4 and level 5, which may be used as a stepping stone to a full Undergraduate degree.
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	The framework for higher education qualifications describes the achievement represented by higher education qualifications. They apply to degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards granted by a higher education provider with degree awarding powers.
Franchised Programme	A University Programme, or part thereof, leading to a qualification of the University, designed, assessed and quality assured by the University but delivered at, and by, a Partner Institution.
Gateway	Gateway" refers to the RAU's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and associated services, accessible at https://gateway.rau.ac.uk/ and uses the Moodle open-source learning management system.
Graduate Framework	The RAU's policy statement to outline the qualities and skills that graduates will develop during the course of their studies. The RAU also links these to RAU values.
HESA	Abbreviation for the Higher Education Statistics Agency which is the national UK body responsible for collecting statistical data relating to all aspects of higher education, including students.
Honours Degree	A bachelor's degree with honours covering greater depth than a general or ordinary BA or BSc degree, usually through a dissertation or large scale project.
IB	The International Baccalaureate is a globally recognised education programme for students aged 16-19 and is considered an alternative to A-Levels.
IELTS	IELTS is the International English Language Testing System, trusted by governments, employers, and thousands of universities around the world. IELTS Academic test
Institutional Approval	A process by which a University panel formally reviews a proposal, business plan, or partnership to ensure the partner institution aligns with the award-giving provider's policies, ethical standards and quality assurance procedures.
Institutional Review	Institutional Review is a formal review mechanism by which the University assures itself that the collaborative partner continues to meet the quality processes and regulatory requirements. This happens periodically, as described in the partnership agreement, but can occur following quality issues being raised during routine Institutional monitoring of a collaborative partner, such as through the Assessment boards or External Examination mechanisms.

Institutional Visit	As part of the institutional approval process a potential collaborative partner institution may be visited by a RAU panel to meet with staff and students, tour facilities and assess resources.
Joint Programme	A University Programme, or part thereof, leading to a qualification of the University, developed, delivered and assessed jointly with a Partner Institution (or institutions) and quality assured by the University. After the completion of a joint programme the graduate may be awarded a single national qualification, several separate qualifications referred to as a double or multiple qualification, and/or a single document awarding a joint degree. Joint degrees should be recognised at least as favourably as other qualifications from the education system from which they originate
Learning and Teaching Framework	An institution wide approach to the design of the curriculum and provision of support for learning and teaching opportunities
Learning outcome	What a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to demonstrate after completing a defined element of study. Learning outcomes features within the programme specification must align with module descriptors.
Level	An indicator of the relative difficulty, complexity, depth of study and autonomy required of a learner (used in credit frameworks). Successive years of study within a programme progress to higher levels throughout. Levels of study will be approved at programme validation/review.
Level descriptor	A statement that defines the characteristics and contexts of learning expected at a specific level or stage within a qualification's framework, providing a broad indication of the types of learning outcomes and assessment criteria appropriate for that level.
Memorandum of Agreement	A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is a legally binding contract between a university and a partner outlining the terms and conditions of their collaborative activities.
Memorandum of Understanding	A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between a university and partners is a non-binding agreement that expresses an intention to collaborate, setting a framework for future cooperation without committing to specific activities or legal obligations.
Module (Core and Optional)	Each module is a self-contained, formally structured unit of study used to organise and tailor programme content. Each module delivers a specific topic of study and are structured so that they create a coherent flow of study. Students can build a personalised programme of study by choosing optional modules in areas that interest them within their programme and add these to the compulsory core modules that all students have to study.
Module Specification	The module specification provides detailed information about a specific module, including its content, aims, learning

	outcomes, teaching methods, module leader, and assessment structure.
National Student Survey (NSS)	National Student Survey circulated to all undergraduate final year students to elicit students' views on their programme of study and their student experience
Office for Students (OfS)	Regulator of higher education providers in England, on behalf of students. It aims to help students get into and succeed in higher education, help them stay informed, protect their interests and make sure that they get a high-quality education that prepares them for the future. It is the Designated Quality Body for higher education providers in England, and able to undertake quality assessments of institutions/programme areas (other than apprenticeships).
Partnership Agreement	The formal agreement which must be signed by the University (Vice Chancellor) and Principal (or equivalent) of the relevant partner institution detailing the contractual obligations to which both parties must adhere to. A partnership agreement is a legal, written document that outlines the structure, roles, and guidelines for operating the partnership.
Programme	A structured and formal sequence of academic modules and activities designed to lead to a specific qualification, degree or certification.
Programme Review	A process which allows a panel to evaluate the operation of the programme and achievements of the students over a period of years (previously also known as revalidation).
Programme Specification	A detailed document setting out the award, entry requirements and modules of study that lead to the award. It includes details of programme intended learning outcomes for a particular programme; information about the teaching, learning and assessment methods used to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated; career and student support details. It demonstrates how the modules which make up a programme will relate to levels of achievement recognised in the qualifications' frameworks.
Professional Statutory and/or Regulatory Body Accreditation (PSRB)	Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body refers to organisations that regulate professions, provide membership services and accredit programmes to ensure they meet the required professional standard.
Progression agreements	Agreements which facilitate the movement of students from pre-degree studies, or preparatory study in some form, onto the initial stage of an undergraduate programme. Under these agreements, no academic credit from prior study contributes to the credit required for degree programmes. Examples of these include those for foundation programmes.
QAA	Abbreviation for the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education which is a body established to support institutions in improving the quality of UK higher education in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Qualification	A degree, diploma, certificate or other similar formal mark of recognition of successful completion of a programme of study. Some qualifications also qualify their holders in more specific ways: for example, a degree may permit or facilitate entry to a particular vocation or profession, or exempt the holder from part or all a professional examination.
RAP	Stands for Reasonable Adjustment Plan . The RAP ensures disabled students can fully participate in their studies by identifying and implementing necessary accommodations, like alternative formats of materials or exam adjustments, as required by the Equality Act 2010.
Recognition of Prior Learning	Accreditation of learning from experience or credit related courses on an individual basis in relation to entry with advanced study into the University.
Student Protection Plan	A published document logged with the Office for Students in which a higher education provider details how it would ensure continuity of provision for its students in the light of various risks to business continuity.
Student Union (SU)	The Students' Union is an organisation linked to, but run separately from the University, which dedicates its time and resources to give the whole student community a voice. SU Officers are students, elected by the whole student population, who work for you on all issues to do with student life. They listen to how you want things to be done and work with the University to make it happen
Subject Benchmark	Explicit national statements of academic standards or outcomes, at subject level. Subject benchmarking information of this type provides a reference point against which outcomes can be measured.
Turnitin	Turnitin is an external 'text matching service' which highlights similarities in written assignments with other work held in a vast number of databases, including the Turnitin student paper repository.
Validated Programme	A Programme of study, developed, assessed and delivered by the RAU or a Partner Institution, awarded by and ultimately quality assured by the University.
Validation	The formal process where a new or modified program of study is rigorously assessed to ensure it meets academic standards, aligns with national frameworks, and provides a high-quality student experience. In addition, the Validation ensures adequate Programme specific resources are available to support the proposal.