Review of Dual Degree Programme

School of Computer Science in partnership with Hanyang University, Korea

20 March 2022

Review

A panel was convened by the Faculty Board in the Faculty of Computing, Digital and Data to review a Dual Degree programmes that has been offered since 2018 with Hanyang University in Korea.

The programme enables students from TU Dublin to travel to Hanyang University for third year of their programme. TU Dublin students who successfully complete third year in Hanyang University, and complete their degree in TU Dublin, are eligible for both the TU Dublin BSc (Honours) Computer Science, and the Hanyang University BS Computer Science. The Hanyang University BS Computer Science is awarded without classification.

The programme also enables students from Hanyang University to travel to TU Dublin for third year of their programmes. Upon completion of the third year of the BSc Computer Science in TU Dublin the students become eligible for the BSc Computer Science (Level 7) from TU Dublin. The students then return to Korea to complete the final year of their degree programme.

To date, two students from Hanyang University and nine students from TU Dublin have participated in the Dual Degree. The low number of students from Hanyang University is due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rationale for Dual Degree

A dual award is described in the TU Dublin quality assurance documentation as:

> two qualifications awarded individually to those successfully completing two separate curricula, but there may be sharing of modules across the individual programmes or the mutual recognition of modules. Each education institute is responsible for its own programme and award.

It is also noted in the same documentation that:

> The preferred option for the University is to develop Joint Programmes leading to Joint Awards, and not to enter into agreements that lead to Dual Awards. However, for reasons associated with funding sources or local policy, the University will consider entering into collaborative provision arrangements leading to Dual Awards.

Having considered this matter, it is the view of the School of Computer Science and the Faculty of Computing, Digital and Data that a Dual Award is appropriate in this case. The Faculty Executive notes that the partnership is with a University outside Ireland, which is a case referred to specifically in TU Dublin Quality Assurance documentation:

> As one of the main purposes of Dual Awards is to ensure the graduate has qualifications that are easily recognised in different countries, TU Dublin will normally only enter into

collaborative provision agreements leading to Dual Awards with education institutes outside of Ireland.

It is the view of the School and the Faculty that a Joint Award is not appropriate in this circumstance, as it would substantially change the nature of the programme for both the TU Dublin students and the Hanyang University students and introduce substantial additional requirements.

This matter has been discussed with the Vice President for Partnerships and the Head of Academic Affairs.

Panel

The membership of the panel was as follows:

1. Dr Ciarán O'Leary, Head of Learning Development, Chairperson
2. Dr Fernando Perez Tellez, School of Enterprise Computing and Digital Transformation
3. Ms Deirdre Corr, Research Engineer, 3M
4. Dr Gráinne Hurley, Quality Assurance Office
5. Ms Nicole O'Neill, Quality Assurance Office

Also in attendance, as an observer, was:

- Mr Sean Mc Hugh, Head of Digital Transformation, School of Enterprise Computing and Digital Transformation

The following representatives of the School met with the panel:

- Dr Paul Doyle, Head of School of Computer Science
- Mr Brian Gillespie, Head of Software Engineering, School of Computer Science
- Dr Michael Collins, Programme Coordinator
- Ms Samantha Peavoy, International Coordinator, Faculty of Computing, Digital and Data
- Also in attendance were ten members of the third year teaching team.

The following representatives of Hanyang University met with the panel:

- Professor Jongwon Yoon, International Academic Coordinator, Hanyhang University
- Mr BoKyung Kim, Senior Manager, Office of International Affairs, ERICA campus, Hanyhang University

The following student, who had participated in the Dual Degree programme, met with the panel:

- Ms Sophie Nugent (TU856/4)

Agenda

The agenda for the panel meeting, which took place online on Monday, 20 March 2023, from 9:00am to 11:30am was as follows:

- 9:00am: Introduction
- 9:05am: Presentation by School and Partner
- 9:20am: Private Meeting of Panel

- 9:45am: Meeting with TU Dublin students who participated in the dual degree
- 10:10am: Meeting with School and Partner Management and Teaching Team
- 11:00am: Private Meeting of Panel
- 11:20am: Report to School
- 11:30am: Close

Documentation

The panel had been provided with the following documentation in advance of the meeting:

1. **Review**: This document provides a review of the programme over the past five years.
2. **Programme Document**: This document describes fully the rules of the programme.
3. **Student Handbook and Pre-departure Pack**: This is the information provided to students.
4. **Draft Agreement:** The draft Memorandum of Understanding.

Dual Degree Panel Outcome

The panel, having reviewed all documentation and having met with representatives of the School of Computer Science and Hanyang University, proposes to the Faculty Board that the proposed Dual Degree programmes is approved for a further five years, subject to the School and the Partner addressing the matters raised in this report to the satisfaction of the panel.

Commendations

The panel commends the School of Computer Science and Hanyang University on the following:

1. The programme has proven to be very successful over the past five years, albeit with small numbers of students. It has provided an excellent international experience to the students who participated, as evidenced by the feedback collected from students and from the report of the student who met the panel.
2. Participation in this programme has not in any way affected students' employability post-graduation, despite their not participating in work placement. As reported by the industry representative on the panel, participation in such a programme enhances the employability of students. This programme is producing what industry needs.
3. The School of Computer Science has prepared students very well in advance of their travel to Korea, producing a comprehensive pre-departure pack that represents excellent practice and could be reproduced across the University.
4. The School of Computer Science has been very responsive to students whenever issues have arisen, and have worked closely with students and with the partner to resolve those issues.
5. The School of Computer Science has encouraged students to keep a blog as a record of their experience and as a way of identifying employability, global citizenship and other transversal skills developed during their international experience.

Actions Required by School

The following actions are to be carried out by the School:

1. Some elements of the mapping between modules at year three needs to be revisited to make clear to all students what is expected of them in terms of prior learning before electing to select a module. Where there is a requirement for students to have prior learning that is

not covered in their home university's programme, the School and the partner should consider how students will be prepared to take those modules, or whether those modules should be offered at all.

2. Hanyang University uses a pass mark of 60% and TU Dublin uses a pass mart of 40%. The average mark in Hanyang University is approximately 85% and the average mark in TU Dublin is approximately 55%. The selection criteria for participation in this programme, as applied in both TU Dublin and Hanyang University, needs to be clarified and where the average mark of the student is used as part of the selection criteria, consideration should be given to the associated standard of a particular mark in each partner university.

3. The Student Handbook should be updated to include additional information about student supports and extra-curricular activities in Hanyang University. All TU Dublin students participating in the dual degree should be added to relevant email lists through which supports and activities are communicated as soon as they arrive in Hanyang University.

4. It is the understanding of the panel, based on the discussion at the meeting, that the Hanyang University BS Computer Science is awarded without classification. This information needs to be added to the programme documentation and student handbook.

5. Hanyang University have explained the difficulties in encouraging their students to participate in the programme over the past five years. In particular, participation has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but additional considerations include the cost of living in Dublin. The School of Computer Science and Hanyang University should put in place a plan to encourage a balanced number of participants in the programme from both partners.