A model for achieving equivalence and comparability in higher education courses offered transnationally by RMIT

**Guiding Principles**

**Equivalence**
A measure of quality determined by maintaining defined standards with regard to capabilities and learning outcomes; WIL and Internationalisation strategies; teaching quality; and, course management for all offerings of a single course.

**Comparability**
The condition that exists when a course offering has been contextualised and customised to suit local factors and the specific student profile, while maintaining equivalence with other offerings of the same course.

**Contextualisation**
(a subset of comparability)
The adaptation of one or more elements in a course offering to increase its cultural, personal, professional, and global relevance to students in that offering.

**Customisation**
(a subset of comparability)
The alignment of a course offering’s learning design and materials with its students’ profile to promote effective learning.

**Equivalence and Comparability framework**

- **Equivalence**
  - Elements related to Equivalence must comply with RMIT standards for all course offerings (Measured by direct reference to policies, procedures, guidelines and strategic directions)

- **Comparability**
  - Elements related to Comparability may be adapted to suit the student profile (Measured by reference to local factors and fitness for purpose)

**Contextualisation**

- What are the elements related to contextualisation?
  - ELEMENTS (for all courses)
    - Assessment tasks
    - Content relevance (all media)
    - Learning activities
    - Learning resources
    - Content Presentation (all media)
    - Course delivery (scheduling, class types, learning spaces, PD for staff, etc)
    - Student learning support

**Customisation**

- What are the elements related to customisation?
  - ELEMENTS (for all courses)
    - Assessment tasks
    - Learning activities
    - Learning resources
    - Content Presentation (all media)
    - Course delivery (scheduling, class types, learning spaces, PD for staff, etc)
    - Student learning support

**Equivalence and Comparability Review Process**

- **Prepare for Local Review**
  - Principal Course Coordinator sends a reminder annually to Local Reviewers about the local review and provides copy of previous action plan. Local Reviewers view background information online.

- **Local Review**
  - Local Reviewers complete the online E&C checklist (login required) to conduct the local review. A copy of the submitted checklist is emailed to the Local Reviewer and the Principal Course Coordinator.

- **Group Review**
  - The Principal Course Coordinator compiles the local review responses and arranges a meeting bringing together all Local Reviewers to discuss E&C for all offerings. Consensus is reached on actions necessary to remedy any E&C issues raised by the local reviews. An action plan template is completed listing actions, timelines and person responsible for resolving issues. The plan is signed off by the Principal Course Coordinator and stored on the School’s network drive.

- **Follow up**
  - The Principal Course Coordinator follows up on the action plan prior to the next local reviews for that course.