

## CONSORTIA RELATIONSHIPS

Troy University engages in two types of consortia relationships which involve partnering with international institutions for programs in which academic credit is accepted by Troy University for course work completed by students and taught by the faculty of those institutions. The university is very careful to only establish consortia relationships in nations that have strong governmental oversight of educational programs, including admissions criteria and faculty qualifications, through a ministry of education.

One type of consortia relationship enables students to take courses at their home institution and to come to the Troy campus for a part of their studies. This includes the 1 – 2 – 1 program with several Chinese institutions in which students take their first year and senior year courses on the campus of their Chinese institution and their junior and senior year on the Troy campus. It also includes the arrangement with Vyatka University in Russia, in which students complete their first three years on their home campus in Russia and come to Troy for their senior year. In the case of the 1 -2 -1 program, all of the partner institutions have been vetted by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

The review of the qualifications of the faculty in these relationships is one of the fundamental steps that Troy University takes in deciding to partner with an institution and is taken into account in the Substantive Change Prospectus submitted to SACS. If the potential partner institution has not been previously vetted by AASCU, the decision typically will include a visit to the potential partner's campus by the appropriate academic dean from Troy University, who reviews the facilities, the faculty qualifications, and the student support services, as in the recent trip to Baku, Azerbaijan by Dean Don Hines in the Sorrell College of Business. The Dean of International Studies spent an academic quarter on the Vyatka University campus in Russia. This review of faculty credentials, academic programs, and student support services results in the development of a transfer matrix which is provided to SACS in the Substantive Change Prospectus.

The second type of consortia relations that involves coursework are the partnership arrangements where Troy University faculty travel to the partner institution's location and where Troy University faculty teach courses at those locations, which will only occur if the institution is located in a nation that has a strong oversight function in a ministry of education. The initial decision to partner with an institution includes a review of the partner institution's physical facilities, the qualifications of their faculty, and the student support services. These considerations are presented to SACS in the Substantive Change Prospectus as part of Troy University's justification for accepting transfer credit from the students at the partnering institution. The Regional Director for these international programs makes periodic visits to these partner campus locations

and reviews the academic programs to ensure that no significant changes have occurred in terms of faculty qualifications, facilities, student support services, and other considerations.

If Troy University decides to certify a faculty member who teaches at a partner institution to also teach a course for Troy University, then that individual faculty member must go through the same faculty certification process as any other Troy University faculty member and be approved by the appropriate dean of the college.

As evidence that Troy University actually provides these oversight functions, the university cites the examples of situations where it has decided to terminate a relationship with an international partner due to the failure of the partner to live up to the terms of its agreement. Troy University is currently in the process of terminating its relationship with its partner in Bangkok, Thailand.