Executive Summary

**Topic**  
This document proposes a framework for international collaborative degree programs compatible with Ohio State’s strategic academic and reputational interests as well as existing rules and regulations for granting degrees.

**Context**  
The President’s and Provost’s Council on Strategic Internationalization formulated as one of its six strategies the creation of international collaborative degree programs. A working group of the International Affairs Committee (IAC) elaborated a framework for the implementation of such degree programs in the context of Ohio State’s degree-granting authority and following best practices.

**Value Added**  
The guiding principle for collaborative degree programs is the significant enhancement of the educational, professional and research value of such a degree for the student, as well as a substantive gain in research collaborations for the participating Ohio State units. These value-added dimensions justify the special efforts by OSU to collaborate with reputable institutions abroad seeking collaborative education opportunities for their and our students.

**Practice**  
Collaborative degrees are most frequently earned in professional fields to gain credentials in more than one country. Student flow may be one-way or reciprocal, according to mutual agreement and institutional need.

**Principles**  
Existing regulations for granting degrees define the parameters for international collaborative degree programs. These rules require specific interpretation for any given program to have sufficient transparency for compliant operation.

**Contract**  
Implementation conditions are regulated by a program-specific Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) negotiated between the participating academic programs at Ohio State and at the International Partner Institute (IPI). The MOA will cover admissions, credit transfer, residency, tuition issues, core courses (if applicable), oversight, and intellectual property and export control issues.

**Rules**  
Graduation with a collaborative degree from Ohio State requires fulfilling all requirements for the OSU degree, interpreted in light of dual degree rules:
- At least 50% of the hours required for an Ohio State degree must be unique to that degree.
- At least 80% of the hours required for a Master’s degree must be earned at Ohio State.
- If the other conditions for obtaining the doctorate at Ohio State are fulfilled, successful defense of a single doctoral dissertation representing original research of interest to the partner institutions is eligible for a dual Ph.D.
- Dual Baccalaureate programs follow the 2+2 transfer model.
- Combined 3+2 programs (Baccalaureate + Master’s) follow standard rules.
- A joint oversight committee guides the operation and assessment of a specific collaborative degree program.

**Approval**  
Approved by Provost’s Council and Graduate School

**Next Steps**  
Graduate School & OIA work with academic units on specific programs, case by case.

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App. 1: Definitions  
App. 2: Approval Flow Chart  
App. 3: Background considerations  
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