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Motivations and Challenges for Implementing Joint Degree Programs in Mongolian Higher Education

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ABSTRACT Since the 1990s, Mongolian higher education has expanded significantly through privatisation, marketisation, and massification, alongside national efforts to meet international standards. Although joint degree programs are often highlighted as part of internationalisation strategies in institutional strategic plans, their implementation remains limited in Mongolian universities. This study examines the motivations and challenges of implementing such programs using quantitative data from 88 respondents at Mongolian universities. Compared with results from the Council of Graduate Schools, motivations related to recruiting international students, faculty interest, and administrative support for internationalisation are relatively lower in Mongolian universities. Using 22 questionnaire items, the study assessed challenges through standard deviation, linear regression, and Cronbach's alpha. Regression analysis indicated that ensuring program sustainability is the most influential factor in student recruitment for joint degree programs. Correlation analysis revealed positive relationships among teaching methodologies, resolving grading and evaluation differences, and maintaining program quality assurance and standards.