

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee - Friday 20 February 2009****Monitoring of Three Year Degree – Faculty Feedback: Faculty of Arts****Ms D Goldie, Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts**

The opportunity for a student's three year MA degree to carry a specific designation reflecting the major focus of his or her studies has been an enormous enhancement to undergraduate provision in the Arts Faculty since it was first implemented in 1996. The Arts Faculty offers eight designated degrees reflecting the wide range of subjects offered in the Faculty and the permutations in which they can be taken to best cater for students' interests and aspirations and to give students a meaningful degree title for career purposes.

The Faculty of Arts Three Year Degree Monitoring Board last met formally on 16 March 2001. It has been detailed in the ASC minute that producing a report on Three Year Degree monitoring can be problematic. Over the last few years it has proved challenging for the Student Records System to keep abreast of the development of modularised courses and changing course codes in relation to the individual MA designated degrees but the expectation is that the Student Lifecycle Project will be able to deliver through Campus Solutions fully up-to-date and ongoing course data to underpin the validation process for the MA designated degrees, as well as for the MA (General) which is the early-exit route from Junior Honours.

At present, because of this problem of linking course codes to individual designated degrees, the electronic validation process is not always accurate and in a substantial number of cases the Faculty Office has to implement a manual process to check that a student is qualified to graduate. As the ASC minute points out, this is not an academic decision which is being made. It is simply a checking exercise against the Arts regulations in the Calendar 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

In the few weeks prior to graduation, Registry sends to the Faculty Office printouts of the transcripts for students who have registered to graduate with an MA designated degree or the MA (General). A group of colleagues are detailed to check these transcripts: the Chief Adviser of Studies, the Assistant Chief Adviser of Studies, the Faculty Secretary, the Faculty Administrator (Undergraduate) and the Faculty Administrator (Postgraduate). Each transcript is double checked with one of the checkers normally being either the Chief Adviser or the Assistant Chief Adviser, each transcript being tested against the regulations as set out in the Calendar. There is a check that each student has between 280 and 360 credits at Grade D and above (with the compensation rule being applied to 80 credits if necessary); that there is an overall GPA of 10 (if the overall GPA is 12 and 14, then the student can be awarded Merit and Distinction respectively); that at least 180 of the total 360 credits for the degree at the required levels comes from the Core list of subjects for a particular designated degree (Ancient Studies; Creative and Cultural Studies; European Civilisation; Historical Studies; Linguistic Studies; Literary Studies; Philosophical Studies and Scottish Studies); and for every MA designated degree there must be at least 20 credits in Philosophy.

Since 2001 the student numbers graduating with an MA three-year degree are as follows:

2001 – 137
2002 – 117
2003 – 93
2004 – 109
2005 – 136
2006 – 112
2007 – 104.

A breakdown of numbers of those graduating with each of the specific designated degrees can be provided if necessary.