

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Thursday 9 April 2009

Report from the Programme Approval Group: Faculty of Arts

Mrs R Cole, Clerk to the Committee

Present:

Professor Bob Hill (Convener), Dr P Cotton, Dr D McCafferty

In attendance:

Mrs R Cole (Clerk), Ms H Butcher (Senate Office)

Overview of Process

Generally the Programme Specifications were completed fully and clearly. However, there were a significant number of issues, such as an obsolete version of the programme specification having been completed, and programmes for which the proposed structures did not conform to University requirements and incorrect SCQF levels were cited.

Board of Studies minutes indicated that consultation had been fully undertaken. However, the Group noted that it was not provided with evidence of what issues had been raised or how these had been responded to. In one case the Proposal Support Document indicated that no consultation had taken place, though in fact supporting paperwork showed that it had. While the Group did not require to see all associated correspondence, it asked that Board minutes should give more detail of the process in the future.

*1. POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS***1.1. MLitt Making & Meaning: Approaches in Technical Art History (New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme had been introduced to offer provision in technical art history which is a recently emerging interdisciplinary research area linking together art historical research and scientific analysis.

Regulations: This programme would be governed by the generic PGT regulations.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification and found it generally well constructed. It requested some minor amendments as follows:

- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – Under Knowledge and Understanding, the phrase ‘at a reasonably sophisticated level’ was felt to be ambiguous, and the Group suggested that this should be removed.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – Under ‘Optional Courses’, the Group asked for inclusion of a statement that the majority of these would be at Masters level.
- Section 15 – While the programme specification should contain a statement of exit points, the detailed regulations should be deleted.

Conclusion:

Subject to the requested amendments being made to the Programme Specification, the Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

1.2. MSc Museum Theory and Practice (New Programme)

Rationale: HATII had been approached by the Research Manager and the Research Support Officer of Glasgow Museums regarding the possibility of providing a programme related to the philosophy and practice of museums. The programme would build on the research and practice strengths of Glasgow Museums, and complement existing programmes run in HATII and History of Art.

Regulations: This programme would be governed by the generic PGT regulations.

Programme Specification: The Group noted that the Programme Specification used an old template and needed to be put into the correct format. The Group also requested the following amendments to the content as follows:

- Section 4 (Teaching Institution) – As HATII was part of the University of Glasgow it did not need to be named in this section.
- Section 6 (Department) – only HATII, as Lead department, need be named.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – The Group considered that much more detail was needed in this section in order to comply with the current guidelines. The Group suggested the Programme Specification for MLitt Making and Meaning: Approaches in Technical Art History as a good example to follow.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – The Group again considered that more detailed information was needed, including how the work placement element would be assessed.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group was concerned to note that there was a 40 credit dissertation contrary to ASC policy, which required that the Masters dissertation represent at least 600 learning hours (60 credits).
- The Group noted the following inaccuracies in the Proposal Support Document: P1- A1: that this currently stated that the programme title was 'Museum Philosophy and Practice'. The Faculty's Board of Studies minutes indicated that the final title had been agreed on as 'Museum Theory and Practice'.
- P1- A1: Two references were given as to where the programme was to be included in the Calendar. The Board minutes indicated that the programme would be governed by the PGT regulations, so the reference to p36 was incorrect.

Conclusion:

In view of the Group's concerns regarding inclusion of a 40 credit dissertation, and use of an old programme specification template, the Group cannot currently recommend the proposed new programme to ASC. The proposal would be referred back to Faculty for an amended proposal to be prepared and approved.

1.3 Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas in Composition, Musicology and Sonic Arts (New Programmes)

Rationale: These new postgraduate programmes have been developed from the Department's existing MMus programmes in Composition, Musicology and Music Technology by research. They are designed to meet the needs of musicians and composers who wish to attain a postgraduate qualification as part of their Continuing Professional Development. The programmes are intended to introduce and develop a critical understanding of Composition, Musicology and Sonic Arts respectively at postgraduate level. They are designed as both self-contained programmes and as training for subsequent work at Masters and Doctoral level.

Regulations: The programmes would be governed by the generic PGT Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma regulations.

Programme Specifications: The Group considered the Programme Specifications and noted the following points in relation to all six new programmes:

- The Group requested clarification of whether students would be recruited directly to the Certificate programmes as well as to the Diplomas (this would determine whether separate programme specifications would be needed for all the Certificates as well as for the Diplomas).
- Section 1 (Programme Titles) – The Group requested the insertion of 'Postgraduate' Certificate and Diploma.
- Section 2 (Final Award and SCQF level and credits) – In all cases the SCQF level had to be 11, as these were postgraduate awards. In addition, the Group requested the addition of a statement of the total number of credits.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – These should be set out in the standard format of bulleted points.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – The Group considered that the final statement regarding advice and feedback was not relevant and should be deleted.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group questioned whether the Postgraduate Certificates would be available as exit points from the Postgraduate Diplomas. If so, a statement should be included in this section of the relevant programme specifications.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group noted that for the Postgraduate Diploma programmes the dissertations (and composition portfolio) were stated to be worth 90 credits. The regulations did not currently permit this structure, and the Group agreed that this should be referred to ASC as a point of principle. As proposed, this would effectively create a Diploma by research.
- Proposal Support Document P1 – A1: Calendar page number should be inserted as p. Gr.4 in line with accompanying copy correspondence.

The Group noted the following points in relation to individual programme specifications:

1.3.1 Postgraduate Certificate in Composition

- Sections 12 (Assessment Methods) and 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – the Group noted that conflicting word limits of 2,000 and 1,500 respectively were given for the critical commentary.

1.3.2 Postgraduate Diploma in Composition

- No additional points were noted

1.3.3 Postgraduate Certificate in Musicology

- Section 13 (Learning and Teaching Approaches) – reference to the dissertation should be deleted as not relevant for the Certificate.

1.3.4 Postgraduate Diploma in Musicology

- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – The final section should be redrafted to avoid repetition of ‘ability to’.

1.3.5 Postgraduate Certificate in Sonic Arts

- Sections 10, 11 and 15: The Group requested deletion of references to the dissertation, as not being relevant for the Postgraduate Certificate.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – The Group requested confirmation that the word limits of ‘2,000 to 7,000’ were correct.

1.3.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Sonic Arts

- Sections 12 (Assessment Methods) and 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group noted a conflicting word limit for the critical commentary between these two sections of 2,000 and 1,500 respectively.

Conclusion: In view of the Group’s concerns regarding the proposed programme structures, the Group cannot currently recommend the proposed new programmes to ASC. The issues would be referred to the Convener of ASC and the Clerk of Senate to be considered out of committee.

Progress: Following a meeting between the Programme Proposer and the Conveners of ASC and the PAG, it was **agreed** that the proposals for the **Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Musicology should be approved subject to amendments being made to the programme specifications as detailed above.**

It was also agreed that the proposed programme structures for the awards in Sonic Arts and, Composition required some substantive revision to provide more flexibility for students to progress from the Certificate to the Diploma, or to exit early from the Diploma or existing Masters degree. While it was accepted that the discipline required a strong practice-based focus, it was strongly recommended that, at least in the initial stages, some element of taught foundation should be included. The Programme Proposer agreed to take these points back to academic colleagues with a view to revising the programme structures and re-submitting the proposal to Faculty, and then the programme specifications to the PAG for approval. It was confirmed that following approval from the PAG, the new programmes could be advertised for recruitment with the footnote ‘Subject to Senate approval’.

1.4 MLitt in Aerial Archaeology (Major change)

Rationale: The Department is ‘re-branding’ and re-launching its long-standing taught Masters programme entitled ‘Aerial photography and geophysical survey

in Archaeology' as 'Aerial Archaeology' bringing it more into line in its structure with its other vocational Postgraduate programmes.

Regulations: This programme would continue to be governed by the generic PGT regulations.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification and raised the following issues:

- Section 1 (Programme Title) – The Group requested clarification that there would be recruitment to the Diploma programme in its own right, otherwise the Diploma should appear only as an exit award to the Masters programme rather than having its own Programme Specification.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – the Group requested that this section should follow the format of the current template.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – the Group requested that the term 'module' be replaced with 'course'.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – the Group considered that this section could make clearer which of the assessment methods were formative, and which summative; if seminars were not to be assessed they should not be referred to in this section.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – For the title 'Research Report' the reference to 'MLitt only' should be deleted (unless the MLitt and Diploma were to be combined on one programme specification).
- Section 14 (Relevant QAA subject benchmarking) – The Group requested the deletion of the first two sentences as unnecessary.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The extract from regulations should be deleted, though a statement of the existence of exit points should remain.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – All course codes should be taken out.

Conclusion:

Subject to the requested amendments being made to the Programme Specification, the Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

1.5 Postgraduate Diploma in Aerial Archaeology (Major change)

Rationale: The Department is 're-branding' and re-launching its long-standing taught Postgraduate Diploma entitled 'Aerial photography and geophysical survey in Archaeology' as 'Aerial Archaeology' bringing it more into line in its structure with its other vocational Postgraduate programmes.

Regulations: This programme would continue to be governed by the generic PGT Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma regulations.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification and raised the following issues:

- Section 1 (Programme Title) – The Group requested the insertion of 'Postgraduate' Diploma.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – the Group requested that this section should follow the format of the current template.

- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – the Group requested that the term ‘module’ be replaced with ‘course’.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – the Group considered that this section could make clearer which of the assessment methods were formative, and which summative; were seminars assessed?
- Section 14 (Relevant QAA subject benchmarking) – The Group requested the deletion of the first two sentences as unnecessary.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The extract from regulations should be deleted, though a statement of the existence of an exit point should remain.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – All course codes should be taken out.

Conclusion:

Subject to the requested amendments being made to the Programme Specification, the Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

1.6 MLitt in Celtic and Viking Archaeology (Major Change)

Rationale: It is proposed to re-title the Medieval Archaeology MLitt as Celtic and Viking Archaeology as it is felt that Medieval Archaeology is too general and places the programme in direct competition with other institutions. The name would also better reflect the programme content.

Regulations: This programme would be governed by the generic PGT regulations – new title to be added, old to be deleted.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification and raised the following issues:

- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – Under ‘Knowledge and Understanding’ the Group considered that the term ‘authoritative’ would be better replaced with ‘in-depth’.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – Under ‘Skills’, redraft so that ‘ability to’ is not repeated throughout.
- Section 12 (Assessment Methods) – Seminars should be deleted from this section unless they form part of the formal assessment.
- Section 14 (Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarking) – Level descriptors are not relevant and should be deleted from this section.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The extract from regulations should be removed from the programme specification, though a statement of the existence of exit points is required.

Conclusion:

Subject to the requested amendments being made to the Programme Specification, the Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

1.7 MSc Carbon Management (Major change)

Rationale: The MSc Carbon Management is now in its second year and based on student evaluations, take-up of courses and information from the External Examiner, it is proposed to make some changes to the programme from September 2009. Also, the optional course Communication and the

Sustainability Agenda is being withdrawn and another optional course is being proposed as a replacement – Tourism, Sustainability and Climate Change.

Regulations: The programme would continue to be governed by the existing PGT regulations.

Programme Specification: The Group found the programme specification generally well constructed but noted the following points:

- Section 1 (Programme Title) – The Group requested clarification of whether there would be direct recruitment to the Postgraduate Diploma. If not, this award should not be mentioned in the programme title section.
- Section 2 (Final Award) – The same point was made as under section 1, but in any event the Postgraduate Diploma must be at SCQF level 11 not 10.
- Section 10 (Programme aims) – The Group requested the deletion of ‘analytically’ from ‘analytically evaluate’.
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – In all instances, the wording should be changed from ‘Students should...’ to ‘Students will...’
- Section 11 (Intended Learning Outcomes) – it should be made clear that the dissertation would not be relevant to the Postgraduate Diploma.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group considered that the terminology ‘Optional core courses’ was confusing. On the programme specification these words could be omitted and the structure would still be clear.
- Section 15 (Programme Structure and Features) – The Group suggested that there should be more clarity on when the options would be taken.
- Section 16 (Additional information) - The extract from regulations should be deleted and the statement of exit points should be relocated to section 15.

Conclusion:

Subject to the requested amendments being made to the Programme Specification, the Group recommends the proposal to ASC.