

**University of Glasgow**

**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 20 November 2009**

**Proposal for Intercalated Degrees at Scottish Agricultural College**

**Jackie McCluskey, Senate Office**

It is customary for Veterinary Medicine (BVM&S) students at the University of Edinburgh to have the opportunity to study for an intercalated degree at another higher education institution. At the end of Year 3, such students take leave of absence from their BVM&S studies to register for the **honours year** of a suitable degree programme at another HEI in order to help prepare themselves for research careers by in-depth study of particular topics, critical analysis of science concepts, writing a dissertation - things that are generally lacking in the BVM&S programme. The students pay the necessary fee and at the end of the intercalated year, provided they are successful, are awarded an honours degree from the host institution. In the current year, students are enrolled on a variety of honours programmes at the Universities of Edinburgh, Leeds, Liverpool and Bristol.

SAC has been approached by some Edinburgh BVM&S students who would like to enrol for the honours year of the BSc Applied Animal Science degree, which is offered by SAC and validated by the University of Glasgow. The Programme Leader for this degree is satisfied that the first three years of the Edinburgh BVM&S programme would be suitable preparation for entry to Year 4 and is fully supportive of this proposal.

The University of Glasgow does operate intercalated degrees, whereby BVMS students may, after the third year, study one of a group of eight 'principal subjects' for at least one year for the degree of BSc (VetSci) Honours, before returning to their BVMS studies. Clearly, the difference between this arrangement and the proposal for the Edinburgh students is that the Glasgow arrangement is entirely internal, although the principle of intercalation is the same.

Professor Andrew Walker  
Academic Services Manager  
SAC