

**University of Glasgow**

**Academic Standards Committee - Friday 8 October 2010**

**Proposed Introduction of Integrated Masters in Nursing**

**Robert Hoskins, University Teacher**

**Outline Proposal for 4 Year Undergraduate Integrated Masters in Science (Nursing) degree**

*Background Information:*

Currently Nursing & Health Care has been offering undergraduate students a BN programme with 2 exit points - at year 3 (Ordinary degree) and year 4 (Honours) since 1978.

Our programme is currently being revalidated in 2011 and we are taking this opportunity to reconfigure course content and structure. We want to utilise this opportunity to make our programme stand out as being the one that prospective students from the UK and overseas want to come to, to study nursing.

*What has been proposed and rejected:*

I have looked at the feasibility of running an undergraduate 5 year Integrated Masters in Science (Nursing) degree.

There is a precedent for this within the University as Chemistry has been running this option for quite some time. However, there appears to be a major snag as there are 2 other Schools in the University who share our funding money. If we extended our programme by a year the money per student apparently across all 3 Schools which share the same pot of funding would also reduce which would make this a non starter, hence the idea of looking at the feasibility of running a 4 year undergraduate Integrated Masters in Science (Nursing) Degree instead.

*What is now being proposed?*

The current University regulations with regards to Integrated Masters Degrees stipulate 5 sessions on a fulltime basis. Intriguingly, the regulations also say "In a minority of cases the minimum duration of study for an integrated Masters degree is four academic sessions". I would like to explore the possibility that this caveat could be applicable to professional programmes such as nursing where students work in a clinical capacity which exceeds the official academic year.

The structure of the proposed programme would consist of the following 3 exit points outlined in the right hand column:

Year 3 Ordinary Degree (360 credits)	BN 3 (Ord) (460 credits)
Year 4 Honours Degree (480 credits)	BN 4 (Hons) (560 credits)
Year 4 Masters Degree (600 credits)	MSci 635 credits including 120 at Masters level in years 3 and 4)

The disparity between the recognised accreditation for Ordinary, Honours and Masters Degrees (left hand column) and the current BN programme accreditation is due to the professional nature of the programme, meaning that credits are also awarded to clinical placements which often occur out with the academic year. The recent DPTLA exercise recommended that we increase the credits awarded to clinical placements – hence the credit surplus.

**The following chart provides a more in depth break down of credits awarded to courses**

Year	Course Name	New codes & Options Sept 2009	Credits	Credits per year	Cumulative credits per year
BN1	Bachelor of Nursing 1	MRYU			
	Nursing and Integrated Biomedical & Life Science 1	8SAU	50		
	Health Studies and Nursing 1	8SBU	25		
	Clinical Nursing Practice 1	MRTU	75		
				<b>Year 1 150</b>	<b>Year 1 150</b>
BN2	Bachelor of Nursing 2	MRZV			
	Integrated Biomedical and Life Science 2	8SUV	25		
	Nursing and Health Studies 2	8STV	50		
	Clinical Nursing Practice 2	MRUV	75		
				<b>Year 2 150</b>	<b>Year 2 300</b>
BN3	Bachelor of Nursing 3	MSAW			
	Nursing 3	<b>LBSW</b>	<b>35</b>		
	Research Methods 3	8SYW	10		
	Pathology and Human Disease 2	8SZV	20		
	Clinical Nursing Practice 3	MRVW	40		
	Clinical Consolidation Practice 3	MRWW	40		
	OPTIONS: Cancer Care / Critical Care / Medical / Surgical / Long Term Conditions	<b>LDLW</b>	<b>15</b>		
				<b>Year 3 160</b>	<b>Year 3 460</b>
BN 3 (Hons)	Bachelor of Nursing 3H	MSBH			
	Nursing 3H	<b>LDEW</b>	<b>35</b>		

	Research Methods 3H	90YO	15		
	Pathology and Human Disease 2	8SZV	20		
	Clinical Nursing Practice	MRXW	40		
	OPTIONS: Cancer Care/ Critical Care / General / Medical / Surgical	<b>LDVW</b>	<b>15</b>		
	Longterm Conditions	<b>LDUW</b>	<b>15</b>		
				<b>Year 3 (Hons) 125</b>	<b>Year 3 (Hons) 425</b>
BN 3 MSc	Bachelor of Nursing 3H	MSBH			
	Nursing 3H	LDEW	35		
	<b>Post Grad Research Methods Module</b>		<b>40 (Masters level)</b>		
	Pathology and Human Disease 2	8SZV	20		
	Clinical Nursing Practice	MRXW	40		
	OPTIONS: Cancer Care / Critical Care / Medical / Surgical	<b>LDVW</b>	15		
				<b>Year 3 (MSci) 150</b>	<b>Year 3 (MSci) 450</b>
				<b>(40 at MSci level</b>	<b>(40 at MSci level)</b>
Year 4 (Hons)	Bachelor of Nursing 4H	MSCJ			
	Nursing Policy in Context 4H	90YJ	30		
	Management for Health Care 4H	90YK	30		
	Dissertation 4H	90PG	30		
	Clinical Nursing Practice 4H	86AN	45		
				<b>Year 4 (Hons) 135</b>	<b>Year 4 (Hons) 560</b>
Year 4 MSc	Bachelor of Nursing 4H	MSCJ			
	Nursing Policy in Context 4H	90YJ	30		

	Management for Health Care 4H	90YK	30		
	<b>Dissertation 4M</b>		<b>60</b>		
	Clinical Nursing Practice 4H	86AN	45		
	<b>Module from Post Grad MSc 4MSc</b>		<b>20</b>		
				<b>Year 4 (MSci) 185</b>	<b>Year 4 (MSci) 635</b>
				<b>(80 at MSci level)</b>	<b>(120 at MSci level)</b>

*The rationale for revisiting programme progression points:*

We are a small Subject Area in terms of number of teaching staff and undergraduate students, as a result we need to ensure that we maximise our income stream from teaching. We have noticed recently that the number of students who are staying on for Honours has increased dramatically, perhaps as a result of the combined impact of the limited number of jobs currently available and that students can still obtain an income by means of a bursary if they decide to undertake Honours in 4<sup>th</sup> year. This has meant that we have had to reduce the number of students that we are admitting to 1<sup>st</sup> year as funding is limited to 150 students over the 4 years of the programme. Revalidation provides a timely opportunity to address this anomaly by re-visiting the progression criteria.

*What would the progression points be?:*

Currently students have to pass all exams at first time of asking and obtain a minimum of a C3 in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year nursing exam to qualify for junior Honours. In order to reduce the number of students progressing to Honours it is envisaged that this criterion will rise to a C1 to qualify for junior Honours in the new revalidated programme. The bar would be raised higher still to a B1 and above in nursing, for students to qualify for access to the proposed new MSci stream. The reason for this being that previous exam performance has demonstrated that around 4 students per year obtain a B1 or above, whereas if the cut off point was a B3, previous results demonstrate that a further 17 students would qualify for the MSci stream which would be too many for a Subject Area of our size to accommodate.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> year MSci stream would differ from the Honours and Ordinary streams as these students would opt out of BN 3 research methods and join the post graduate MSci students on the Research Methods module (40 credits at Masters Level) instead.

The only differences from the current BN 4 (Hons) programme would be that the new MSci 4<sup>th</sup> year stream would complete a double weighted 20,000 word dissertation to be handed in by July (60 credits). MSci students would also take another module from the post grad MSci course (20 credits at Masters Level), which would enable students to complete 120 credits at Masters level over years 3 (40 credits) and 4 (80 credits).

*Advantages of a 4 year Integrated MSci (Nursing)*

- It would not impact negatively on student funding unlike its 5 year equivalent.

- The above format if feasible would make our course unique in Scotland. We would also be the only ancient university offering this in the UK. Currently the only other Universities in the UK who offer something similar are the University of West of Scotland who offer a 5 year undergraduate Masters in Nursing and the University of Nottingham who offer a 4 year undergraduate MSci.
- A 4 year Integrated MSci would allow us to attract the most able students in the UK.
- A 4 year Integrated MSci would make us attractive to the more able overseas students and enhance our income stream as a result.
- An undergraduate integrated MSci would lay the foundations for PhD scholarship
- In this time of fiscal crisis in the public sector a student exiting with an MSci would have an academic advantage in terms of getting a job.

I look forward to hearing from you with regards to the feasibility of the above.

Yours sincerely

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University Teacher