

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Wednesday 20 April 2011

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of
Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences

Mrs R Cole, Senate Office

Present:Professor T Guthrie (Convener), Professor D Watt (*vice* Dr K Renaud)**In attendance:**

Mrs R Cole

Apologies:

Dr J Huggett (written observations on the documentation were submitted after the meeting)

1. *POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS*1.1 **MRes Brain Sciences: From Molecules to Mind (New Programme)**

Rationale: A new generation of researchers is required who are trained from the molecular to the cognitive levels of brain science and who have knowledge of advanced brain imaging techniques. The newly formed Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, from which this programme will be coordinated, is in an excellent position to be able to deliver such training through this new programme.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for the Master of Research. The regulations are currently under review.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 11: As noted in Scrutiny minutes, reference to credit weighting of assessments should be deleted. The level of detail is too great in this section. It is sufficient, and easier to keep current, simply to refer to the modes of assessment, e.g. unseen examination, critical review. (It is noted that the 2 hour examination cited for Assessment 1 exceeds the duration permitted under Schedule D of the Code of Assessment.)
- Section 12: As indicated in Scrutiny minutes, final bullet referring to contact hours should be removed.
- Section 14: Points raised at Scrutiny have not been addressed in relation to Honours/Masters level courses. The PAG notes that the requirement for award of a Masters degree is for a minimum of 150 out of 180 credits to be at level M.
- Section 14: Special features section to be moved, as per Scrutiny minutes.
- Section 14: Standard clause to be inserted:

“This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Master of Research degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) student progress, and
- (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
- (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"

- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.

Conclusion:

Given the points raised above, the Group did not consider that the proposal could be recommended to ASC at this stage. The Group will reconsider the proposal when the concerns above have been addressed.

1.2 MRes Comparative Medicine (New Programme)

Rationale: This new programme is designed primarily for the first year of the 4 year (1+3) BBSRC Doctoral Training in Comparative Medicine programme. Students will undertake an MRes in Year 1 then progress to a 3 year PhD. The MRes in Comparative medicine has been designed so that it may potentially be offered as a stand-alone MRes programme. The programme has been designed to complement existing MRes programmes across the College, to allow programmes to share resources and core courses where possible.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for the Master of Research. The regulations are currently under review.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 1 (and A1 of the PSD): PG Dip and PG Cert are included here, but it is not clear if these are stand-alone programmes or simply exit points. If the latter, they should not be included in this section. (Section 9 refers to them as 'options'.)
- Section 11: credit weighting of assessments is not required. Detail of the structure of the programme should be moved to section 14.
- Section 11: Remove reference to regulatory requirements ('For the award of MRes...') See insertion of standard clause at s. 14.
- Section 11: 'short oral exam': this should not replace formal reassessment opportunities that are provided for in the Code of Assessment. Full details of any such exam and its purpose should be given in the student handbook.
- Section 13: should be left blank.
- Section 14: Standard clause to be inserted:

"This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Master of Research degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) student progress, and
- (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
- (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"

- Section 15: much of this material is repetition of section 14 and should be removed.
- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.
- Spot-checking of consultation documentation revealed that RIO had recommended that the programme title should refer to animal medicine to avoid confusion for those seeking medical based postgraduate programmes. The PAG concurred with this view.

Conclusion:

Given the points raised above, the Group did not consider that the proposal could be recommended to ASC at this stage. The Group will reconsider the proposal when the concerns above have been addressed.

1.3 MSc Animal Reproduction (New Programme)

Rationale: This new programme addresses an important subject area that is not currently offered elsewhere in an international centre of veterinary excellence: it covers reproduction in all of the major farm, companion and exotic animal species. This feature will be especially attractive to international candidates, and as it is being offered in distance-learning mode it should be attractive to UK and international practitioners.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 1: this should indicate that the programme is delivered by distance learning
- Section 10: Transferable/key skills: bullets starting with 'optimise' and 'hone' should be rewritten so that they reflect skills which will have been developed by the end of the programme
- Section 10: Transferable/key skills: interpersonal and teamwork skills: it is not clear from the programme specification how these skills will be developed
- Section 14: Beneath table: rephrase statement on review/critique dissertation as library-based research
- Section 14: replace penultimate para with:

“This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

 - (a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
 - (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
 - (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/”

- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.
- PSD A3 – box confirming agreement with budget controller for extra resources needs to be checked.
- Scrutiny minutes: Points raised in relation to the programme specification have not been changed.

Conclusion:

The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the changes identified above being made.

1.4 MSc Cardiovascular Practice (New Programme)

Rationale: This new programme has been developed in collaboration with the British Heart Foundation and four UK universities to enable health care professionals, particularly nurses and allied health care professionals to study cardiovascular practice to Masters level.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- The PAG queried the programme title, as to whether it would be more appropriate to call it MSc in Cardiovascular Nursing Practice
- Section 4: can be deleted.
- Section 8: what would constitute a 'relevant professional qualification'? No specific degree or range of degree subjects specified. Do not refer here to other institutions ('Certain specialist cardiovascular courses...'). Delete 'without English' on line 9.
- Section 9: delete details of collaboration (e.g. Memo of Understanding) as not relevant here.
- Section 9: The Programme Aims would usually be more concise and specific – are these the standard aims for all participating institutions?
- Section 10: It is not clear from the ILOs whether these are outcomes to be practised by nurses or doctors.
- Section 10: be consistent in using numbers of bullet points.
- Section 10: Intellectual skills: final bullet: how will leadership skills be developed within the programme? Similar point in relation to leadership and negotiation skills in Transferable/key skills.
- Section 10: Transferable/key skills: need to be re-phrased to follow on from the stem statement 'will be able to...'
- Section 11: assessment methods do not need to be given in such detail by course, best just to state the method of assessment. (Information concerning the dissertation could be given at s. 14.)
- Section 12: Too much detail; would be better simply as a list of lectures, workshops etc.
- Section 13: contains too much information. All descriptive information should be removed to leave only clear and succinct information on benchmarks.
- Section 14: Delete: "University of Glasgow courses will comply with the Postgraduate Template for taught courses." Replace with:

"This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

 - (a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
 - (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and

(c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"

- Section 14: The table was found to be confusing: suggest setting out the core courses first, followed by the specialist courses
- Section 14: courses 8. and 10. appear to be duplicates. Course 18: is this still available since the withdrawal of University of Surrey?
- Section 14: Table 2: Timing is not clear from this. Is it possible that a student completing 60 non-specialist courses would not be able to exit with a PGCert? Table should show where the remaining 20 credits for the PGCert could come from.
- Section 14: references in this section to 7 participating HEIs. Is it 6 in view of withdrawal of Surrey?
- Section 14: do not need reference to requirement for 50% of courses to be undertaken at Glasgow as this is a standard requirement for a Glasgow award.
- Section 14: 'For the award of MSc...' repeats information given in the tables. Replace reference to requirements with standard reference to regulations: xxx
- Section 14: Advisory Group: this information should be removed from section 14. (Could go in section 15.)
- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.
- General query: what process will be used for conversion of grades obtained in courses studied at other institutions?
- Scrutiny group minutes 18 January 2011: Some of the requested changes have not been made to the programme specification.
- Scrutiny group minutes 18 January 2011: while the PSD indicated that RIO had been consulted in relation to a specific issue relating to visa requirements, it was not clear from the scrutiny minutes whether a full RIO consultation had been undertaken or considered by the group.

Conclusion:

Given the points raised above, the Group did not consider that the proposal could be recommended to ASC at this stage. The Group will reconsider the proposal when the concerns above have been addressed.

1.5 MSc Crop Biotechnology (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is intended to provide students with the knowledge and skills required to develop careers in crop biotechnology and should appeal to students from many countries. Crop Biotechnology is a field that addresses issues affecting mankind throughout the world: food security and the need to develop sustainable agriculture.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and, while noting that the specification was generally clear, raised a number of points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 11: 'MRes Project 2' – re-name to avoid confusion, as it is an MSc programme.
- Section 14: Given the structure of the programme, please explain the rationale for this being an MSc rather than an MRes.
- Section 14: Delete the four paragraphs above "Crop Biotechnology Fundamentals" and replace with:
"This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:
(a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
(b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
(c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"

- PSD A2 refers to a 'partnership' with SCRI. Is there a formal agreement in place (to guarantee that all students will be able to carry out the required research project)?

Conclusion:

The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the issues identified above being addressed.

1.6 MSc Sport & Exercise Science (New Programme)

Rationale: There is currently no taught MSc programme in Sport and Exercise Science at the University and few such programmes in Scotland. The new programme could attract graduates from Glasgow's own Sport Science degree programme as well as from other UK and overseas institutions.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 1: Scrutiny minutes indicate that stand-alone PG Dip and PGCert are to be available. These should therefore be included as programme titles.
- Section 9: the core aims should be specific to Sport and Exercise Science. Final paragraph should be moved to section 15.
- Section 10: Re-phrase point 2. as per scrutiny minutes
- Section 10: the stem statement should be: 'Students will be able to:'
- Section 10: Transferable/key skills point 10, where is this delivered in the programme?
- Section 14: It is currently unclear as to how students are to select from lists X, Y and Z so as to make up the remaining 90 credits – assume that it is one from each, but this should be stated.
- Section 14: Include full title for Physical Activity and Health (Option Y): Biological Mechanisms.

- Section 14: Delete the final 3 paragraphs. (No need to mention reassessment as standard provisions apply.) Replace with:
 “This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:
 - (a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
 - (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
 - (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).
 See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/”
- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the conditions identified above being met.

1.7 MSc(Clin Sci) Evidence Based Medicine & Education (New Programme)

Rationale: This programme will enable overseas postgraduate students to improve their knowledge of, and ability to teach, basic medical science in English to medical students within their home medical school.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 8: Are UK home students permitted on the programme?
- Section 10: Suggest ‘exercise intellectual independence’ rather than ‘develop’
- Section 14: Is there any specific language teaching input?
- Section 14: Insert:

“This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

- (a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
- (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
- (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/”

- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted.
- Section 15: Other aspects of the programme: these appear to read as ILOs – so should be re-located to section 10 or deleted.

Scrutiny: Consultation with Khyber University is pending.

Scrutiny: A concern was raised regarding the inclusion of ‘Education’ in the programme title although there was no assessment of teaching skills. Has there been any consultation with the School of Education?

Conclusion:

The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the issues identified above being addressed.

1.8 MSc(Med Sci) Applied Medical Science (New Programme)

Rationale: There is a growing market for overseas clinical students in the MSc programme family. The non-clinical, applied medical science market remains largely untapped at the interface with clinical medicine. This programme is designed to attract students from overseas national and government institutes to develop their skills and training in the principles of evidence based medicine and the research methodologies that underpin modern clinical research.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 9: Programme Aims are very brief.
- Section 10: transferable/key skills: 2nd and final bullets duplicate time management.
- Section 11: refers to course 'Evidence-based Medicine'. Use correct full title.
- Section 14: Third bullet: remove reference to 'term'.
- Section 14: Table: Semester 1 should last until December not January. Please clarify in the table whether Evidence Based Medicine and Research is all taught in semester 1 with assessment spread across the two semesters, or if it is taught and assessed across both.
- Section 14: Delete final 3 paragraphs, replace with:

"This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:

 - (a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
 - (b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
 - (c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"
- Section 15: Reference to the University Health Service should be deleted

Conclusion:

The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the issues identified above being addressed.

1.9 MSc Biodiversity, Conservation & Animal Welfare (New Programme)

Rationale:

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for taught masters degrees currently set out in the University Calendar on MVLS.41(PG).

Programme Specification: The Group noted that this programme specification offered one point of entry for all students. However, it also offered three available 'strands' or streams in addition to the generic award. Following investigations into the viability of this approach, it has been established that in order for the specialist strand to appear on the student transcript and degree parchment, each strand required to be entered into the PIP system as a programme in its own right. Students should be registered on the appropriate stream from the beginning of their studies (though could, of course, transfer at a later stage if they changed their specialism). Previously, this requirement could be

bypassed via a manual update by Registry. However, given the large number of 'streamed' programmes being proposed across the University, and the increased manual workload requirement this would represent, it has been agreed that each strand requires its own programme title and code. Whilst it was acknowledged that the programme specifications for the various strands or streams would be similar, there would necessarily be some variation in (for example) the programme aims and intended learning outcomes.

Points for discussion:

- Section 10: Transferable/key skills: 6th bullet: too many skills incorporated into one point, needs to be separated out.
- Section 14: Remove reference to regulations from paragraph 3, and delete paragraph 4. Replace with:
"This programme will be governed by the generic regulations for Taught Masters degrees. These regulations include the requirements in relation to:
(a) student progress to the dissertation stage of the programme, and
(b) the award of the degree (180 credits), and
(c) early exit awards of postgraduate diploma (120 credits) and postgraduate certificate (60 credits).

See: www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"

Conclusion:

The Group did not consider that the proposal could be recommended to ASC at this stage. The Group will reconsider the proposal when the conditions identified above have been met and the various strands have been identified as programmes in their own right.

2. UNDERGRADUATE PROPOSALS

2.1 BSc (MedSci/DentSci/VetSci) in Virology (New Programme)

Rationale: Following restructuring, and the formation of the new Research Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, this new intercalating programme in Virology is being proposed, to complement existing programmes in Microbiology and Parasitology and to complete the range of Honours degrees offered in Virology. The new intercalating programme will be offered medical, dental and veterinary medicine students.

Regulations: To be added to existing BSc (DentSci), BSc (MedSci) and BSc (VetSci) regulations on MVLS.27-31(UG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the programme specification for this award, and raised several points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 1: add '(Hons)' to title of awards
- Section 14: Insert:
"This programme is governed by the regulations for the degrees of BSc (Dental Science), BSc (Medical Science) and BSc (Veterinary Science).
See www.gla.ac.uk/services/senateoffice/calendar/calendar2011-12/contents/"
- Section 14: It is noted that the weighting accorded to Scientific Skills for the Modern Professional is slightly variant from its credit weighting. Please could a rationale for this be provided.

- Proposal Support Document requires '(Hons)' to be added at A1, and Sections B and C to be completed.
- A brief minute extract from the MVLS Learning and Teaching Committee held on 18 February 2011 notes approval of the proposal. However, a more descriptive minute showing due consideration of the proposal is required. Also, there is no indication of scrutiny of consultations (and A4 of the PSD indicates that there was no consultation with RIO). (See '**Please Note**' on Page 3 of PSD.)

Conclusion:

Given the concerns raised above, the Group did not consider the proposal could be recommended to ASC at this stage. The Group will reconsider the proposal when the conditions identified above have been met.

3. *SPOT-CHECKING OF PROPOSALS*

Under the current process, Programme Approval Groups examine only the programme specification and support document for programme proposals. However, PAGs reserve the right to ask for full documentation if desired. It was recommended in the recent Deloitte Internal Audit report that occasional 'spot checks' be undertaken on proposal documentation.

In line with this recommendation, the Clerk reported a sample of proposals had been selected for spot-checking, and that the full documentation for the proposals shown below had been examined:

- MRes Comparative Medicine
- MSc Animal Reproduction
- MSc Sport & Exercise Science