University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 18 November 2011

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, held on 31 October 2011

Ms H Clegg, Senate Office

Present:

Professor T Guthrie (Convener), Dr B Burns, Dr K Renaud

In attendance:

Ms H Clegg

1. PROPOSALS

1.1 MRes Infection & Immunobiology (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been designed to integrate existing independent MRes programmes, with a view to making teaching, administration and resources more efficient, and to increase flexibility and the range of subjects available for students.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 43(PG). It will also be added to the list on MVLS 44 – 45 (PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification for this degree, and raised the following points requiring to be addressed.

Points for discussion:

- In Section 1, only the main programme need be entered, assuming the PgD and PgC are only available as exit awards;

- In Section 10, clarity was required as to the assessment components (e.g. under the sub-heading 'Intellectual Skills', reference was made to an extended essay, a research project report, a laboratory report and a written project report). The terminology used should be amended to make it clear and consistent with the assessment section;

- Also in Section 10, under the sub-heading 'Transferable/Key Skills', the words in brackets after the first bullet point should be deleted, as should the words 'using Powerpoint' in the second bullet point and the bracketed words in the third bullet point;

- In Section 12, the words 'IT skills' should be deleted from the last bullet point;

- In Section 14, it was not clear what the names of the individual courses were and how these tied in with the ILOs and assessment methods. E.g., in Section 12 there is reference to 'the Molecular Methods' course, but this course name does not appear in the table in Section 14. Clear and consistent information was needed. Information on available exit points should be included within the table.

Conclusion:

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

1.2   MSc Infection & Immunobiology (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been designed to meet international demand for an MSc programme similar to current MRes programmes but with a greater taught element.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 39(PG). It will also be added to the list on MVLS 41 – 42 (PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification for this degree, and raised the following issues requiring to be addressed.

Points for discussion:

- In Section 1, only the main programme need be entered, assuming the PgD is only available as an exit award;

- In Section 10, under the sub-heading 'Transferable/Key Skills', the words in brackets after the first bullet point should be deleted, as should the words 'using Powerpoint' in the second bullet point and the bracketed words in the third bullet point;

- In Section 11, two references to PgCert appeared in the penultimate bullet point. If there is no PgCert exit award, these should be removed;

- In Section 12, the words 'IT skills' should be deleted from the last bullet point;

- In Section 14, it was not clear what the names of the individual courses were and how these tied in with the ILOs and assessment methods. E.g., in Section 12 there is reference to 'the Molecular Methods' course, but this course name does not appear in the table in Section 14. Clear and consistent information was needed. Information on available exit points should be included within the table.

The Group had some concerns about the weighting of the Dissertation element, as it appeared that the dissertation report itself was weighted at only 50% of the dissertation mark. The Group was unclear what was meant by the 'performance' element which made up 35% as this did not appear in the 'Assessment Methods' section. The College is asked to provide clarification on these points.

Conclusion:
The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

2.   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 Deloitte Internal Audit report that occasional 'spot checks' be undertaken on proposal documentation.

In line with this recommendation, the Clerk reported a sample had been selected for spot-checking, and that the full documentation for the proposal shown below had been examined and found to be in order:

- MRes Infection & Immunobiology