

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 25 May 2012

Follow-Up Report from the Programme Approval Group for the
College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences

Mrs R Cole, Senate Office

In its initial report to ASC the Programme Approval Group recommended approval of the following programmes subject to conditions that have now been met. The Group therefore **recommends** that these new programmes be approved.

BN	Major Change
BSc (MedSci)(Dent Sci) Clinical Medicine	Major Change
BVMS (for 2013-14)	Major Change
MSc/PgD/PgC Global Mental Health	New
MSc/PgD Health Technology Assessment (for 2013-14)	New
MSc (Dent Sci) Endodontics	New
MSc (Med Sci) Forensic Toxicology (Distance Learning for Practitioners)	Major Change
PgCert Advanced Lymphoedema Management	Major Change
PgD Child Health	Major Change

In respect of the following proposals – **recommended provisionally** by the PAG to the Committee – evidence has not yet been received that the PAG's conditions for approval have been met. Once the PAG is satisfied with these proposals they will be submitted for approval under summer powers.

MSc Applied Medical Science (with specialisation in Diagnostics)	Major Change
MSc/PgD Quantitative Methods in Biodiversity, Conservation And Epidemiology	Major Change

In its initial report to ASC the PAG **did not recommend** the following proposals for approval:

MRes Biomedical Sciences (Cancer Studies)	Major Change
MRes Biomedical Sciences (Cardiovascular Studies)	Major Change

These proposals were essentially a re-packaging of courses which feed into the existing MRes programmes, to fit with MyCampus. The PAG had queried the inclusion of 70 credits in the taught component, as this (together with 2 x 60 credit research projects) took the total number of credits required for the degree to 190, rather than the 180 that would be expected under the generic structure. The College Postgraduate Teaching Committee minutes from 15 February 2012 had indicated ambiguity over the notional learning hours, and a suggestion that the credit rating may be too high. The taught 70 credits, as proposed, comprised two courses at Masters level worth 20 credits and 30 credits respectively, and a further course worth 20 credits chosen from a list of Honours options. Masters students taking such an option completed a 2000 word essay or problem paper while Honours students on the same course undertook a three hour examination. The view of the programme team was that Masters students would require fewer learning hours to complete such a course than an undergraduate student. The PAG therefore had the following concerns in relation to the current proposal:

1. 190 credits were required for the award of the Masters degree, rather than the usual 180.
2. The recorded view of the programme team was that the notional learning hours did not justify the award of 190 credits.
3. Honours students and Masters students were studying on the same option courses but were being assessed differently. The courses should therefore have different course specifications.

The PAG acknowledges that there may be cases for permitting divergence from the generic structure of 180 credits required for a Masters degree, but any such divergence should be justified by reference to an academic rationale, and no such rationale has been presented in this case.

There are more than 30 possible Honours options and the College's view is that it is not feasible to complete the documentation required to create a new version of each course specifically for MRes students. The PAG has concluded that the College should be required to create these courses, correctly reflecting the learning hours and the assessment. However, the PAG is also sympathetic to the amount of work involved in creating a large number of new courses and suggests that the College should be required to put in place correct documentation by the start of academic session 2013-14.

The PAG requests ASC's endorsement of this position.