

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 24 May 2013****Christie's Education: Validation Report – MSc Art, Law and Business****Geraldine Perriam, Senate Office****Report on the validation meeting for the proposed MSc Art, Law and Business, Christie's Education, London, Tuesday, 9 April, 2013****Attendance**Panel

University of Glasgow: Professor John Briggs (Convener, Clerk of Senate and Vice Principal), Professor Elizabeth Moignard (College of Arts), Professor Robbie Paton (College of Social Sciences)

University of Kent: Professor David Ormrod (External Subject Specialist)

Programme Team

Christie's Education (for part of meeting): Professor Michael Michael (Academic Director), Dr Giovanni Gasparini (Programme Director, proposed MSc Art, Law and Business), Dr Philippa Malas (Law Lecturer, proposed MSc Art, Law and Business)

Attending

Dr Geraldine Perriam, Senate Office, University of Glasgow (Clerk to the Panel)

1. Introduction

Christie's Education is a Validated Institution working in partnership with the University. Its degree programmes lead to an award of the University. A Joint Board, comprising members of Christie's Education (CE) and the University (UoG), oversees the academic and quality assurance aspects of the programmes offered by Christie's Education (CE), meeting twice during each academic session.

The proposed MSc (referred to throughout this report as "the MSc") had been developed first as a Statement of Intent. It had been put forward to the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) of UoG in May, 2012 and was approved for development and validation.¹

The validation meeting consisted of private discussion among Panel members and discussion with the Programme Team and the Academic Director of CE. In addition, the Panel held a private meeting with CE students. Although the students were registered on other programmes, the Panel met with them to hear their views on the overall student experience at CE.

¹ ASC minute item ASC/2011/70, 25 May, 2012.

In conclusion, the Panel made a number of recommendations to the programme team, advising that the report of the meeting and the formal approval process for the MSc would take place at the May meeting of ASC.

2. The Programme

The MSc proposed by CE consists of a 200 credit postgraduate programme specialising in Art, Law and Business, with members of staff at UoG jointly involved in teaching on the programme.² The programme places emphasis on the relationship between Art, Law and Business, with particular concerns for the following:

- The emergence of 'Art Business' as a concept in the business world;
- The history and theory of collecting art in public, private and corporate contexts;
- The development and operation of Art Law;
- The relationship between International Law and the art trade;
- Decision-making in terms of Art Appraisal and Valuation.

The programme also aims to provide students with a framework for acquiring knowledge and understanding of the relationship between Art, Law and Business as well as providing in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge in this area. The programme aims give students confidence and opportunities to develop a range of skills that will enable them to create and manage projects within an art-world context.

The MSc aims to use a variety of teaching and assessment methods, including a work placement and a dissertation. Students will also be given the opportunity to create and develop a catalogue, which will enhance the development of a range of transferable skills.

The resources for the MSc include the development of expanded teaching space at Christie's Education.³ Students will have access to Library and IT facilities at CE, as well as archives and library facilities available at other, local institutions and the UoG library/online facilities. Additionally, students will have access to the Christie's Archive, the Museum and Print Collection and collections within close proximity to CE such as The British Museum, the Wallace Collection and the Victoria and Albert Museum as well as other, London-based collections.

The appointment of two new members of staff, Dr Giovanni Gasparini as Course Director and Dr Philipa Malas, Law Lecturer, is a significant contribution to the staffing of the programme. Dr Christa Roodt has been appointed as Research Lecturer in Art Business to the School of Culture and Creative Art at UoG. Dr Roodt will work closely with the programme team.

A Student Services Officer is a member of staff at CE for all students and each student is assigned a personal academic adviser.

3. Validation Meeting

The Panel **agreed** that the MSc was an impressive and exciting development, offering students the potential for intensive study in the subjects involved. The Panel commended the intellectual and practical opportunities that had been developed for the programme. The MSc was also seen as offering something distinctive that was less well-developed in other, similar programmes: its commitment to the Art component of the programme with an emphasis on cultural theory.

² The 200 credits for the course are explained later in this document.

³ 153 Great Titchfield Street, London, W1W 5BD

The Panel also endorsed the technical aspects of the MSc which incorporated historical, contextual elements to provide background and interest to the areas of study. The Panel **agreed** that that they were, overall, satisfied with the proposal.

The Panel sought clarification and discussion with the programme team on a few points:

- a. The background of potential students was discussed in the context of selection and admission. The programme team explained that all students would be interviewed and those with no experience of Law or Business would be advised to select a programme that was more suitable for students with their background. Most students would have knowledge of either or both areas of law and business. That said, there would be, as outlined in the programme document, a strong emphasis on Art, as the interaction of students with Art was paramount. There would also be a specialist seminar on culture and the value of culture, to highlight the theoretical aspects of the Art component of the programme. The programme team saw the emphasis on the interaction of students with Art as a key element of the programme and a marketing tool that would profile the distinctive nature of the MSc.
- b. The placement component of the MSc was discussed as a unique offering for this type of programme, as it would be offered as part of the course of study rather than *after* the programme had finished. The Christie's facilities at King Street, London, were seen as crucial to placement offerings.
- c. Quality assurance issues and other, academic matters would, as with other programmes offered by CE, come through the Joint Board. The Annual Report to the Board would include information on the MSc. The report, which is prepared in accordance with the standards set by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), would be considered and discussed at the meeting of the Joint Board.
- d. MSc and other Masters programmes normally comprise 180 credits. The proposed MSc comprises 200 credits. The extra credit allowance was approved at Academic Standards Committee in May, 2012 when the Statement of Intent for the MSc was considered. The extra 20 credits would accommodate an additional period of study of three months which would include placement. The Cataloguing Classes component of the MSc would comprise 20 credits and the Placement/Dissertation component would bear 40 credits. This would be highlighted in the revised programme document. The Panel **agreed** that the rationale for an extra 20 credits was reasonable and justified, adding to the distinct learning opportunities and assessments outlined in the MSc.
- e. The Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) were discussed. It was suggested by the Panel that some of the ILOs might need some revision to be in line with standards for ILOs. Professor Paton agreed to liaise with the Programme Team to assist with revision. The revisions would be included in the final programme document.
- f. The Panel suggested that the outlined learning hours for courses needed to be more uniform. Professor Paton agreed to be in contact with the Programme Team on this issue. The Clerk would assist with co-ordinating revisions to the programme document.

The Panel met with students from CE. Although the students were on other programmes, they were asked for their views on the student experience at CE. The students were enthusiastic about their studies and the programmes they were undertaking. The students told the Panel that they were well-supported by staff at CE and found advisers and other members of the teaching staff approachable. The students stressed the value of the programmes on offer at CE and the opportunities offered to them. When asked about the level of feedback on assessed work, the students commented that they received a high level of feedback that was constructive and

useful. Sometimes the students felt that the length of return on assessments could have been a little faster.

When consulted about their awareness of the connection between CE and UoG, the students explained that they had been clearly informed by staff at CE of the partnership and that they would gain an award of UoG. Students also had an opportunity as undergraduates to visit UoG.

The students asked if there could be more publicity from UoG about the availability of SAAS funding for students from the EU. The Panel agreed that students should be given more information on this by the University. The students commented that they felt less connection between themselves and UoG, in part because of the geographical distance but also because they had very little to do with UoG on a regular basis. The students explained that more communication from UoG at the start of their programmes might be of use. The Panel **agreed** that further discussion was needed. The Clerk was asked to follow up on this and to report to the Convener.

4. Conclusion

The Panel **agreed** that the MSc be put forward to ASC for approval at its meeting in May, 2013. The Programme Team were advised that a few minor amendments were needed to the programme document prior to submission to ASC, namely:

- a) The revision of some of the Intended Learning Outcomes in liaison with Professor Paton;
- b) That a more uniform approach to outlining the learning hours be written in to the document, again in liaison with Professor Paton;

These adjustments and revisions would be made prior to the meeting of ASC in May, 2013. **[Action: Programme Team, Professor Paton, Clerk to the Panel.]**

The Panel also **agreed** that the Senate Office should receive a copy of the draft student handbook and also any publicity material related to the MSc. **[Action: Programme Team.]**

It was further **agreed** that the Senate Office would follow up on additional ways of communicating with students at CE to ensure that they felt part of the UoG learning community, liaising with CE and the Convener. **[Action: Senate Office.]**

The Programme Team were thanked for their diligence in preparing the documentation prior to the validation. The Convener explained that the Senate Office would communicate with CE after the May meeting of ASC to inform them of the outcome of the formal approval being sought. The Convener thanked CE for their hospitality to the Panel.