

**University of Glasgow**

**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 4 October 2013**

**Proposal for Introduction of MSc Land & Hydrographic Survey with  
Work Placement Programme – for consideration of in-principle  
approval**

**Dr David Forrest, School of Geographical & Earth Sciences**

Largely based on the existing MSc in Geospatial & Mapping Sciences (G&MS), this is a professional programme with increased focus on land and hydrographic surveying, including a 6 month work placement in place of the MSc project.

Anticipate accreditation by RICS and CICES, as for existing programme. International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Cat B accreditation will be sought where the placement is in hydrographic survey.

The title is deliberately very explicit and the focus should be clearer to potential applicants than G&MS.

Stricter admission criteria will be applied than G&MS – a 2.1 in a clearly cognate discipline, with evidence of mathematical ability and grade requirements in certain courses set for progress to work placement. Due to visa restrictions, this may not be available to international applicants who will be directed to G&MS or Geomatics & Management as appropriate.

*Semester 1*

- Fundamentals of Geomatics (20 credits) - existing
- Land Surveying (20 credits) - existing
- Principles of GIS (10 credits) - existing
- Topographic Mapping (10 credits) - existing

*Semester 2*

- Geodesy & GNSS (10 credits) - existing
- Hydrographic Surveying I (10 credits) – existing
- Hydrographic Survey II (10 credits) – existing Applied Hydrographic Survey topic (5cr), plus intro to navigation & additional practical elements.
- Engineering Survey I (10 credits) – existing
- Engineering Survey II (10 credits – existing Terrestrial Laser Scanning (5cr) and Monitoring Landscape Change (5cr) topics
- Research & Professional Issues (10 credits) – as existing, with technical report in place of project proposal.

Work placement in Survey industry – 6 months (60 credits)

**Work Placement**

It is proposed that the normal MSc Project is replaced by a 6 month work placement, normally completed June-November immediately following the taught period.

This is a significant departure from the generic PGT regulations and does not appear to have a direct precedent within UofG. Nearest equivalents include: several MSci degrees use a work placement forming the additional year in the programme, carrying 120 credits, but these

programmes also require an independent dissertation/project; the MEng in Mechanical Engineering requires a 60 credit industrial project which normally involves a placement; some Masters programmes in Archaeology include work placements, but also require a project.

We have some experience of work placements from the inclusion of an optional Work Placement course in the former Geographical Information & Mapping Sciences (GIMS) degree, which were deemed successful by both students and industry.

### *Organisation*

- A limit number of placements will supported each year (initial target of 6, increasing to 12)
- The work placement must be in a relevant part of the industry with an approved partner organisation, providing a suitable environment for enhancement of skills and understanding in the subject, and agreement to provide supervision and feedback.
- While industrial partners will be sought to provide appropriate work placements, it will the student's responsibility to confirm work placement in writing by end of January in semester 2. If unable to secure placement, students will be transferred to MSc G&MS and complete a standard project.
- In order to proceed to the Placement, candidates will be required to achieve at least a C3 in each semester 1 course at first attempt (60 credits) and a B3 average in the taught course component (120 credits) with no course below C3. Candidates failing to meet the required standard may (if appropriate) transfer to the MSc or PGD in G&MS.

### *Assessment*

In keeping with the intended learning outcomes of an MSc Project, a significant emphasis will be placed on reporting the activities of the placement. This will include:

- A technical diary maintained throughout the placement period, recording activities and responsibilities;
- 2 interim progress reports (after 2 and 4 months);
- An extended essay/report on a technical topic of relevance to the placement;
- A reflective analysis of the work placement, emphasising individual learning and professional development during the placement;
- A report from the industrial supervisor;
- An interview with the work placement co-ordinator and another member of staff