

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 15 November 2013

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of
Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, held on 29 October 2013

Ms L Fielding, Senate Office

Present:

Professor B Hill (Convener), Dr K Brophy, Dr K Renaud, Ms N Mosson.

In attendance:

Ms H Clegg, Mrs L Fielding, Ms G Honeyman.

Apologies:

Ms J Ramsey

1. *POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS*

1.1 **MSc Food Security (New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme has been designed to address a rarely covered area of food security within the UK, addressing the subject from a global perspective.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for postgraduate taught programmes.

Programme Specification:

The PAG raised only minor issues in relation to the programme documentation:

- Section 8 (Entrance Requirement):
It would be useful to indicate how much specific prior knowledge is required.
- Section 9 (Programme Aims):
Line 2: replace 'mankind' with non-gender specific term such as 'humankind'.
Line 4: remove the sentence beginning 'To our knowledge'. This information could be out-of-date within a few years.
Third bullet: sentence should read 'to train students **to** critically...'.
There is no specific mention of field work within the document, this should be inserted in the appropriate section.
- Section 12 (Learning and Teaching Approaches):
Fifth bullet: delete the reference to VLE. This is widely used throughout the University and does not need to be specified.
- Section 14 (Programme Structure and Features):
Structure: Column entitled Course Code: Course codes should be entered.
Column entitled Optional: This column should be removed.
- Features: Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 should be deleted as they are not relevant to the specification.
- Regulations: item (d) Entry to Honours should be deleted.

- Section 15 (Additional Relevant Information):
It may be helpful to include the information regarding the 'uniqueness' of the programme within this section to assist in marketing it positively.
- In the Proposal Support Document under A3 there is reference to the 'unique selling point' of the programme. Under A5, 5.7, there is no confirmation by RIO that this is the case. RIO's consultation should be confirmed.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the approval of RIO.

Update: The requested changes have now been made and the Group recommends approval.

1.2 MSc Infection Biology (New Programme)

MSc Infection Biology (Microbiology) (New Programme)

MSc Infection Biology (Parasitology) (New Programme)

MSc Infection Biology (Virology) (New Programme)

Rationale: The proposed new programmes will replace the current MRes in Infection and Immunobiology which is being withdrawn in 2014 and will offer increased opportunities to expand current student numbers.

Regulations: The programmes will be governed by the generic regulations for postgraduate taught programmes.

Programme Specification:

The PAG raised only minor issues in relation to the programme documentation:

- Section 1 (Programme Title): Delete 'Postgraduate Diploma in Infection Biology' and 'Postgraduate Certificate in Infection Biology' unless these are exit points and can be applied to directly.
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme):
Skills and Other Attributes: 'Subject-specific/practical skills' bullet 5 to be moved to 'Transferable/key skills' section.
- Section 14 (Programme Structure and Features): Structure: column entitled 'Course Codes' to be completed for programme and specialisations.
Features: Delete second paragraph commencing 'The timing of the courses fits' and the subsequent table with course description.
Regulations: delete item (d)
- Proposal Support Document:
Section A5: Consultations:
5.7 indicated that consultation was ongoing with RIO. The Group was advised that RIO had given the green light to the programme. Item should be amended to reflect this.

Points for Discussion:

The group spent some time discussing why four different programme specifications were needed for the MSc in Infection Biology when the courses the students will take are identical, as are the learning outcomes. Ms Clegg from the Senate Office explained that this was required because:

- 1) Otherwise registry has to record specialisms on degree transcripts and this becomes difficult to get done in time
- 2) The argument was made that if a degree was different enough to warrant a different specialism it would probably be different enough to warrant a different programme specification.

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

Update: The requested changes have now been made and the Group recommends approval.

1.3 MSc Sport and Exercise Science & Medicine (Distance Learning) (New Programme)

Rationale: The proposed new programme develops the Sport and Exercise & Medicine programme while addressing requests from potential students in full time employment to offer this programme by Distance Learning.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations for postgraduate taught programmes.

Programme Specification:

The PAG raised only minor issues in relation to the programme documentation:

- Section 8 Entrance Requirements:
This section should be expanded to advise potential students that it is aimed at practicing professionals.
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes) The ILOs require to be reworded to include more active verbs and to be more PG appropriate.
Knowledge and Understanding:
Third bullet: insert '(Masters only)' at the end of the sentence.
- Section 14: Regulations. The PAG requested that the PG Certificate exit point should be added.
Delete item (d) Entry to Honours

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

Update: The programme proposers have decided to make additional changes to the programme structure and resubmit for approval at a later date.

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 of proposals 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:

- MSc Food Security
All documentation was found to be in order.