

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Tuesday 15 April 2014

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of Arts,
held on 20 March 2014

Mrs L Fielding, Senate Office

Present:

Dr K O'Dell (Convener), Dr A Morgan-Thomas, Dr A O'Neill, Ms B O'Connor

In attendance:

Mrs L Fielding, Ms L Knox, Ms J Neil, Dr B Burns, Ms L McGarry

1. *UNDERGRADUATE PROPOSALS*1.1 **MA (European Culture & Civilisation (New Programme))**

Rationale: The programme has been developed to offer a more flexible designated degree.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 4-8 (UG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 10-13 (UG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9 (Programme Aims): A brief introductory paragraph should be added to this section as outlined in the Guidance Notes for PAGs – Appendix 1 – Programme Specifications;
- Section 10 (Intended learning Outcomes): Subject-specific/practical skills: Bullet point two: The use of “demonstrate” should be replaced by a more active verb;
- Proposal Support document P1: Section A, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.7; Consultations with external examiners, students, CRB and RIO are required for new programmes. The documentation indicates that these were not undertaken. Consultation should be taken as outlined above.

Conclusion: At present, the Group cannot recommend approval to ASC. Approval will be recommended when the amendments outlined above have been made and the necessary consultations have been completed and approved by College.

1.2 **MA Honours Portuguese (Joint) (New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme was developed to meet a growing interest in Hispanic Studies at undergraduate level.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 4-8 (UG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 10-13 (UG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9 (Programme Aims): The Group considered that the programme aims were too detailed and should be revised to be less prescriptive. For example, the insertion of “such as” in the final bullet point to read ‘to increase their competences in the languages and cultures of countries such as Brazil...’
- Section 10 (Intended learning Outcomes): The ILOs should be revised to use more active verbs and to reflect the level of the award. The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
Skills and Other Attributes: This section is too extensive and detailed. The number of bullet points should be reduced (The Guidelines suggest a maximum of six bullet points) and should be less prescriptive. For example, the fifth bullet point could be revised to read: ‘detailed knowledge of aspects of the history and culture of Portuguese speaking countries...’
- Transferable/key skills: The number of bullet points in this section should be reduced;
- Section 14 (Programme Structure and Features): Regulations: Final paragraph, first line, ‘French’ should be replaced by ‘Portuguese’;
- Proposal Support document P1: Section A, 5.3 and 5.7. The College representatives indicated that consultations had taken place with Central Room Bookings and RIO despite this not being reflected in the documentation. This should be updated with the appropriate documentation.

Conclusion: At present, the Group cannot recommend approval to ASC. Approval will be recommended when the amendments outlined above have been made and the necessary consultations have been completed and approved by College.

1.3 BMus Honours / MA Honours Music (Joint) / MA Honours Music (Single) (Major Change)

Rationale: The programme was developed to create a greater range of options at Junior and Senior Honours.

Regulations: New supplementary regulations will be required, and the New Regulations Data Input form has been completed.

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specifications for these degrees, and raised the following points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme): The Group considered that these were not appropriate for ILOs and were of a more indicative content. These should be revised in line with the items listed under Section 11 (Assessment Methods). The number of bullet points should be reduced and the use of “demonstrate” should be removed and replaced with more “active” verbs;
- Section 11 (Assessment Methods): The information listed in this section is more suitable to ILOs than assessment. This section is too specific and should be revised to list the range of assessment used;
- Section 14 (Programme Structure and Features): in the table, there should be consistency in the format between EITHER and OR, and should be revised; In year 3 the final sentence “Up to 30 credits...” should be reworded. For example: “However, it is possible that up to 30 credits...”

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

1.4 MA Honours Comparative Literature (Joint) (Major Change)

Rationale: The programme has been developed to utilise existing staff expertise and to reflect the current political and social changes within the EU

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 4-8 (UG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended learning Outcomes): The ILOs should be revised to use more active verbs and to reflect the level of the award. The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Intellectual Skills and Transferable/key skills: There is some duplication of content with these two sections and these should be revised;
- Section 14: (Programme Structure and Features): Within the table at Junior Honours and Senior Honours reference is made to specific days and times for the core courses. Reference to specific days and times should be removed and replaced with a statement that the core courses are compulsory;

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

1.5 MA (Ancient Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Historical Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Linguistic Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Literary Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Philosophical Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Scottish Studies) (Major Change)

MA (Theology & Religious Studies) (Major Change)

Rationale: The programme was revised to remove the compulsory Philosophy element and to permit a more flexible designated Degree;

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 4-8 (UG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specifications for these degrees, and raised the following points requiring to be addressed:

Points for discussion:

- A brief introductory paragraph should be added to this section as outlined in the Guidance Notes for PAGs – Appendix 1 – Programme Specifications;
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): The ILOs should be revised to use more active verbs and to reflect the level of the award. The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;

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

2. POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS

2.1 MLitt in Ancient Culture (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been developed in response to demand for the opportunity to study two or more ancient cultures.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9: (Programme Aims): The final bulletin should be reworded to more appropriate phrasing for programme aims;
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): The ILOs should be revised to use more active verbs and to reflect the level of the award. The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- The ILO content is rather brief and should be expanded;
- Section 14 (Programme Structure and features): Structure: The columns entitled Core and Optional should be removed;
The table format is repetitive as in the repetition of Option 1 and Option 2. This should be reviewed and simplified;
Part time: The column entitled Optional under Approaching the Ancient World through Material Culture the top “No” should be changed to “Yes”;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.2 MLitt in Art History: The Renaissance in Northern Europe & Italy (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been developed to enable students to progress from four different pathways to postgraduate study of the art and architecture of an earlier historical period.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Skills and Other Attributes: Subject-specific/practical skills: These bullet points should be revised as they are overly prescriptive;

- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.3 MLitt in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been developed to offer a professional qualification in the area of curating.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9 (Programme Aims): This section should be revised and shortened to a maximum of 6 bullet points;
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Knowledge and Understanding: This section should be expanded with additional bullet points (maximum of 6); Skills and Other Attributes: The wording of the first three bullet points in this section should be shortened;
- Intellectual Skills: Third bullet point: The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.4 MMus Sonic Arts (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been developed to provide a pathway into PHD study and further research

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9 (Programme Aims): The Group considered that the programme aims were too vague and should be revised to be less passive, for example, the insertion of “enable” at the start of the sentence;
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Subject-specific/practical skills; Third bullet point: The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;

- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.5 MSc Art History: Art in Germany / MA: Kunst in Deutschland (*double Masters Programme with University of Bonn*) **(New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme has been developed to offer students the opportunity to study in Germany during the semester and to undertake intensive study of the art, architecture, design and exhibition culture of Germany.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Knowledge and Understanding: First bullet point: reference to “historical period” is unclear and the “geographical region” could be more specific;
- Transferable/key skills: First bullet point: The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Section 14: Programme Structure and Features: In the table under Course Title, all the options should be replaced by Option 1 such as “Dada in Switzerland”;
The paragraph below the table beginning “Students must take three 20-credit courses in each semester” should be deleted and the information included in the relevant section of the table;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.6 MSc in Gender History (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme will offer a specialist pathway through current taught postgraduate offerings in History.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 9 (Programme Aims): First bullet point: “with a breadth and depth greater than that achieved in undergraduate study” should be removed;
- Fifth bullet point should be removed;
- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): The ILOs should be revised to use more active verbs and to reflect the level of the award. The use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Proposal Support Document P1: A1. The title should be revised to be the same as the Programme Title on the Programme specification 1;

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

2.7 MSc in Values Based Practice: Faith Communities (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme offers a degree with evidence-based practice elements and specialisation in particular fields of practice

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Knowledge and Understanding: Final bullet point should be revised to be less specific;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.8 MSc in Values Based Practice: Health and Social Care (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme offers a degree with evidence-based practice elements and specialisation in particular fields of practice

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Intellectual Skills: second bullet point should be revised and the use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

2.9 MSc in Values Based Practice: Peacebuilding (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme offers a degree with evidence-based practice elements and specialisation in particular fields of practice

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-27 (PG). It will also be added to the list of programmes at Arts 26-27 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 10 (Intended Learning Outcomes): Intellectual Skills: second bullet point should be revised and the use of “demonstrate” should be avoided as much as possible and graduate attributes should be embedded in the ILOs;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 5.7, there is no confirmation from CRB. CRB consultation should be confirmed as required in the Guidance Notes for PAGS, Appendix 2 – Consultations.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC subject to the issues identified above being addressed and the appropriate documentation from CRB being provided.

3. 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 proposals shown below had been examined:

- MA Honours Comparative Literature (Joint)

As noted above, none of the necessary consultations had been undertaken with external examiners, students, CRB and RIO. The Group could not recommend the programme for approval until the consultations were complete.

- MSc in Gender History

All documentation was found to be in order.