

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 17 April 2015

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of
Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences, held on 16 March 2015

Ms H Clegg & Mrs L Fielding, Senate Office

Present:

Professor B Hill (Convener), Professor D Macgregor, Dr B Randall, Mr M Karrasch

In attendance:

Ms H Clegg, Mrs L Fielding, Professor C Edwards

1. *UNDERGRADUATE PROPOSALS*1.1 **BSc (Hons) / MSci Human Biology (New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme is being proposed in order to supplement the existing Honours provision in related subjects, and to offer a broader approach to human biology.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 18-23 (UG) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 22 (UG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specifications for these degrees, and raised the following points requiring to be addressed. Unless otherwise stated, comments apply to both the BSc (Hons) and the MSci specifications:

- In Section 13, in the first sentence, a verb appears to be missing, and the word 'course' should be changed to 'programme'. The second paragraph should be moved to Section 19;
- In Section 14, the words 'within the area of human biology' should be added to the first bullet point. Reference to the final-year research project should specify that this is in the area of human biology. The ILOs, particularly under the 'subject specific' heading, should be expanded. All ILOs should be written in recognition that they represent what the student will be able to do on graduation, rather than what the student will do throughout the degree, and therefore they should be reworded accordingly;
- In Section 18, the Group queried why the 20-credit Life Science project course was not compulsory, as this appears to be the only project in the degree. The School is asked to comment on this. The information on progress should be deleted as a link to the progress requirements follows further in the section, but the named exit points should be listed.

It was noted that the only difference between the BSc (Hons) and the MSci programmes was the one-year placement, and that therefore the placement was the only part of the MSci that represented M-level credits.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made and the query answered satisfactorily.

1.2 BSc (Hons) Human Biology and Nutrition (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is being proposed in order to provide a broader route to nutrition than that provided by the current Physiology, Sports Science & Nutrition programme, and is offered in response to student demand.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 18-23 (UG) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 22 (UG).

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

- In Section 14, the ILOs, particularly under the 'subject specific' heading, should be expanded. All ILOs should be written in recognition that they represent what the student will be able to do on graduation, rather than what the student will do throughout the degree, and therefore they should be reworded accordingly;
- In Section 18, the information on progress should be deleted as a link to the progress requirements follows further in the section, but the named exit points should be listed. The Group noted that the exit point at the end of year 3 should be 'BSc Human Biology' as the nutrition courses do not take place until year 4.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

2. POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS

2.1 MSc Biomedical Sciences (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is being proposed as it complements the existing MRes in Biomedical Sciences and would appeal to a different student market.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- In Section 18, Column 1, entitled Course Title, line 3 - MSc Biomedical Sciences Dissertation. The Group strongly recommends that this title should be renamed to avoid confusion;
- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 7.7, there is no confirmation by RIO. RIO's 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 amendments identified above being made.

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

2.2 MSc Brain Sciences (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is being proposed to address an increase in demand for researchers with a wide interdisciplinary knowledge of brain functions.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 14, (Programme Aims): Transferable/key skills: First bullet: delete the first four words to read 'work collaboratively';
- Section 18 (Programme Structure and Features): Structure: Column entitled Optional: Specify the number of optional credits to be taken.
- Column entitled Semester(s) taught: Line 12, replace 3 with summer.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.3 MSc Genetic & Genomic Counselling (New Programme)

MSc Clinical Genetics (New Programme)

Rationale: The new programme has been developed in response to a significant demand for this course which is not offered in Scotland, currently.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

MSc in Genetic and Genomic Counselling:

- Section 1, (Programmes): Programme Title: The name of the programme title should be reworded to reflect the Work Placement element, ie MSc in Genetic and Genomic Counselling (with Work Placement);
- Section 8: (Location): Delete sentence in brackets after Glasgow and move to Section 19 (Additional Relevant Information);
- Section 12 (Entrance Requirements): Second paragraph: remove line commencing 'For applicants whose first language..';
- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features:
Structure: Column entitled Optional should be removed;
Column entitled Semester(s) taught:
Line 8 (Community placement 1) 3 should be replaced with summer;
Line 9 (Community Placement 2) 3 should be replaced with summer
Line 13 (Dissertation), 3 should be replaced with summer;
- Section 19: Additional Relevant Information: Final paragraph entitled Employment, second last line, delete section: '(expected date for accreditation decision: May 29th 2015).

MSc in Clinical Genetics:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features:
Features: Identify which option does not need to be undertaken.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.4 MSc Health Professions Education (New Programme)

PgCert Health Professions Education (New Programme)

PgDip Health Professions Education (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been proposed to meet a number of initiatives developed in health professions education, including the move to part-time and distance learning and to meet the demand anticipated with the requirement that all UK doctors undertake relevant CPD.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structures and Features: Structure: second column entitled Course Code: the course codes should be supplied.
- Structure of PGDip: This information should be formatted in table style, as for MSc.
- Structure of PGCert: This information should be formatted in table style, as for MSc.
- Proposal Support Document: Section A,7.1, Column entitled Optional: Clarify whether the proposals have been sent to the external examiner for the existing programme and to the proposed external examiner for this programme

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.5 MSc Health Professions Education (with Research) (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been proposed to meet a number of initiatives developed in health professions education, including the move to part-time and distance learning and to meet the demand anticipated with the requirement that all UK doctors undertake relevant CPD.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structures and Features: Structure: second column entitled Course Code: course codes are required.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.6 MSc Translational Medical Sciences (New Programme)

MSc Translational Medical Sciences (Diagnostics) (New Programme)

MSc Translational Medical Sciences (Molecular Medicine) (New Programme)

MSc Translational Medical Sciences (Molecular Pathology) (New Programme)

MSc Translational Medical Sciences (Surgical Oncology) (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme has been proposed in response to the introduction of the PGT cluster which inspired a review of the degrees and presented the opportunity to offer a suite of courses that could be used to structure various specialised routes.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Structure: Column entitled Semester(s) taught, identify when the credits are undertaken;

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.7 MSc Wildlife & Livestock Management (New Programme)

PgCert in Wildlife & Livestock Management (New Programme)

PgDip in Wildlife & Livestock Management (New Programme)

Rationale: This programme has been developed to address a need to integrate ecological disciplines with studies of disease in wildlife.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Structure: Column entitled Semester(s) taught:

Lines: 7, 8, 9 and 10 Identify the semester the option is taken;

Line 11, replace Y3 with summer.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.8 PgCert Human Anatomy (New Programme)

Rationale: This programme has been proposed in response to a demand for anatomical training for both specialisms and allied health professions.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Structure: Column entitled Optional should be removed.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.9 PgCert Leading, Improving & Transforming Care (New Programme)

Rationale: This programme has been developed in response to increased recognition of the need for education in relation to clinical leadership within health and social care.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Delete paragraph 4, entitled 'Resits'.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.10 PgCert Spiritual & Religious Care in Health & Social Care (New Programme)

Rationale: This programme has been proposed to meet a demand for healthcare chaplaincy programmes from both home and international students.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT) and added to the list of programmes at MVLS 44 (PGT).

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Structure: Column entitled Semester(s) taught should be reordered so that the semesters run consecutively.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.11 MRes Biomedical Sciences (with associated specialisms) (Major Change)

Rationale: The programme has been developed in response to the instruction from the MVLS Graduate School that undergraduate teaching should not contribute to postgraduate programmes.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT)

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification for this degree, and did not identify any points that required to be addressed.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

2.12 MSc Cardiovascular Sciences (Major Change)

Rationale: The amendments to this programme have been proposed in response to the introduction of the PGT cluster which inspired a review of the degrees and offered the opportunity to offer a suite of courses that can be used to structure various specialised routes.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT)

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification for this degree, and did not identify any points that required to be addressed.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC.

2.13 MSc Diabetes (Major Change)

Rationale: The amendments to this programme have been proposed in response to the introduction of the PGT cluster and which will permit improved sharing with other clusters.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT)

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Unique features and principal strengths: This title and the four bullet points should be removed and added to Section 19: Additional Relevant Information.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

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

2.14 MSc Health Technology Assessment (Major Change)

Rationale: This programme has been amended to meet the change of mode of delivery to online, distance learning and part-time.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at MVLS 41-43 (PGT)

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

Points for discussion:

- Section 18: Programme Structure and Features: Structure:

Column entitled Semester(s) taught: Specify years in the three tables.

Paragraph commencing 'In order to obtain...', third line, 'elective' should be replaced with 'optional'

- Proposal Support Document: Section A, 7.7, there is no confirmation by RIO. RIO's 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 amendments identified above being made.

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

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:

- BSc (Hons) / MSci Human Biology
All documentation was found to be in order.
- MSc Cardiovascular Sciences
All documentation was found to be in order.
- MSc Genetic Counselling
All documentation was found to be in order.
- PgCert Human Anatomy
All documentation was found to be in order.