University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 17 April 2015

Update on Programme Approval Recommendations from Session 2012/13 for the MSc Visualisation Programme at The Glasgow School of Art

At Stage 2 of the 2012/13 programme approval process, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committee confirmed recommendations to all Programme Leaders to be considered and reported within 12 months.

In line with the process, the Programme Leader for DDS Programmes provided a response to the recommendations which was considered by Academic Council in May 2014. This response was subsequently reviewed by the University of Glasgow's Academic Standards Committee on 23 May 2014 and the Committee required that further information be provided for Recommendations 4 and 5. A minute extract is detailed below:

ASC/2013/75.2 Update on Programme Approval Recommendations: Session 2012/13

The Committee considered a paper from the School of Art outlining outstanding advisory notifications for the validation of the MSc Visualisation. ASC noted that recommendations 1, 2 and 3 had been completed however recommendations 4 and 5 were still outstanding. Recommendation 4 required the Head of Academic Programmes in the Digital Design Studio to consider the development of key communication skills in the curriculum and recommendation 5 related to tutorial and mentoring support for part-time students.

Academic Standards Committee approved the report and requested a further update on progress in 2014-15.

In line with the above, the Programme Leader for DDS Programmes has revised the documentation to provide the required update.

The following is an extract from the relevant programme approval reports for the programme:

Programme Leaders should report any updates on recommendations in the appropriate comments box and return to Academic Services following Boards of Studies.

31.1 – MSc Visualisation

Advisory Recommendation 1

The Panel of the Periodic Review of DDS should be asked to invite DDS to explore possible postgraduate collaborations with other GSA areas, such as MSA and Communication Design.

[Action: Head of Academic Programmes, DDS]

> Currently ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ is being co-supervised with MSA. DDS is continuing to discuss and explore possible collaborations with other schools, discussions now to include undergraduate collaborations as per recent GSA strategic reviews.

Advisory Recommendation 2

DDS should keep the proposed IELTS requirement of 6.5 under review. This would include a post-recruitment assessment of the number and standard of rejected applications with a 6.0 IELTS level.

[Action: Head of Academic Programmes, DDS]

IELTS 6.5 is a requirement only for the medical visualisation pathway. 22 students were recruited to the Medical Visualisation in 2013-14, exceeding expectations. No students were rejected on the basis of their IELTS score, so the requirement does not appear to be onerous. Current overseas applications are strong, with almost all applications meeting or exceeding this requirement at time of initial application. In discussion with teaching staff, and reviewing performance of current students it is felt that reducing the requirement would be detrimental to the progression of students.

Advisory Recommendation 3

Prior to any approval, the Proposer should meet with the Director of Marketing, Communications and Strategic Planning, and the Deputy Director of Finance and Resources, to review and finalise the recruitment and financial aspects of the proposal.

[Action: Head of Academic Programmes, DDS]

Meetings were held as required.

In 13/14 22 students were recruited for Medical Visualisation, 9 for Heritage Visualisation. Insufficient numbers were recruited for Serious Games Development and the course did not run. All three pathways are being advertised for 14-15, and recruitment is currently up on the same time last year.

Advisory Recommendation 4

Further consideration on development of key communication skills should be given.

[Action: Head of Academic Programmes, DDS]

Written communication, presentations and group work are essential elements across all three pathways in a number of courses, placing importance on students' communication and presentation skills.

Core research skills course for academic/scientific work is recommended on these pathways, and provides some support for the development of these skills.

Further to this, written guidance to tutors is that course work briefs and feedback should now make more explicit reference to the role of individual and group communication and to students' performance in this. This guidance was developed in summer 2014 and was issued to tutors prior to the commencement of session 2014/15.

Advisory Recommendation 5

Reference to access of tutorial and mentoring support for part-time students should be made.

[Action: Head of Academic Programmes, DDS]

There are no part-time students currently enrolled, and part-time will not be made available until approval by the GSA exec, currently dependent on a GSA wide review during academic session 14-15.

Preparations and plans for introducing part-time provision are accordingly under review as part of GSA platform projects, and when introducing part-time provision, appropriate support for tutorials, supervision and online learning will be prepared to meet part-time student requirements.