

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 20 May 2016

**Update on Programme Approval and Major Programme Amendment
Recommendations from a Programme Approval Event held in
February 2015 at The Glasgow School of Art**

**Robbie Mulholland, Clerk, Joint Liaison Committee of the University of Glasgow and
The Glasgow School of Art**

PROGRAMME APPROVAL

Master of Research

In session 2014/15, the UPC: Programme Approval Meeting considered and approved the Master of Research.

The following recommendation was made at the meeting of 11 February 2015, and it was agreed that this should be considered and a report with regard to progress against the recommendations made to the Committee, via Boards of Studies within twelve months.

Recommendation 1

The Programme Team should undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on the programme in session 2015/16.

In accordance with the above recommendation for the Master of Research, in session 2015/16, the Programme Director, Lynn-Sayers McHattie has undertaken the Equality Impact Assessment, which has been signed off by the GSA Head of Student Support and Development and will be submitted to the UPC on the 20th April and Academic Council on the 4th of May 2016.

During the undertaking of the Equality Impact Assessment Lynn has been supported and received ongoing feedback from Jill Hammond and Kath Bridger that has contributed to and informed the process. The purpose of undertaking this equality impact assessment has been to identify at this early stage in programme delivery areas of good practice and to also identify areas that may require further attention and development in order to enhance the potential for positive equality impact. In summary the equality impact assessment has identified the following:

- Improved monitoring of equality impact across the programme
- Maintaining and developing the programme ethos in collaboration with students to create an environment where students and supervisors can exchange and develop ideas, opinions and knowledge in order to advance equality in our practice and foster good relations.

The ongoing evaluation and assessment will develop a programme of changes to:

- Address any negative impact we have identified, for example differential experiences for students from protected characteristic groups compared with others
- Mitigate against any potential or future negative impact
- Disseminate any positive impact and practice which supports equality of

experience.

These will be undertaken in line with the ongoing development of the Master of Research programme.

MAJOR PROGRAMME AMENDMENT

In session 2014/15, the UPC: Programme Approval Meeting considered and approved major programme amendments to the following degree programmes:

- MDes Fashion and Textiles
- MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)
- BDes (Hons) Fashion and Textile Design (now the BA (Hons) Fashion Design and BA (Hons) Textile Design programmes)
- BDes (Hons) Digital Culture (now the BA (Hons) Interaction Design programme)

The following recommendations were made at the meeting of 11 February 2015, and it was agreed that these should be considered and a report with regard to progress against the recommendations made to the Committee, via Boards of Studies within twelve months.

MDes Fashion and Textiles

The following is an update from the Programme Leader for the MDes Fashion and Textiles programme:

Recommendation 1

The Programme Team should undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on the programme in session 2015/16.

The Department completed its Equality Impact Assessment of the MDes Fashion and Textiles programme in session 2015/16.

The three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are: eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations. With this as a context, the purpose of undertaking the equality impact assessment of the MDes Fashion and Textiles programme was to identify areas of existing good practice and to identify areas that might require further attention. The function was also to ensure that the needs of the PSED are being met and consideration is being given to equality in all aspects of the programme.

As part of the process we impact assessed the programme in terms of curriculum design, curriculum delivery, assessment, feedback, student engagement and pre arrival. Under each of these headings we responded to specific questions with evidence of good practice where it existed and identified areas that required further action. We will assess the effectiveness of these actions through the feedback provided by the various student feedback mechanisms and report them through the Programme Monitoring and Annual Review Process.

Recommendation 2

The Programme Team should reflect on whether the MDes Fashion and Textiles could be offered in the part-time mode in the course of 2015/16 and make recommendations as appropriate in the School's forthcoming Periodic Review.

After consideration and discussion, the part-time mode was deemed extraneous and removed from offer. (In 11 years of the programme there had been no expressions of interest from applicants in undertaking the programme part-time). The School of Design is currently exploring integrated and other models of Masters study.

MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)

The following is an update from the Programme Leader for the MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) programme:

Recommendation 1

The Committee noted that one of the recommendations from the validation of the programme was that an Equality Impact Assessment should be undertaken in 2014/15. The Committee re-iterated that this must be undertaken prior to the end of 2014/15, and highlighted that this should also include consideration of the proposed amendment.

An Equality Impact Assessment of the MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) programme was undertaken last summer, led by PL Mónica Laiseca and with input from the Curatorial Practice Programme Team and Joint Board. Laiseca received continued mentoring support from Jill Hammond (Head of Student Support and Development, GSA) and Kath Bridger (Director, BSV Associates) whilst undertaking the assessment and had the opportunity to participate in workshops with other PLs at GSA who were conducting the assessment at the same time. The Assessment was reviewed and approved at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committee meeting held on 11th November 2015.

The Assessment tackled three key areas: Curriculum Design and Delivery, Student's Experience, and Forward Planning, including evidence needed for evaluation purposes. The programme amendment proposed in the 2014/15 session was carefully considered in relation to all three areas. The introduction of project-based assessed coursework was deemed beneficial from an Equality Impact perspective in ensuring the programme can engage a broader spectrum of learning styles, thus advancing equality of opportunity. In the current academic year we are monitoring closely how this change is implemented and can report a noticeable improvement in students' ability to manage their workload and increased engagement with assessment and feedback.

A number of actions have been undertaken in the current academic session resulting from the Equality Impact Assessment. These include the submission of a Minor Programme Amendment proposal, in order to rewrite an ILO of the Programme, and the revision of our marketing strategy.

BA (Hons) Fashion Design and BA (Hons) Textile Design

The following is an update from the Programme Leader for the BA (Hons) Fashion Design and BA (Hons) Textile Design programmes:

Recommendation 1

The Programme Team should undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on the programme in session 2015/16.

The Department completed its Equality Impact Assessment of the BA (Hons) Fashion Design and the BA (Hons) Textile Design programmes in session 2015/16.

The purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment was to identify areas of existing good practice /and identify areas that required further attention and to ensure that the three needs of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED); eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations are being met and equality is being considered in all aspects of the programme design and delivery.

As part of the process we assessed the programme in terms of curriculum design and delivery, assessment and feedback and student engagement. Under each of these headings we responded to a range of reflective questions while considering the PSED. A range of examples of good practice and areas requiring further attention were identified. We will assess the effectiveness of any actions through Programme Monitoring and Annual Review (PMAR) and through a range of student feedback mechanisms.

Recommendation 2

The Programme Team should develop course approval documentation for courses which would be offered to incoming exchange and study abroad students.

Study Abroad and Exchange Course specs have been produced and were approved at PAG on 21 April 2015.

The course specs produced were:

- Studio 3, incoming exchange and study abroad students, Level 3, 30 Credits
- Studio 3, incoming exchange and study abroad students, Level 3, 50 Credits

Both course specifications provide details of when taught, Aims, Intended Learning Outcomes, Content, Assessment and Learning and Teaching Methods.

BA (Hons) Interaction Design

The following is an update from the Programme Leader for the BA (Hons) Interaction programme:

Recommendation 1

The Approval Panel agreed that representatives from the School of Design and the Digital Design Studio should consult, as appropriate, regarding the proposed nomenclature of the BDes (Hons) Digital Culture.

The name change from Digital Culture to Interaction Design was discussed with staff from the Digital Design Studio. There were no objections raised. It was agreed to cross promote activities of mutual interest to Interaction Design and Digital Design Studio students.

Recommendation 2

The Programme Team should undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on the programme in session 2015/16.

This equality impact assessment for the BA (Hons) Interaction Design programme has been undertaken by the Programme Leader in consultation with staff teaching into the Interaction Design programme.

Jill Hammond (Head of Student Support and Development, GSA) and Kath Bridger (Director, BSV Associates) provided support throughout the assessment and reporting stages. The Assessment was reviewed and approved at the School of Design Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2016.

The areas of particular scrutiny included curriculum design, curriculum delivery, assessment, feedback, student engagement and pre-arrival procedures. The programme amendment proposed in the 2014/15 session was carefully considered in relation to all these areas.

Through the EIA process examples of good practice and positive impact across the programme were identified. However the assessment recognised that in order to ensure that equality is systematically mainstreamed across the programme further review of programme practice and its documentation will be undertaken in 2015/16. The actions will be integrated into Quality Enhancement Plan and progress will be reported in the Programme Monitoring Annual Report in November 2016.