

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 25 May 2018

Major Programme Amendment Approval 2017-18 (School of Design): Update on the Recommendations for the MEd in Learning, Teaching and Supervisory Practices in the Creative Disciplines at The Glasgow School of Art

In May 2017, the UPC: Programme Approval Meeting considered and approved the Master of Education in Learning, Teaching and Supervisory Practice in the Creative Disciplines. Academic Council recommended the programme to the November 2017 meeting of the University of Glasgow's Academic Standards Committee, which subsequently validated the programme for a period of six years commencing in January 2018.

The following recommendations were made at the meeting of 10 May 2017, and it was agreed that these should be considered and a report with regard to progress against the recommendations made to the Committee within 12 months.

The following is an extract from the relevant Programme Approval report:

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

Recommendation 1

The Approval Panel recommended that the Programme Leader consider the feedback provided by Ms Graham with regard to the PGT Elective offering to encourage the uptake of the MEd.

The Senior Academic Fellow for Digital Learning has specific responsibilities for the PGT Electives and will ensure that there is opportunity for alignment through the redevelopment of the PGT Elective offer with the PG Dip award route. The issue of how GSA staff may engage with the current PGT Elective offer is a live discussion within the learning and teaching team and more broadly within GSA. Following evaluation of the first year of the MEd (In June 2017), the development of a specific pathway through the MEd is being considered, particularly aimed at those staff who do not wish to undertake the PG Cert in Supervision or who simply wish to begin engaging with professional development courses prior to their engagement with the PG Cert in Learning and Teaching.

Following the PGT Credit reform at GSA which has resulted in a re-adjustment to the credits (from 15 up to 20 credits) and a re-alignment of the portfolio of courses across stage 1 and 2, there is now real opportunity to consider this new route for staff. In outline, this route could include the selection of a stage 1 and stage 2 elective (amounting to 40 credits) with the requirement to undertake the dissertation preparation course (20 credits). This, in effect, would be a substitute for the PG Cert in Supervision Course. The intention would be to consider this route for take up in 2019-2020, but at present we are at the exploratory stage and are currently looking at all the options.

Recommendation 2

The Approval Panel recommended that the Programme Leader should consider the comments regarding the accreditation of prior learning with a view to clearly defining the alternative entry paths including the volume of credits and alternative points of entry.

Further clarity has been added to the MEd Programme spec regarding the clarity of APEL process. Specific reference is made to the GSA APEL policy which is located within the Admissions Policy.

Recommendation 3

The Approval Panel recommended that the Programme team should consider the offerings for students currently on Leave of Absence in order to ensure that they are not disadvantaged upon their return. The Panel agreed that this would be dependent on the numbers of students who choose to return over the next academic session.

In order to ensure that no student is disadvantaged as part of the approval of the new M.Ed all students currently on either PG Certificate Programme, including students on LOA will be contacted to offer them the opportunity to complete the programme in which they signed up or to opt to engage with the new programme beginning in January 2018. At time of writing students on the PG Certificate in Learning and Teaching have been contacted and arrangements are in place for students to submit and complete the programme or to re-join course 2 of the programme for September 2017 with the intention to support them to complete in academic session 2017-18.

For students who have completed both PG Certificate programmes and wish to advance to the M.Ed, additional text has been added to the MEd programme spec to clarify their options. This text has been drafted in consultation with colleagues in Policy and Governance and Registry and provides student the opportunity to join the programme subject to successful completion of the Educational Enquiry and Research Methods course. This course was chosen in place of the panel's recommendation of the Dissertation Prep course as this course offers students a wider developmental opportunity to engage with research methods in education, which they have not been able to obtain within the current programme. The assessment for this course would allow the student to propose their MEd dissertation as with the Dissertation Prep course whilst also developing their research skills.

Recommendation 4

The Approval Panel recommended that the Programme team should consider how components of the MEd programme could be incorporated into a GSA staff development opportunity to support staff understanding of research practices within Art & Design.

The programme team have already undertaken this activity in order to support CPD opportunities for PT staff and colleagues who have a limited teaching role.