

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 5 October 2018

Audit Report on Programme Approval Activity undertaken by
Colleges

Ms H Clegg, Senate Office

Under the current process, Colleges have responsibility for considering and approving all programme proposals (new, amend and withdraw). However, Academic Standards Committee is required to audit this approval activity to ensure that the standard of proposal documentation remains high and that Colleges are adhering to the published procedure.

In line with this recommendation, the Senate Office has spot-checked a sample of proposals, for which the full documentation for the proposals have been examined.

Proposals approved by Colleges during 2017-18:

<i>Proposal Type</i>	<i>Number of proposals</i>	<i>Number of proposals audited</i>
<i>New programme</i>	18 (Arts) 10 (MVLS) 14 (Science & Engineering) 18 (Social Sciences) Total : 60	2 (Arts) 1 (MVLS) 1 (Science & Engineering) 2 (Social Sciences) Total : 6
<i>Amend programme</i>	3 (Arts) 7 (MVLS) 1 (Science & Engineering) 35 (Social Sciences) Total : 46	1 (Arts) 1 (MVLS) 1 (Science & Engineering) 4 (Social Sciences) Total : 7
<i>Withdraw programme</i>	19 (Arts) 12 (MVLS) 13 (Science & Engineering) 26 (Social Sciences)	2 (Arts) 1 (MVLS) 1 (Science & Engineering) 2 (Social Sciences)

The following **new programme** proposals were audited:

MSc English Language & Linguistics (School of Critical Studies/College of Arts)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the programme had been approved in advance of the deadline date of 31 July 2018.

MA Ancient History/Italian (School of Humanities/College of Arts)

No documentation was available in PIP other than the Programme Specification and Programme Support document. No consultation with either students or an external academic had been undertaken though, in line with guidance on approval of joint programmes, this was not necessary because the half programmes were themselves already approved. However, there was no record provided of any School or College meeting at which the proposal was considered. The programme was approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc Population Health Sciences (Institute of Health & Wellbeing/College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the programme had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc Quantum Technology (School of Engineering/College of Science & Engineering)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that extensive consultation had been undertaken and feedback carefully considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the programme had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc Environment & Sustainable Development (Malaysia) (Adam Smith Business School/College of Social Sciences)

No documentation was available in PIP other than the Programme Specification and Programme Support document. No consultation with either students, an external academic or MaRIO had been undertaken and no evidence of consultation with the Academic Collaborations Office was provided. There was no record provided of any School or College meeting at which the proposal was considered. An email was included in which the Convener of the College Board of Studies approved the programme using summer powers and requiring no scrutiny as the proposal was considered as an administrative request rather than a new programme. [*“These are administrative requests to create additional programme codes for existing programmes due to inclusion on a 2-year collaborative MBA programme with Universiti Sains Malaysia rather than being actual new programmes.”*] The proposal had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

International Masters in Education Policies for Global Development (School of Education/College of Social Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard (though some formatting issues required to be addressed as some content was obscured) and all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available though it was noted that the programme had not been fully approved until after the deadline date.

The following **amend programme** proposals were audited:

BMus (Hons) Music (School of Culture & Creative Arts/College of Arts)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The changes had been approved in advance of the deadline date, though the College Board of Studies minute was not provided.

MSc Brain Sciences (Institute of Neuroscience & Psychology/College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The changes had been approved in advance of the deadline date, though the College Board of Studies minute was not provided.

MSc Structural Engineering (School of Engineering/College of Science & Engineering)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The changes had been approved in advance of the deadline date, though the College Board of Studies minute was not provided.

MSc Quantitative Finance (Adam Smith Business School/College of Social Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the changes had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc Educational Studies (Adult Education, Community Development & Youth Studies) (School of Education/College of Social Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and it was clear that all appropriate consultations had been completed and considered. However, as of 12 September 2018, the changes had not yet been approved and remained at the 'School Review' stage of the approval process.

MA (Hons) Primary Education with Teaching Qualification (School of Interdisciplinary Studies/College of Social Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard and consultation with an external academic had been completed. However, there was no evidence of consultation with students. As of 12 September 2018, the changes had not yet been approved and remained at the 'Forward to College' stage of the approval process.

MSc Global Migrations & Social Justice (School of Social & Political Sciences/College of Social Sciences)

The Programme Specification was of the required standard. No evidence of consultations was provided, although it was indicated in the Support Document that consultations had been undertaken with an external academic and students. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the changes had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

The following **withdraw programme** proposals were audited:

MSc Political Islam (School of Critical Studies/College of Arts)

The programme had been withdrawn due to staff research leave. No evidence of consultation with an external academic or students was provided and no College Board of Studies minute was available. The withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MA Czech/Scottish Literature (School of Modern Languages & Cultures/College of Arts)

The programme had been withdrawn due to Czech no longer being offered. No evidence of consultation with an external academic or students was provided and no College Board of Studies minute was available. The withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

BSc (VetSci) Virology (School of Life Sciences/College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences)

The programme had been withdrawn due to the departure of the Programme Leader and was set in the context of a restructure of programmes with similar content. It was clear that the required consultations has been undertaken and feedback considered. The College Board of Studies minute was available and the withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc Aquatic System Science (School of Geographical & Earth Sciences/College of Science & Engineering)

The programme had been withdrawn as a result of being previously suspended and subsequently replaced by a new programme. No evidence of consultation with an external academic or students was provided and no College Board of Studies minute was available. The withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date.

MSc International Trade & Finance (Adam Smith Business School/College of Social Sciences)

The programme had been withdrawn as a result of poor recruitment and similarity to another programme. No evidence of consultation with an external academic or students was provided and no College Board of Studies minute was available. The withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date and alternative arrangements had been put in place for applicants to the withdrawn programme.

MSc International Real Estate (School of Social & Political Sciences/College of Social Sciences)

The programme had been withdrawn due to the simplification of the School's provision and to allow more flexibility. No evidence of consultation with an external academic or students was provided and no College Board of Studies minute was available. The withdrawal had been approved in advance of the deadline date and alternative arrangements had been put in place for applicants to the withdrawn programme.