

## University of Glasgow

## Academic Standards Committee – Friday 5 October 2018

## Programme Approval (Validation) Process for The Glasgow School of Art: Update and Proposal for the Amendment of Process

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**A) Background**

Academic Standards Committee at its meeting on 19 May 2017 approved amendments to the programme approval (validation) process for The Glasgow School of Art. The review of the previous process came about as a result of the University's review of its Course and Programme approval process in session 2015-16, and in light of the maturity of the relationship with GSA (a validated institution with accredited status). The new process commenced, on a pilot basis, in academic session 2017-18, and in relation to programme approval, provided for the following:

- The continuation of the arrangement whereby GSA would seek programme approval within one academic session, through the submission to ASC, of a Programme Proposal or Major Programme Amendment Proposal at its November meeting;
- Subject to in-principle support of the proposal by ASC, GSA's Academic Council would assume responsibility for full approval of the new or amended programme and would be permitted to advertise the new programme or major programme amendment as being 'subject to validation';
- In respect of programmes identified as non-standard<sup>1</sup> by ASC, the continuation of the previous process whereby ASC would be invited to consider and approve the Programme Approval Report, recommended by GSA's Academic Council following a validation event at GSA; and
- With regard to collaborative programmes, the continuation of the arrangement whereby proposals would continue to be referred to ASC in the normal way.

**B) Recommendation to Extend the Programme Approval (Validation) Process for the Glasgow School of Art**

Following operation of the new process during 2017-2018, it became clear that the new process, although providing for the approval of new programmes at GSA, did not cover:

1. the revalidation of existing programmes;
2. extensions to the validation of existing programmes, and
3. the validation/revalidation of, and major programme amendment proposals in respect of, programmes run jointly between UoG and GSA.

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<sup>1</sup> An example would be where the programme has a non-standard structure or it involves a collaborative arrangement.

With a view to addressing these anomalies, it is therefore proposed that the scope of the programme approval (validation) process which was approved by ASC in May 2017, be amended in line with the following arrangements:

**a) Revalidation of Programmes**

The revalidation of existing programmes at GSA be managed in the same way as the approval of new programmes. Specifically, ASC will not be required to approve the revalidation of programmes as part of the GSA Periodic Subject Review (PSR) report as is currently the case. Instead, GSA will provide information in the Annual Report to the UoG-GSA Joint Liaison Committee to highlight the programmes to be revalidated as part of the PSR Reviews due to take place in the coming session. Following the PSR, GSA will provide ASC with a summary of the programmes revalidated which will include details of any changes made and/or significant issues raised.

**b) Extensions to Validation of Programmes**

Extensions to validation of existing programmes will be handled by GSA (via their Academic Council), with GSA providing the University with advance notice of extensions and the rationale for the extensions via the Annual Report. GSA will advise UoG of proposed extensions during year 6 of the programme's validation period at the latest.

**c) Validation/Revalidation of, and Major Programme Amendment Proposals in Respect of, Programmes Run Jointly Between UoG and GSA**

The previous arrangement whereby the validation/revalidation of, and major programme amendment proposals in respect of, programmes run jointly between UoG and GSA required both in-principle and full approval by ASC, will continue.