

7 PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

- 7.1 This section deals with the development of new programmes. Programmes for this purpose are deemed to be proposals that are planned to lead to an award as set out in Section 6.2 of these regulations. As indicated in Section 6.21, proposals for more than one programme can come forward as a scheme. What follows within this section and Section 8 also applies to schemes.
- 7.2 There are three key stages in the development of a new programme (see table at the end of this section for more detail). These are:
Stage 1 – Initiation and planning approval
Stage 2 – Programme development
Stage 3 – Programme approval
- 7.3 The objectives of adopting a staged process are:
- to ensure that developments are open to all wishing to participate
 - to ensure that developments are consistent with strategic plans
 - to establish a clear business case for the development
 - to ensure that the resources required to deliver new developments are identified
 - to facilitate development by enabling development teams to secure resources
 - to ensure that proposals are subject to rigorous academic scrutiny.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.4 The relevant Faculty Board of Study is responsible for determining the academic validity of the proposal and for recommending planning approval.
- 7.5 The responsibility for ensuring that a programme development team are properly supported through the development process rests with the relevant Faculty Board of Study and the dean of faculty.
- 7.6 All proposals are also subject to scrutiny at institutional level by Academic Council (which delegates this authority to Partnership Planning Forum (PPF)) of their strategic fit and sustainability, taking into account the recommendation of the relevant Faculty Board of Study.

STAGE 1 – INITIATION AND PLANNING APPROVAL

- 7.7 Proposals for new programmes will be considered in the first instance by the relevant academic partner(s) and subject network(s) following informal discussions on the viability of the concept.
- 7.8 Proposals must be approved by the planning groups of the responsible academic partner and all other academic partners which will make a significant contribution to development and delivery of the programme.
- 7.9 The Faculty Board of Study will pay particular attention to whether the proposal:
- supports the academic and strategic priorities of the faculty and of the university
 - meets the needs of prospective students, employers and the wider community
 - uses resources efficiently, minimising duplication

iv. identifies that the resources needed for the development and delivery of the proposal are available or can be obtained.

7.10 The Faculty Board of Study will then determine whether the proposal proceeds, with or without changes being made, or that it should not proceed. In making its recommendation, the Faculty Board of Study will also recommend the responsible academic partner, and nominations for the programme development leader.

7.11 Partnership Planning Forum will consider the Faculty Board of Study's recommendation on the proposal, reviewing in particular its strategic fit and viability, and determine whether the proposal is granted planning approval, with or without changes being made, or that it should not proceed.

STAGE 2 - PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

7.12 The programme development team will normally work with an Advisory Group comprising internal and external members. The role of the Advisory Group is to advise and support the team in developing curriculum and documentation for approval. It will do this through scheduled interactions with the programme development team at mutually agreed points in the development process. The Advisory Group provides appropriate externality and opportunities for sharing good practice both within the university and across the sector.

7.13 The membership of the Advisory Group will normally comprise:

- Dean of faculty or nominee – chair
- Academic Registrar or nominee (normally faculty officer)
- Principal or nominee from responsible academic partner
- At least one internal member with appropriate experience, who is not involved with the provision being developed
- At least one external academic member from another HEI
- Other members if appropriate, eg professional body representative.

7.14 It is the responsibility of the programme development team to nominate individuals for the Advisory Group, taking into account any specific areas of expertise which may be needed. Nominations are subject to approval by the chair of the Advisory Group.

7.15 The programme development team will produce programme documentation for consideration by the approval panel in accordance with the agreed timescale.

7.16 The Chair of the Advisory Group is responsible for providing written confirmation to the Academic Registrar and the dean of faculty that the programme and relevant documentation are ready to go forward to the formal approval stage.

7.17 If they are not the Chair of the Advisory Group, the dean must also consider the programme and relevant documentation and provide written confirmation to the Academic Registrar that they are ready to go forward to the formal approval stage.

STAGE 3 – PROGRAMME APPROVAL

7.18 Detailed procedures relating to the approval process are contained in Section 8 of these regulations.

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS – STAGES, PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

Activity	Who's involved	Purpose	Outcome
STAGE 1 – INITIATION AND PLANNING APPROVAL (1-3 months)			
Idea and informal discussions	Academic staff, AP managers, SNL	Initial consideration of viability of concept prior to any development work	Decision on whether concept merits further development work
Drafting business case	Proposer(s), AP managers, SNL, University Planning team	Outline business case giving sufficient detail for wider discussion (programme content, delivery, market demand, resources, impact on funded numbers).	Rationale and business case
Consideration of business case by planning teams	Proposer(s), AP planning groups, University Planning team	Discussion of concept, fit with strategic plans Opportunity for discussion of resourcing implications and integration with other provision	'In principle' support - or not - with commitment to resourcing for development May include recommendations for refinement prior to next stage
Circulation of business case to SN members, PPF and Learning and Teaching team	Proposer(s), SN, PPF, Learning and Teaching team	Visibility of proposed development Opportunity for involvement of / contribution by other SN members and APs in proposal	Feedback to proposers and SNL
SNL convenes writing team to draft curriculum proposal	Proposer(s), SNL, reps from all participating APs	Produce curriculum proposal, building on business case information	Completed curriculum proposal and costing spreadsheet
Consideration of curriculum proposal by Faculty Board (normally by circulation)	Proposer(s), Faculty Board	Ensures fit with faculty strategic plan	Dean recommends approval - or not - to PPF
Planning for marketing	Proposer(s), Marketing (EO and APs)	Planning and integration of marketing activity (including discussion of date for inclusion in print prospectus and UCAS)	Production of marketing plan
Consideration of curriculum proposal by PPF		Discussion of curriculum proposal, fit with strategic plan and existing provision, resource and networking implications,	Confirmation of planning approval. May include recommendations for

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Activity	Who's involved	Purpose	Outcome
		implications for funded student numbers, consideration of market and likely demand	consideration by programme development team
Addition to approval schedule	Academic Directorate	Planning for approval event	Inclusion on approval schedule
Planning for marketing	Proposer(s), Marketing (EO and APs)	Continued planning and implementation of marketing activity	Increased awareness of new programme, inclusion of programme information in print prospectus and UCAS

Activity	Who's involved	Purpose	Outcome
STAGE 2 – PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT (3-12 months)			
Curriculum development	Programme development team, Advisory Group	Detailed development of programme. Advice on content, structure, alignment with external reference points	
Production of programme documentation	Programme development team, Advisory Group	Documentation to support programme	Programme Specification Module Descriptors Library Resources Reading List Draft student handbook
'Sign-off' of draft programme documentation	(Chair of) Advisory Group	Confirmation from Advisory Group that documentation is ready to go forward to formal approval stage	Chair's written confirmation to dean of faculty
Consideration by dean	Dean	Decision by dean whether programme is ready to go forward to formal approval stage	Dean's confirmation

Activity	Who's involved	Purpose	Outcome
STAGE 3 – PROGRAMME APPROVAL (1-3 months)			

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Activity	Who's involved	Purpose	Outcome
Approval panel meets	Programme development team, AP manager(s), dean, approval panel	Formal consideration of academic standards and quality of learning opportunities of proposed programme	Report with recommendation to FBOS for approval of programme for delivery - or not May include conditions
Response to any conditions	Programme development team	Action taken to address issues identified by approval panel	Programme amended and/or resources made available
Sign-off by Chair of approval panel	Chair of approval panel	Meet academic standards and quality assurance requirements as set by approval panel	Programme meets panel conditions
Production of final programme documentation	Programme development team	Information for students, staff, stakeholders	Programme documentation
Consideration of panel recommendations by FBOS	FBOS	Formal approval (on behalf of Academic Council) of programme to be included in academic portfolio	Confirmation of approval of programme for delivery
New programme entered on systems	Student Records Office	Control of the university's academic portfolio. Registration and enrolment of students. Student access to finance and other support	Programme and modules and HAPs added to SITS
Recruitment to new programme	Marketing (EO and APs), Admissions, Programme team	Recruitment of viable student cohort to programme.	Students enrolled on programme.

AP	Academic Partner	FBOS	Faculty Board of Study	SNL	Subject Network Leader
EO	Executive Office	HAP	Home Academic Partner	SRO	Student Records Office