

30 NOV 2012 12:05

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

## REVISIONS TO COURSE OR SUBJECT STRAND DURING ITS PERIOD OF APPROVAL

(Please attach supporting documentation as appropriate)

- 1 **COURSE TITLE:** BSc Hons Biomedical Science and BSc Hons Biomedical Science with DPP.  
**COURSE CODE:** 3864/6311 and 3871, respectively.
- 2 **LOCATION:** Coleraine
- 3 **MODE OF ATTENDANCE:** All full-time with the exception of course 6311  
*Teaching pattern* - standard semester
- 4 **SPONSORING FACULTY:** Life and Health Sciences  
*Sponsoring School:* Biomedical Sciences
- 5 **COURSE/SUBJECT DIRECTOR:** Professor Peter R Flatt
- 6 **ASSOCIATED FACULTY OR FACULTIES:** None
- 7 **OUTLINE OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO:**  
(Please relate to relevant aspects of the existing course and attach updated module descriptions, if appropriate)
  - 7.1 **COURSE STRUCTURE AND STUDENT LOAD DISTRIBUTION**  
Student load amendment form to be attached if change to school's contribution to a module.  
  
N/A
  - 7.2 **COURSE CONTENT AND SYLLABUSES**  
(Please attach revised/new module descriptions. Indicate whether new module is Compulsory or Optional.)  
  
N/A
  - 7.3 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**  
(Please specify any additional resource requirements: staffing, equipment, specialist accommodation, computing, library. These should be met through the Faculty/Institution and/or (for University provision) discussed with Corporate Planning and Governance Services/Physical Resources/Information Services/Access and Distributed Learning as appropriate. If a revision includes a proposal to deliver a programme or a part of a programme in an online capacity or to change the content and structure of an online module, the Faculty must engage with the Access and Distributed Learning and the CA3 form must be accompanied by a completed eLearning Resource Agreement. The form can be downloaded from [www.ulster.ac.uk/III/forms/elearning\\_resource\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/III/forms/elearning_resource_agreement.pdf)  
  
None

#### 7.4 COURSE REGULATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

The proposal is to offer exit awards for Undergraduate students enrolled in Biomedical Sciences who leave the course early. It is critically important to note that Biomedical Scientist is a well-defined protected title associated with BSc (Hons) graduate status from a recognised and approved award. We propose therefore that students will exit with a CertHE in Medical Sciences or AB in Medical Sciences in order to avoid inevitable immediate challenge from the Professional Bodies who, given the title Biomedical Science is directly associated with programme approval/accreditation and eligibility for professional registration status, understandably will not condone or support a CertHE or AB in Biomedical Science. This is avoidable by sensibly opting to introduce a CertHE Medical Sciences / AB in Medical Sciences, although this does represent a special case with necessary variation and departure from the University's Teaching and Learning Committee consideration that exit award titles mirror that of the full primary degree programme.

Leavers at the end of Year 1 (Level 4) would gain a Certificate in Higher Education CertHE (CertHE Medical Sciences). This would necessitate them having undertaken 120 credits at level 4 (all first year undergraduate modules in biomedical science are at level 4). The student will have had to achieve a pass mark of 40% in all modules to obtain the award.

Leavers at the end of Year 2 (Level 5), having completed both years 1 and 2 undergraduate biomedical science, would gain an Associate Bachelor's degree in Medical Sciences. To achieve this they would need to pass all modules at 40% and have studied a minimum of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5.

#### 7.5 RATIONALE FOR CHANGES

The introduction of these early exit awards will improve retention figures and give students who retire from the course early due credit for their effort and achievements during their time registered on the course.

8 **PROPOSED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:** As soon as possible

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2012/13

**COURSE YEAR GROUPS:** Year 1 and Year 2

9 **HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE EXTERNAL EXAMINER(S) BEEN OBTAINED?**

Pending

10 **HAVE CURRENT STUDENTS WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED GIVEN THEIR WRITTEN CONSENT?**

Not applicable

11 **IF THE REVISION WILL AFFECT A LINKED EXTERNAL PROGRAMME, HAS THE SUBJECT PARTNERSHIP MANAGER BEEN ADVISED?**

Not applicable

12 **PROSPECTUS ENTRY AND PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

(Please attach proposed changes to (on-line) prospectus entry, course leaflet and programme specification.)

Signed : .....

Date: .....

Course/Subject Director

Signed: Professor Jacqueline McCormack  
(Associate) Head of School (if required)

Date: 7/11/12

Signed : .....

Date: .....

Subject Partnership Manager (if applicable)

*Carol Curran*

Signed:  
(Associate) Dean

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The completed form should be returned to the Academic Office, J410, Tower, Coleraine, in good time prior to the proposed implementation of the revisions in accordance with University approved deadlines (see Handbook).



**From:** Dr Anne Catherine Cunningham [mailto:anne.cunningham@ubd.edu.bn]  
**Sent:** 05 November 2012 23:53  
**To:** Flatt, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: exit awards for bms degrees

Dear Peter,

Happy to approve exit awards for Biomedical Science to credit students with appropriate Certificates / Diplomas. This is fairly standard across the sector and I don't need to see your paperwork.

I wonder why you went for the title 'Medical Science' rather than Biomedical Science / Studies – but I certainly don't have any strong feelings on your choice.

Good luck,

Anne

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**From:** Flatt, Peter [mailto:pr.flatt@ulster.ac.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 November, 2012 12:46 AM  
**To:** Dr Anne Catherine Cunningham  
**Cc:** McCormack, Jacqueline; Flatt, Peter  
**Subject:** exit awards for bms degrees  
**Importance:** High

Dear Anne,

The University has decided to introduce exit awards into undergraduate programmes which includes biomedical sciences.

For our BSc Biomedical Science programmes, we propose to introduce a Certificate in Higher Education in Medical Science for exit in year 1 and an Associate Bachelors in Medical Science for exit in year 2.

Victor has prepared CA3 forms plus associated documents for the appropriate University Committee.

Our proposal requires approval by External Examiner.

I trust that you will be happy the introduction of exit awards to ensure that our students get credit even if they leave before completing the course.

If so, I would appreciate a short note of approval by return - if you wish to see all of the paperwork, then I will be happy to send this on also.

Sorry for troubling you again so soon after exam papers – thanks again for your support.