

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Unit 22B1 Specialist Nursing Post-Registration (BSc Hons Specialist Nursing (with pathways), PgDip Specialist Nursing (with pathways), PgDip/MSc Palliative Care).

*Presenter: Representative from the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences*

COVER SHEET

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below.

To consider a request from the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences for a one-year extension of approval.

**UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER**

**REQUEST TO EXTEND APPROVAL AND POSTPONE REVALIDATION**

**Form CA6b)**

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**SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST**

FACULTY: Life and Health Sciences

SCHOOL: Nursing

REVALIDATION UNIT NUMBER AND NAME: 22B1 Specialist Nursing

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: February 2020

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED:  
(eg one year to include the September 2018 intake)

One year to include September 2020 intake

COURSE(S):  
(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

**REASON FOR REQUEST:**

This extension is being sought as the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) initiated a review of post registration standards in October 2019. This review is not yet complete. These 'new' standards will be replacing the NMC Standards for Specialist Education and Practice that have been in existence since 2001 and will undoubtedly shape the content and structure of all Specialist Nursing programmes offered in the United Kingdom. It is prudent therefore to wait until the outcome of this review is published so as to prevent us having to revisit and update the provision again in 2021.

**CURRENCY AND VALIDITY:**

(Please confirm that the curriculum remains current and valid and provide evidence of this (e.g. extract from most recent external examiner reports and those of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory body)

The course remains current. External examiner communications are positive and module reviews by external examiners are favourable. The external examiners are satisfied that the courses remain valid. If required, any minor modifications can be made through the university quality assurance processes (CA3).

**STANDARDS AND QUALITY:**

(Please confirm that quality is high and there are no concerns. Provide evidence of this through external examiner reports and annual monitoring datasets and reports)

Standards for this course remain robust. Module evaluations are carried out and the course reviewed annually. External examiner communications remain positive and they are in support of this extension.

**PSRB (if applicable):**

(Please confirm that any deferral will be accommodated by the PSRB and that accreditation will be ongoing for the full duration of the deferral)

Nursing and Midwifery Council. Yes accreditation will be ongoing for the duration of the deferral.

**DEMAND:**

This is a commissioned course by the Department of Health. This course recruits approx. 50 students each academic year and has sufficient demand to remain viable.

**FACULTY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER'S ASSESSMENT** (for partner institutions only):

**FACULTY CONFIRMATION:**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Dean (Education)

The completed form should be returned to the Academic Office, Room J410, Tower Building, Coleraine.

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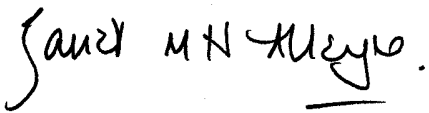
**SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:**

Unit 22B1 comprises post registration nursing provision (BSc Specialist Nursing (with pathways), PgDip Specialist Nursing (with pathways) and MSc Palliative Care). The programmes were last revalidated in 2014/15 and is scheduled for revalidation in February 2020. External examiner reports provide evidence of the maintenance of standards and quality in the provision and make reference to meeting QAA benchmarks and professional body standards. External examiners also point to high levels of both student satisfaction and challenge. The request for an extension of approval and revalidation in 2020/21 is supported.

  
SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 22 November 2019  
Academic Policy and Standards Manager

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**SECTION C: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ASSESSMENT (reflecting annual monitoring data)**

  
SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 29 November 2019  
Head of Quality Enhancement

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**SECTION D: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE**  
(delegated authority from Senate)

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

Late requests (in-year and no imminent Committee meeting) (actioned by Chair on behalf of ASQEC)

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair ASQEC

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office  
July 2019