

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/20/8g)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

4 June 2020

Agenda Item 5.4.4

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

COVER SHEET

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Unit 28K: Advanced Diploma in Policing

To note that Chair's action has been taken on behalf of ASQEC to approve the request for an extension to the period of approval until December 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
4 June 2020

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REQUEST TO EXTEND APPROVAL AND POSTPONE REVALIDATION

Form CA6b)

SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST

FACULTY: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

SCHOOL: ASPS

SUBJECT UNIT NUMBER AND NAME: 26K Policing

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: 2019/2020

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED:

Period of Extension requested until December 2020 (with event scheduled around October 2020)

COURSE(S):

The whole unit; currently one programme but this will be extended to include the new level 6 top up award PSNI/Ulster Degree Partnership

REASON FOR REQUEST:

The PSNI tendered for accreditation of the existing student officer training programme, currently accredited by Ulster as an Advanced Diploma in Policing at level 5, and for a new level 6 award. Ulster University was successful in gaining the contract for both awards. It is proposed that both awards would be considered at one event in May 2020. Since that point in time, the date for the commencement of the programme shifted until March 2021.

An integrated approach to validation is important in the context of consistency and coherence between the two awards as one will build upon the other. This was underscored by the External Examiner who noted in his recent report that:

"I would like to see a more integrated process between the students and the rest of the university as a whole, especially if it is to look to develop a full level 6 module and policing degree at some future stage in line with the PEQF. Having said that I have discussed this at length with the staff and, whilst I am no expert in the history of Northern Ireland, I am acutely aware that this wish may be a lot more difficult to achieve here than in some other areas of the UK". (2017/2018 report)

CURRENCY AND VALIDITY:

Extracts from the most recent report (2018/2019) from the External, Andrew Rose, follow below:

- The course mixes a number of pedagogical approaches together well and I believe that the students get to experience a range of learning styles and processes. I am satisfied that the delivery staff maintain their own professional knowledge and understanding of developments relevant to their respective disciplines.
- Given the unique nature of this award and the fact that there is a continual assessment and awarding process I am happy that the staff involved are able to administer the system on a day to day basis and that I am kept apprised of any developments or instances of note.
- I am aware of few courses directly in line with this but am satisfied that as a leader in the field that UU are setting standards for others to follow.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY:

The quality of the programme is high and there are no concerns. I have appended the two most recent EE report and the most recent SPM report (from 17/18) in order to evidence this comment. The CAEC process for collaborative provision within the Faculty did not raise any specific concerns with this award.

PSRB (if applicable): N/A

DEMAND:

Demand for the programme remains high; this is a tendered-for programme and numbers are around 40-50 students every 5 weeks.

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

The programme is an effectively administrated programme that has benefitted from a professional working relationship between the FPM and the course team. Students from PSNI attend Ulster campus sites at three points during their study, with frequent touch points at other stages in the award. This is a robust programme of study that has oversight from a range of internal and external agencies (e.g. the Policing Board) so QA processes as part of the award are exceptionally high.

Michael Davidson, FPM Policing and Prisons

FACULTY CONFIRMATION:

SIGNED: 
Associate Dean (Education)

DATE: 15.03.20

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

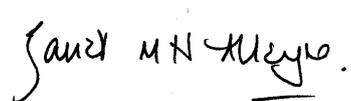
SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:

Unit 26K comprises the Advanced Diploma in Policing. The programme was initially approved for 3 years in line with the contract awarded. It was due for revalidation in 2018/19 but was extended by a further year on the basis of an extension of the pre-existing contract. This request for an extension of approval follows success for the University in a tender process and the Faculty seeks a further extension of approval so that the timing of a revalidation of the Advanced Diploma course can align with evaluation of a level 6 award in semester 1 of 2020/21 academic year. The SPM and external examiner reports indicate that there is no significant risk to quality and standards and the Faculty has kept the Academic Office informed of developments therefore the proposed extension request is supported by the Academic Office.

SIGNED: 
Academic Policy and Standards Manager, Academic Office

DATE: 25 March 2020

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

SIGNED: 
Head of Quality Enhancement

DATE: 26th March 2020

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

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Chair's action on behalf of PVC(Education)

DECISION: Approve (Yes)

Late requests (in-year and no imminent Committee meeting) (actioned by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) on behalf of ASQEC)

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

SIGNED: _____

pp Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

DATE: 31st March 2020

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office
July 2018