

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Nursing [with pathways at MSc stage]: Advanced Nursing Practice  
(Children's Nursing / Emergency Care / Primary Care) - Full time and part time

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Health Promotion and Public Health - Full time and part time

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.

**SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST**

FACULTY: Life and Health Sciences

SCHOOL: Nursing

SUBJECT UNIT NUMBER AND NAME:

Unit 22C – Nursing (Postgraduate)

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED:

March 2019

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED:

(e.g. one year to include the September 2018 intake)

One year to include the September 2019 intake

COURSE(S):

(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

Whole unit:

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Nursing [with pathways at MSc stage: Advanced Nursing Practice (Children's Nursing / Emergency Care / Primary Care) - Full time and part time

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Health Promotion and Public Health - Full time and part time

REASON FOR REQUEST:

The educational landscape for the MSc Nursing is currently undergoing a period of rapid expansion and development and an extension is being sought for several reasons. Firstly, a recent CA3 (June 2017) added substantial new pathways to this course. The collection of important evaluation data for this new pathway is ongoing and it will be incomplete until the first course cohort finishes in September 2019. At that point, the evaluation data from the course will be collated and recommendations for any changes will be clear. As this data will be fundamental in underpinning the revalidation process, until the new pathways have completed and been fully evaluated, it would be difficult to engage in the full revalidation process as vital intelligence will be missing.

Secondly, the MSc Nursing also has shared module provision with MSc Health and Wellbeing, MSc Applied Health Studies and MSc Palliative care – all of which are due to revalidate in 2019/20. These courses share integrated knowledge among healthcare professionals, for example research modules. With these courses currently revalidating at different times it can be difficult to ensure a cohesive approach to shared teaching cross the portfolio of courses. An extension to the MSc Nursing revalidation would allow all courses to revalidate in the same academic year, thus ensuring clear alignment of shared modules. Furthermore, as the course moves to the new curriculum design framework, an extended revalidation period would allow the new principles to be implemented across all courses and shared modules so that the overall provision of postgraduate courses can be fully and strategically aligned. Revalidating at different times means there will not be full alignment for another academic year and may result in disjointed provision.

Finally, the MSc Nursing course has key potential for international business for post-registered nurses. Currently a scoping exercise for this is underway to explore how provision of courses within our post-registered portfolio can be tailored to maximise this international market. An extension to the revalidation period would allow the course team to draw on this international intelligence and fulfil greater international capacity.

The School has also seen a 100% increase in post registration commissioning this academic year, and while this valued and welcomed, there places additional pressures on the school resources and staff, in being responsive to the increased business. The School has been commissioned to deliver a new innovative Masters in Nursing for post registration nurses, which is to support the strategic transformation agenda. An extension will facilitate the time that is needed to scope and plan effectively how this can be strategically integrated into the MSc Nursing.

The Faculty would like to apologise for the delay in the submission of this request. The CA6b was submitted by the School during the summer period however the Faculty was going through the Professional Structures review and some staff were not in place and subsequently the CA6b was not submitted on time.

#### 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 report from 2017/8 is positive and module reviews by external examiners are favourable. The external examiners are satisfied that the courses remain valid and current for the final planned intake for the academic year 19/20. If required necessary, 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 remain robust with 90% satisfaction overall through the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (2018). Module evaluations are positive and module delivery is reviewed annually on the basis of these evaluations. External examiner reports remain positive and comments and suggestions are acted upon. The external examiners have given their support to 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)

None applicable

#### DEMAND:

The PG Cert/PGDip/MSc Nursing course has previously had small numbers, however, this increased to 27 in 2017/8 with the development of a new Advanced Nursing Practice pathway (3 specialisms) which is commissioned by the Department of Health. The projected numbers for 2018/9 currently stand at 50 and a new specialism within the Advanced Nursing Practice (older person) has been developed and approved via the CA3 process. This is expected to increase in 2019 from the commissioning process with the Department of Health.

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

**FACULTY CONFIRMATION:**

*Aine McKee*

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

DATE: 21 November 2018

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

**SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:**

Unit 22C, PgCert/PgDip/MSc Nursing [with pathways at MSc stage: Advanced Nursing Practice (Children's Nursing / Emergency Care / Primary Care) and PgCert/PgDip/MSc Health Promotion and Public Health were last validated in 2013/14 and were due for revalidation in 2018/19. This request for a one year extension of validation to 2019/20 is supported as external examiner's reports over the last three years indicate satisfaction with delivery of course standards and compliance with quality expectations.

*Gary Kudell*

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 21 November 2018  
Academic Policy and Standards Manager or Head of Academic Office

**SECTION C: QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT UNIT ASSESSMENT (reflecting annual monitoring data)**

*Sandra M H. Kelly*

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 22 November 2018  
Head of QE

**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 Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) on behalf of ASQEC)

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office  
March 2017