

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/19/15h

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

17 June 2019

Agenda Item 6.3

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

Ulster University Business School

BSc Hons Business Technology

COVER SHEET

To note that Chair's action has been taken on behalf of the Committee to approve the one-year extension to the period of approval.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

REQUEST TO EXTEND APPROVAL AND POSTPONE REVALIDATION

Form CA6b)

SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST

FACULTY: ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

SCHOOL: ACCOUNTING FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

SUBJECT UNIT NUMBER AND NAME: 1bii Bus Tech ug JN (1 course)

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: February 2020

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED: 1 year to include September 2019 intake
(eg one year to include the September 2018 intake)

COURSE(S): BSc Business Technology (unit 1bii only contains 1 course)
(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

REASON FOR REQUEST: As discussed with Janet Alleyne, UUBS wish to delay the revalidation of this course for at least one year, as part of the revised revalidation process. This course was developed specifically as part of the Deloitte BrightStart (HLA) programme and introduced in 2015. There are many synergies between this programme and the BSc Hons Financial Technology (FINTECH) degree programme which is currently being developed as a new HLA for a range of Financial Technology consulting firms (validation event May 2019). There will be seven common modules across these programmes and it may be more effective and efficient to review these as one unit going forward.

CURRENCY AND VALIDITY:

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

The course team work very closely with Deloitte and the curriculum remains current. As a result, a substantive CA3 was submitted and approved in April 2018 . This has made a number of changes, including the following:

- Replace BMG210 Effective Communication with new module ACF142 Effective Communication. This module is no longer used on the Business Studies programmes following revalidation but the module is still needed for the BSc Hons Business Technology and has been moved from a BMG code to an ACF code to reflect delivery and resourcing. The module content has also been updated to better reflect the applied nature of this programme and to recognise the work-based learning and professional skills development within the students' apprenticeship induction.

- Revise ACF138 Business Process Management. A change has been made to the module content to refer to any Business Process software, as previously it had specifically mentioned the use of NetSuite but for flexibility on delivery and to accommodate changes in software, this has been widened.

-Level 5

ACF361 Enterprise Systems has moved from 50% CW and 50% exam to 100% Coursework to allow for practical assessment of knowledge (and more appropriate achievement of learning outcomes), following consideration of Ulster's Curriculum Design Principles on assessment.

-Level 6

A new module BMG629 Management Consulting has been adapted from BMG531 'Effective Organisations and the Consulting Process' to recognise that the students have, at this point, gained experience as consultants. The theory can therefore be used to reflect and self-evaluate on the students' professional journey as Higher Level Apprentices and also create a plan to further develop and refine their consulting skills going forward. The module has also been updated to provide a platform to complete their proposal for the final 'Capstone' Technology Management Project which takes place in semester 3.

-The team further reviewed course content this year, as part of the Department of Accounting Finance and Economics' stakeholder engagement process (with the other AFE subject unit being revalidated in September 2019) and also through the development of the BSc Hons Financial Technology degree development with key employers. Through consultations, notably with senior staff within Deloitte and through focus groups with current BrightStart students studying BSc Hons Business Technology, it was felt that a more 'technology focused' route needed to be offered. This can be achieved through the introduction of a pillar of computing modules identified as relevant for the Financial Technology programme. The module choices will depend on the department within which the BrightStarts are working in Deloitte but it is thought that approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students would be studying these modules alongside the FINTech cohorts. A further CA3 will be required following the AFE subject unit revalidation and also the validation of the BSc Hons Financial Technology.

These changes assure us of the ongoing validity of the course and that it meets employer, HLA and sector requirements.

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)

The quality of students on the programme is high with all students successfully progressing through the exam boards each year. This is thought to be due to the benefits of undertaking part-time study through an HLA. Students have strong attendance in class and are motivated to perform well. They report, in focus groups, the benefit of applying academic theory to their workplace and vice versa. Indeed the first cohort who are set to complete the programme in semester 3 and graduate in December 2019 all have average marks equivalent to a 2.1 or above with many anticipated to achieve first class honours degrees. As well as excellent progression levels, attrition is also very low (<6%) again largely due to the nature of this course, where the students are employed by Deloitte and complete this course on a PT basis, whilst employed.

In commenting on the quality of the provision Dr Abloros, the external examiner, has stated that

"In my opinion this programme meets and exceeds the benchmark expected from these types of courses. The examples of modules and assessment that I have seen are directed to fulfil the three objectives of the QAA for Business and Management (increasing understanding of organisations, their management, the economy and the business environment; preparation for and development of a career in business and management; enhancement of a wide range of skills and attributes which equip graduates to become effective global citizens.) as well as those in the Computing area. I consider this programme to be ahead of many offered by other institutions, a reflection of the collaboration with Deloitte and the hard work put in by the team at Ulster."

Recognising the partnership in design and delivery of this innovative HLA the programme was presented with the best 'Innovation in Partnership' awards at the 2016 DELNI Apprenticeship of the Year Awards.

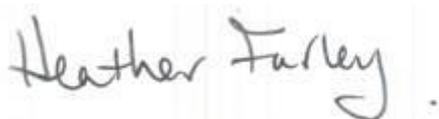
DEMAND:

Demand continues to be strong with a further intake of 50+ students onto the programme in September 2019 taking the total number of students on the programme to 162.

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

N/A

FACULTY CONFIRMATION:



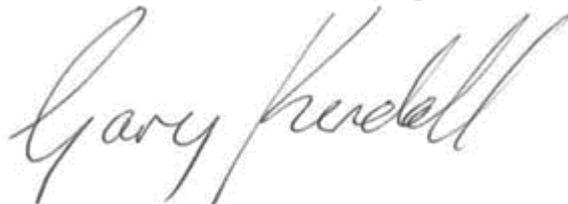
SIGNED: _____
Associate Dean (Education)

DATE: 29/04/19 _____

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

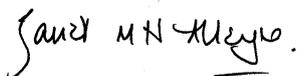
SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:

This course was evaluated in September 2015 and was due to have its first revalidation in February 2020. The Academic endorses the Faculty's proposal for a year extension of approval as there appears little risk to quality and standards (as indicated by the recent course changes to modify the programme curriculum, collaboration with Deloitte and the external examiner reports that indicate satisfaction with the academic standards of the programme and the high performance of students).



SIGNED: _____ DATE: 1 May 2019 _____
Academic Policy and Standards Manager or Head of Academic Office

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



SIGNED: _____ DATE: 1 May 2019 _____
Head of Quality Enhancement

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: P. Bartholomew DATE: 14 May 2019
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office
July 2018