

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/20/8d)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

4 June 2020

Agenda Item 5.4.1

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

COVER SHEET

Life and Health Sciences

Unit 22J: FdSc Health and Social Care [Subject Network]

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

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

4 June 2020

**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: **22J - Health & Soc Care [Network]**

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: **November 2020**

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED: **One year to include the September 2020 intake**

COURSE(S): **FdSc Health and Social Care [Subject Network]**

(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

REASON FOR REQUEST:

**Present challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are being experienced by all. The FdSc Health and Social Care programme is delivered as a subject network by 5 Regional Colleges; NWRC, SWC, SRC, BMET and NRC. The teams have met with the FPM already and have been working through the requirements for revalidation. However, at present they are now increasingly occupied with the adjusted teaching and assessment that is associated with this programme [and others] and this is very time consuming. The Subject Network Lead has discussed the present challenges with her colleagues across the network and a similar experience is seen across colleges. Consequently, they have requested an extension of current provision and delay in the revalidation process to decrease the burden that they are currently facing.**

**In common with all partner colleges, the demands on the teams are not just in relation to this programme or indeed related to HE provision more broadly, but also come from the fact that these teams are also dealing with the adjustment requirements for their FE provision as well. The various teaching teams are being stretched enormously across a number of areas. This in and of itself might warrant a reasonable reason to request extension in these extraordinary times. Additionally, however, if as is anticipated there is a spike in infection rates in the weeks and months ahead, then it is inevitable that members of college teaching teams, all of whom have delegated responsibilities for composing sections of the Course Document, will fall ill and this will then compromise the ability of a document being made ready on time. Given the demands each member has, it is not reasonable to assume that other team members will easily be able to take on the work of someone who becomes ill within this team as they will already have been asked to do this within their own college. The consortium are asking the University to look favourably upon their request to extend this stable provision for one year to ease pressure that they are currently experiencing.**

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 curriculum taught in this programme remains both current and valid. Comments from the most recent EE report available at the time of writing support this view.

EE Robert Jay notes:

*“The course appears to be well designed with a variety of modules available to engage and interest learners, whilst giving a thorough academic background for further study.”*

EE Lyndsey Hill speaks about the curriculum being ‘real world’ relevant and notes:

*“Due to teaching a similar degree at my institution I can see some similarities and differences, all that are positive. I particularly enjoyed the political slant this degree has as it helps to contextualise the degree with the students ‘real world’ issues.”*

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)

**This programme is a very well run subject network and the interaction between the teaching teams as well as the consistency of the student experience is of a high standard.**

EE Robert Jay notes:

*“The standards of assessment within this programme are comparable with other FdSc health and social care programmes at other institutions. Student performance is also comparable with a good range of grades being presented to the EE. “*

*“The course is very well organised and the teams at each college/campus show an equally high level of dedication and commitment to the success of the course and the students that are studying on programme. It has been my pleasure to externally examine this programme.”*

EE Lyndsey Hill notes:

Regarding the discussions she had with students;

*“The students spoke incredibly highly of their tutors and the support they receive. All 6 interviewed were very happy with the course its content and delivery.”*

*“I was impressed by the content of the pieces of work, I felt some were passes at level 6. The study skills module has been effective along with the tuition from individual tutors in developing the academic style and skills of the students. There was quite a jump in quality to year to, again credit to module team and students required here.”*

PSRB (if applicable): **This is not a PSRB associated programme.**

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

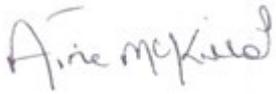
DEMAND: **Demand for this programme remains solid.**

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

**Jerome Marley, FPM, Life and Health Sciences:**

**The comments above have been compiled by myself, and I very strongly advocate that this provision and the upcoming revalidation is extended for a year as requested.**

**FACULTY CONFIRMATION:**



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

DATE: 30 March 2020

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

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**SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:**

The network for this Foundation Degree has been in operation since 2016 and was due for revalidation in 2020/21. The reports of all three external examiners are uniformly indicate that quality and standards are satisfactorily maintained across the network. Given the complexity of co-ordination across the network and the circumstances arising from the Covid-19 outbreak it seems reasonable to acknowledge the operational difficulties associated with a revalidation in 2020/21 and the Academic Office therefore endorses the proposal for an extension of approval and a postponement of the revalidation event into 2021/22.

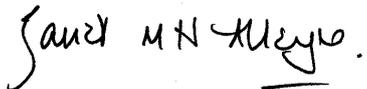


SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Policy and Standards Manager

DATE: \_\_31 March 2020\_\_\_\_\_

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



SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
31 March 2020  
Head of Quality Enhancement

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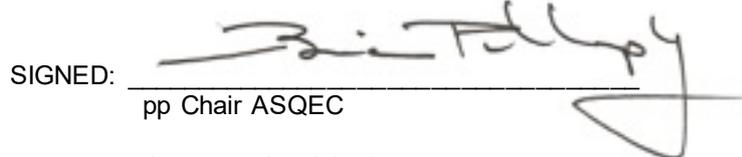
**SECTION D: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (delegated authority from Senate)**

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Chair's Action

DECISION: Approve (Yes)

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

DECISION: Approve (Yes)



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

DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office  
July 2019