

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

22 October 2020

Agenda Item 5

## REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (3.9.20)

## COVER SHEET

*Presenter: Professor B Murphy*

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Resourcing Plans for Programmes Undergoing Revalidation	To note.
2	DfE Short-Term Skills Intervention	To note.
3	Pricing Governance	To note.
4	Global Online Education	To note.
5	Course Planning	To approve recommendations.
6	Programme Suspensions	To note.
7	Programme Withdrawals	To note.
8	Admissions Policy and Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group	To note. To approve recommendations (Annex).

# UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

### REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (3.9.20)

#### PRESENT

Professor B Murphy (Chair), Mr C Cregan (for Mrs J Peden), Mr A G Faulkner, Ms R McCart, Mrs C McCarthy, Mr S McFarland, Mr B McGrotty (for Dr S Crothers), Mrs A Scanlon, Professor P Seawright

#### 1 RESOURCING PLANS FOR PROGRAMMES UNDERGOING REVALIDATION

At the previous meeting of the Advisory Group in May, the Chair had reported that a dashboard comprising information on financial matters, student history, recruitment and quality enhancement statistics would be developed. Professor Murphy advised that this information would be used to inform course teams preparing for revalidations and would not be made available to external panel members. The Advisory Group was informed that Dr Crothers was preparing a paper on the dashboard and that this would be circulated to members prior to the next meeting in November 2020.

#### 2 DfE SHORT-TERM SKILLS INTERVENTION

The Chair reported that the Department for the Economy was providing funding for online courses to protect businesses by upskilling and retraining those whose jobs had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first round of funding, the University had been successful in obtaining funding to offer four programmes:

- PgCert Business Analysis and Consulting;
- PgCert Professional Development (Enabling Business Recovery);
- PgCert Professional Software Development (Data Science);
- PgCert in Artificial Intelligence.

All programmes had now commenced and were required to be completed by 30 November 2020.

The Chair reported that a second round of DfE funding was now available and that the University was submitting a bid for funding for further programmes which would start in October and were required to be completed by March 2021:

- PgCert Advanced Composites and Polymers;
- PgCert Energy Storage and Green Technology;
- PgCert Biomedical Engineering;
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Programming and Cloud Computing Modules;
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Artificial Intelligence Modules;
  
- GradCert Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis;
- PgCert Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis;
- PgCert Pharmaceutical Analysis;

- PgCert Understanding International Business;
- AdvCert Management Practice (Transformation Management in a Digital World);
  
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Counselling Modules;
  
- PgCert Graduate Leadership;
- DPP Business Navigator.

It was noted that the Business Navigator provision could be funded through another route.

It was further noted that:

- the standard University fee rate for postgraduate provision plus a 5% supplement was being used for the costing of these programmes;
- a fact sheet for Faculties was being compiled by Strategic Marketing to outline the information required for recruitment activities;
- course codes would be issued by Planning as soon as funding was released, which might be before the proposals were submitted in CMS, but Faculties were still required to meet normal quality assurance expectations, with external supplementary assessment where proposals derived from existing provision, and subsequent review by the Academic Office and authorisation;
- from Round 1 a proposal had not yet been submitted in CMS for PgCert Professional Development (Enabling Business Recovery); proposals had been submitted and reviewed by the Academic Office for PgCert Professional Software Development (Data Science) and PgCert Artificial Intelligence; these had been returned to the Faculty for revision and had not yet been resubmitted; the PgCert Business Analysis and Consulting had been evaluated and approved in 2019/20 as campus-based provision.

[Secretary's Note: proposal for PgCert Professional Software Development (Data Science) has now been resubmitted in CMS but has been returned for further revision.]

### 3 PRICING GOVERNANCE

The Chair reported that responsibility for Pricing Governance had transferred from Marketing and Communications to Academic Business Development.

It was noted that:

- fees for RoI entrants from 2021/22 would be the same as NI rates and that this was underpinned by the Common Travel Area Memorandum of Understanding;
- fees for non-RoI EU entrants from 2021/22 would be set at GB rates;
- part-time undergraduate fees were being brought into line pro rata with the full-time fee rates; part-time fees would rise by 60% in 2020 and by a further 30% in 2021;
- part-time students were now eligible for fees loans and grants;
- a 10% Widening Participation discount would apply for part-time undergraduate provision;
- part-time students should be informed of the change to the fee rate and made aware of available grants and loans.

#### 4 GLOBAL ONLINE EDUCATION

The Chair reported that the University had formally appointed Pearson Education as its partner in Global Online Education. Programmes would be selected from each Faculty for this initiative. Awareness-raising meetings had already taken place within the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences and the remaining Faculties would be engaged before Christmas.

#### 5 COURSE PLANNING

##### FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

###### Proposed BSc Hons Education, Technology and Innovation (FT/PT) (CE)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to introduce BSc Hons Education, Technology and Innovation in full-time and part-time modes at the Coleraine campus from September 2021. It noted that:

- the programme was not aimed at those wishing to teach in a primary or post primary classroom setting, but at those interested in education, technology for education, and teaching and learning innovation in its broadest sense; the programme would therefore not compete with the undergraduate BEd or PGCE programmes currently offered in Northern Ireland;
- potential employment pathways included positions as Education Welfare Officers, Essential Skills Tutors, On-line Tutors, Learning Support Officers or Learning Designers.

Professor Seawright was of the view that the title did not clearly communicate the nature of the programme and recommended that it be revisited. He also stated that the number of students in the resourcing plan was modest, resulting in the programme running at a deficit initially, and that the Faculty would aim for an intake of 20 – 25 students, rather than the proposed 15. As the resourcing plan showed a deficit in the first two years, the Chair noted that it required sign-off by the Executive Dean. Professor Fee advised that the teaching capacity already existed within the School and that the MaSN for the programme would be taken from existing MaSN where demand had incrementally fallen.

AGREED: that the School liaise with Marketing and Communications to review the proposed title.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2021 start, subject to the resourcing plan being signed off by the Executive Dean and confirmation of the revised title.

[Secretary's Note: the resourcing plan has now been signed by the Executive Dean and the title of the programme has been revised to BSc Hons Education with Digital Learning.]

##### FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

###### MSc Smart Manufacturing Systems

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce a 240-credit point Applied Research pathway in the full-time mode of the programme from 2021/22. It noted that:

- the proposal was to introduce a specialism to facilitate an extended Master's whereby students could opt to undertake a longer dissertation module instead of the traditional 60-credit point dissertation;
- such proposals had been approved for MSc Data Science, MSc Artificial Intelligence, MSc Internet of Things, MSc Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, MSc Energy Storage, MSc Fire Safety Engineering and MSc Real Estate;
- international students were required to choose this route at the time of applying for their visa to ensure their initial visa covered two years of study;
- the MSc Data Science (Applied Research) had been successful in recruiting international students;
- no information regarding proposed student numbers had been provided, but the Faculty anticipated that initially the additional workload could be managed within existing School resource plans.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved for 2021/22 entrants.

#### MSc Professional Software Development (Data Science) (FT/PT) (ME)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce a new named specialism in 'Data Science' within MSc Professional Software Development from 2020/21. It noted that:

- this was a conversion course which fitted with the current economic agenda and its hybrid nature was a unique selling point;
- the School had been successful in a bid for DfE funding to offer a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Software Development (Data Science); this programme had recruited 120 students, some of whom would progress to the proposed MSc;
- the addition of the specialism in Data Science was supported by Global Engagement.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved from 2020/21.

#### FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

#### Proposed MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice (PT) (DL)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice in part-time mode by distance learning from September 2021. It noted that:

- the training associated with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Advanced Pharmacy Framework (APF) was currently delivered by the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in an MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice (with Independent Prescribing) programme;
- the MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice (with Independent Prescribing) was currently delivered by the NICPLD, except for the research proposal and research project modules which were delivered by QUB; this programme was only available to hospital pharmacists and had a maximum cohort size of 40 students; community pharmacists and practice-based pharmacists could not therefore access the MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice at QUB;

- the proposed programme was intended to offer an MSc ‘top-up’ qualification for these pharmacists who had completed the Postgraduate Diploma programme with NICPLD but could not progress;
- 120 credit points of the proposed Master’s degree was already offered by NICPLD within the QUB MSc;
- no additional resources were required;
- the premium rate fee would apply for UK/GB/EU students, but there would be a reduced rate for international students; authorisation of the non-standard fee was required from the Executive Dean.

It was noted that the University did not formally offer ‘top-up’ degrees, and that to fulfil the expectations of the UK Quality Code either a full Master’s programme comprising 180 credit points should be presented or a specialism developed within an existing MSc, with admission with advanced standing for applicants who could be exempted from a Postgraduate Diploma stage. The Faculty would re-present the proposal to a future meeting.

### BSc Hons, PgCert/PgDip/MSc Applied Health Studies

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the generic pathway to ‘Developing Practice’ from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the Faculty wished to give the generic pathway a more meaningful title for prospective students and clearer cohort identity; this was not a new pathway, but it had previously not had a title;
- the pathway’s new title had been proposed at revalidation in July 2020;
- the pathway would be identified on the parchment;
- the Faculty hoped the new title would make the pathway more appealing to international students.

RECOMMENDED: that the revised title of ‘Developing Practice’ for the generic pathway be approved from 2020/21.

### BSc Hons, PgDip Specialist Nursing (with Pathways)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the Nurse Practitioner pathway to ‘Specialist Nursing (Adult)’ from 2020/21. It noted that Specialist Nursing was offered at Levels 6 and 7 and that the proposal to change the Nurse Practitioner Pathway within the BSc Hons and the PgDip was to avoid confusion of terms and levels of nursing practice assessment with the new MSc Advanced Nursing Practice.

RECOMMENDED: that the new pathway title of ‘Specialist Nursing (Adult)’ be approved from 2020/21.

### MSc Endodontics (FT)

### MSc Advanced Clinical Periodontics (FT)

### MSc Advanced Clinical Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry (FT)

### MSc Advanced General Dental Practice (FT)

### MSc Oral Surgery (FT)

### MSc Oral Implantology (FT)

### MSc Orthodontics (FT)

### MSc Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences (FT)

## MSc Advanced Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences (FT)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal for a change of location of nine Dentistry programmes from the College of Dentistry outcentre in Birmingham to the Coleraine campus for 2020/21. It noted that:

- the University had not yet been able to secure the UKVI licence required for Tier 4 visa students to attend the full-time programmes approved for delivery at the College in Birmingham; to avoid losing another year of international students, the Faculty proposed to offer these programmes on the Coleraine campus in 2020/21;
- under normal circumstances, the proposal was for students to attend three months of theoretical teaching at Coleraine, then undertake a three-month clinical placement at the College in Birmingham, take a further three months of theoretical teaching at Coleraine and finish the academic year with a final three months of clinical placement in Birmingham; this approach had been approved by the Compliance Team as meeting UKVI requirements;
- owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the initial three months of theory would now be online teaching based at Coleraine; the Faculty confirmed that students would not attend the Coleraine campus in Semester 1 but the expectation of clinical placement in Birmingham remained;
- the requirement for students to travel between Coleraine and Birmingham during 2020/21 had been clearly communicated to students in the Letter of Offer; associated travel and accommodation were the responsibility of the student;
- there were no additional resource implications and the Associate Dean (Education) had confirmed that any additional costs would be met by the College.

Mrs McCarthy advised that clarity was needed around the sponsorship and visa requirements of these students as they would not be physically present on the Coleraine campus for, at least, the initial three months. She also highlighted the need to be clear on the arrangements in providing information to students to ensure compliance with obligations under consumer protection law. It was noted that the Faculty had proposed a September 2020 intake but that the CAS deadline had now passed for a September intake.

Mr Jack informed the Advisory Group that a Faculty meeting, involving the Executive Dean and the University's Compliance Manager, would take place that afternoon to discuss a range of matters.

The Chair noted that the CA3 form referred to the 'College of Medicine and Dentistry' and was concerned about the implications for a previous decision in regard to clear separation from the University's Medical School at Magee.

AGREED that:

- (i) while the proposal to relocate the programmes to the Coleraine campus was in order for normal circumstances when students would attend on campus, no recommendation be made to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee until further clarity was received following the Faculty meeting regarding the actual physical presence of students at Coleraine in 2020/21, transparency of information to students, and UKVI compliance and CAS issues;
- (ii) the Faculty be asked to clarify the name of the College.

[Secretary's Note: the required clarification (points (i) and (ii) above) has subsequently been received from the Faculty and approved by Chair's action on behalf of the Advisory Group and the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee, subject to the understanding that UKVI regulations will countenance the planned attendance period at Coleraine for the practice-based element.]

### MSc Clinical Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry

The Advisory Group also noted the correction of the course title for MSc Clinical Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry. This had previously been incorrectly listed as 'Clinical Restorative Dentistry' but had now been changed in CMS.

### MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences

The Advisory Group considered a report confirming the Faculty's intention to continue to offer MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences in full-time mode by distance learning and to introduce the full-time mode at the Coleraine campus for 2020/21. It noted that:

- at revalidation in March 2020, it had been proposed that the full-time distance learning MSc be moved to on-campus, full-time provision, to be delivered alongside the part-time, distance learning provision; this proposal had been considered by the Advisory Group in March 2020 when it was agreed that the proposal be approved but that, on account of the current pandemic, the distance learning mode not be formally withdrawn;
- at its meeting in May 2020, the Advisory Group had noted that the Faculty had advised that the introduction of the full-time, on-campus mode would be postponed until September 2021;
- the Faculty was now proposing that the programme be offered in full-time mode by distance learning and on-campus for 2020/21 as there had been interest received from international applicants for the on-campus provision in 2020/21;
- the full-time mode would be offered on-campus only from 2021/22.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal to retain MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences in full-time mode by distance learning for 2020/21 only and to introduce the full-time mode at the Coleraine campus from 2020/21 be approved.

### Postgraduate Certificate in Theory of Independent Prescribing for Optometrists

It was noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal for a Semester 3 intake to the Postgraduate Certificate in Theory for Independent Prescribing for Optometrists from 2019/20. The Advisory Group noted that the Faculty had been approached by a commercial group of optometrists wishing to upskill its workforce.

AGREED that Chair's action be endorsed.

## ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

### MSc Management and Corporate Governance (FT/PT) (JN and Marino Institute, Dublin)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal for a higher entry requirement of IELTS 7.0 (with no band score less than 6.0), instead of the University's standard entry requirement of IELTS 6.0, for MSc Management and Corporate Governance. It noted that:

- at revalidation in 2015, the higher entry requirement had been approved; the programme had been revalidated again in February 2020;
- the higher IELTS score of 7.0 was a requirement of The Chartered Governance Institute.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal for a higher entry requirement of IELTS 7.0 be approved.

### Postgraduate Certificate in Global Capital Markets (Financial Risk Management)

It was noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal to offer the Postgraduate Certificate in Global Capital Markets (Financial Risk Management) fully online from September 2020. The Advisory Group noted that the programme would continue to be offered at Jordanstown and also at ITT, Dublin (outcentre).

AGREED that Chair's action be endorsed.

### MSc International Event Management

It was noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal to introduce an optional Advanced Practice pathway in the full-time mode of MSc International Event Management from 2020/21.

The Advisory Group noted that the Advanced Practice pathway had also been introduced in MSc International Tourism and Hospitality Management at revalidation in February 2020.

AGREED that Chair's action be endorsed.

### Undergraduate Honours Subject: Business Studies with Specialisms (Single Hons/Major) (ME)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to remove the reference to 'Studies' from the title of the Single Honours and Major provision from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the title of the Minor provision had always been without 'Studies';
- the aims and objectives of the provision remained unchanged;
- the Faculty's rationale for the proposal was to align with subject benchmarks which referred to 'Business and Management' with no reference to 'Studies';
- consultation with employers, students and careers teachers had indicated that the reference to 'Studies' in the title was considered dated and suggested a programme with little focus on employability; 'Studies' would however be retained in BSc Hons

Business studies at Jordanstown: the new title would differentiate the Magee provision;

- the proposal followed a trend in the sector;
- external examiner support had been obtained;
- the change would apply to existing and new students who had been consulted through module feedback and open day events.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

6 PROGRAMME SUSPENSIONS  
FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

No intake 2020/21

FdSc Construction Engineering with Surveying (FT) at Southern Regional College (Portadown);

BSc Hons Computing Systems (PT) at South West College (Enniskillen) (Outcentre).

7 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS  
FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Last intake 2017/28

MSc Physical Activity and Public Health (FT/PT) (JN).

Ulster University Business School

Last intake 2019/20

FdSc Financial Services Management (FT/PT) at South West College (Omagh).

8 ADMISSIONS POLICY AND QUALIFICATIONS EQUIVALENCE ADVISORY GROUP

The Advisory Group received a report on the Terms of Reference of the Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group (QEAG), its membership, modus operandi and governance, and the minutes of the last meeting of QEAG held on 18 November 2019. It noted that:

- QEAG had been set up in 2018/19 with a remit to advise on the suitability of non-standard qualifications for admission and had met five times but had not yet been formally integrated into the University's reporting structures;
- the membership comprised Admissions staff, Faculty Partnership Managers, and a member of staff from the Centre for English Language Teaching;
- a SharePoint site was being created to include all qualifications which had been approved and webpages were being updated to show qualifications accepted by the University;
- the Terms of Reference and membership required updating.

AGREED that:

- (i) the Terms of Reference be revised to reflect its reporting route through APAG;

- (ii) the membership be updated and extended to include a representative from Global Engagement;
- (iii) in future reports, rather than full minutes, and recommendations of QEAG be made to APAG in a timely manner;
- (iv) a summary report of recommendations agreed by QEAG to date be provided for approval at the next meeting of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee in October (see Annex);
- (v) a summary report of activity since November 2019 be provided for the next meeting of APAG in November.

AG/AGF

Update for Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee

**1. Recommendations made at QEAG meetings**

The following outlines all recommendations taken by the Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group in respect of considering qualifications for entry to university and their equivalence in terms of entry requirements.

Awarding Board	Level	Qualification	Subject	Decision	Date of meeting or approval
NCFE	Level 3	various	Tourism and Leisure Diplomas	Not accepted for entry	11.1.19
ILM	Level 7	Diploma	Leadership and Management	Not equivalent to Masters and not accepted for entry.	11.1.19
ILM	Level 5	Award (6 credits)	Leadership and Management	Not accepted for entry	11.1.19
ILM	Level 5	Certificate (13 credits)	Leadership and Management	Not accepted for entry	11.1.19
ILM	Level 5	Diploma (37 credits)	Leadership and Management	Not accepted for entry	11.1.19
ABMA	Level 4/5	Diploma	Business Management	Accepted when applicants have completed 75 credits at Level 4 and 75 credits at Level 5 for courses with no specific subject requirements.	11.1.19
Ulster University / QUB	Foundation (L5)	Foundation Degree	Mathematics modules	Candidates who complete 20 credits at Level 4 in a Mathematics related module and achieved a score of 50% or above are deemed to meet GCSE Grade B equivalence in Maths	28.2.19
ATHE	Level 7	Extended Diploma	Strategic Management	Approved for progression to the MBA, MSc International Business and the MSc Management courses.	28.2.19

ATHE	Level 5	Diploma	All	Approved for general entrance, but not advanced standing.	28.2.19
LIBF	Level 3	Diploma	Financial Studies	Approved as being equivalent to one A Level	28.5.19
INTO	Level 3	International Foundation Diploma	Speech and Language	Approved for international students with IELTS 8.0 or above and interview in lieu of HPAT	28.5.19
OCN	Level 3	Access	Access to HE Diploma	Accepted for general entrance but unlike NI Access courses, do not cover GCSE English and Maths so these are also required.	28.5.19
OCN	Level 3	Award for IT	IT	Pass/Fail qualification so not approved for entry	28.5.19
IAM	Level 6	Diploma	Business	Vocational and too shallow in scope so not approved for entry	28.5.19
Ulster University	Level 3	International Foundation Year	Business	Approved for entry	28.5.19
OCN	Level 2	various	Principles of Chemistry; Biological systems	Doesn't satisfy science at GCSE requirements	28.5.19
OCN	Level 2	Extended Certificate	Applied Science	Doesn't satisfy science at GCSE requirements	28.5.19
CCEA	Level 3	A level	Professional Business Services	Not accepted along with other Business Studies courses at A Level. Ok on its own.	28.5.19
Pearson	Level 5		Hair and Beauty Management	Only accepted for Certificate in Teaching and PGCE FE.	28.5.19
NCFE CACHE	Level 3	All	Children's Care, Learning and Development	Not accepted for entry	28.05.19
Pearson	Level 3	Tech Level qualifications on RQF	All	Not accepted for entry	28.05.19
OCR	Level 3	Tech Level qualifications on RQF	All	Not accepted for entry	28.05.19

VCTC	Level 3	Various	Various	Treat as Pearson and OCR in terms of general entry. Subject specific requirements will require assessment at School level.	28.05.19
INTI University, Malaysia		Diploma	Business	Approved for general entry requirements; not suitable for exemptions.	28.05.19
ATI Ireland	Level 4	Accounting Technician Ireland	Accounting	Suitable for general entry and to Year 2 of Accounting provided all 131 credits have been completed.	18.11.19
NCFE CACHE	Level 3	Extended Diploma	Health and Social Care (Adults) NI	Not approved in current form. Awaiting further specs.	18.11.19
Northern Consortium UK (NCUK)	Level 3	International Foundation Year	Various	Approved for entry.	18.11.19
Northern Consortium UK (NCUK)	Level 4	International Year One - Business	Business	Approved for entry. Advanced standing on a course by course basis in consultation with course directors.	18.11.19
Northern Consortium UK (NCUK)	Level 4	International Year One - Engineering	Engineering	Approved for entry. Advanced standing on a course by course basis in consultation with course directors.	18.11.19
BTEC	Level 3	All	Children's Care, Learning and Development	Approved (until September 2022 intake)	18.11.19
Pearson BTEC	Level 3	National Diploma	Art and Design Practice	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	18.11.19
Preparatory Courses in Ireland	Level 3	Access	All subjects	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	18.11.19
QQI	Level 5	HNC equivalent	All subjects	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	18.11.19

## 2. Decisions taken outside of meetings

At a meeting held on 1 October 2020, the following decisions were noted as having Chair's Actions taken. Decisions on these qualifications were taken as a result of requests which came through during the main admissions cycle and could not wait until a formal meeting. Assessments made using principles agreed at QEAG, namely qualifications must be the same size as equivalent qualification (i.e. GCSE, A Level, HNC, HND), there must be specified grades attached to the qualification, and the qualification needs to be academic rather than vocational.

Awarding Board	Level	Qualification	Subject	Decision	Date of meeting or approval
Ascentis	Level 2	Certificate	Mathematical Skills	Not accepted for entry	3.12.19 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Criminology	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Environmental Science	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Food Science and Nutrition	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Health and Social Care	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Medical Science	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Professional Construction	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Practice	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Statistical Problem Solving Using Software	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions

WJEC	Level 3	Applied Diploma	Tourism	Approved for general entrance, if seeking specific subject reqs, need assessment from Course Team	December 2019 – Chair's Actions
NCFE CACHE	Level 3	Diploma	Counselling Skills	Note accepted for entry	12.03.20 – Chair's Actions
QAHE		Pre-sessional	English language	Approved as meeting english language requirements	17.08.20 – Chair's Actions
Pearson Edexcel	Level 5	Diploma	Leadership for Health and Social Care Services	Not accepted for entry as qualification vocational and smaller in size to HNC/HND.	04.06.20 – Chair's Actions
ICQ (QCF)	Level 3	Diploma	Management	Not accepted for entry for entry to FdSc Equine Management	07.09.20 – Chair's Actions
Pearson	Level 3	All	Sports Coaching and Development	Ok for general entry and Sports courses. Not ok as meeting science requirements. Also use QCF entry requirements.	23.09.20 – Chair's Actions

### 3. Recommendations made at 1 October meeting

At the meeting held on 1 October 2020, the following was agreed:

- i) Accept NCUK International Foundation Year, and International Year 1 qualifications as meeting entry requirements. Foundation Year equivalent to Level 3 and requirements the same as Access programmes, Year 1 qualifications equivalent to Level 4 and requirements the same as CertHE;
- ii) Accept AQA Oxford International A Levels as meeting entry requirements as equivalent to UK awarded A Levels;
- iii) Accept OCN Level 3 Access to HE as meeting entry requirements with same equivalence as Access programmes.

**MARTIN SMITH**  
**CHAIR, QUALIFICATIONS EQUIVALENCE ADVISORY GROUP**  
**5 OCTOBER 2020**