

Request for Addition of an Award Ordinance 4

Purpose of Paper

1. APCR is asked to **consider** and, if thought appropriate, **recommend to Senate** the introduction of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) into Ordinance 4, with effect from the 2013/14 session.

Proposal

2. It is proposed that the University introduce a Master of Fine Arts to Ordinance 4, which will be a two-year research programme with taught elements, with effect from the 2013/14 session.

Background

3. The College of Arts and Law are developing a new programme, the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Shakespeare and Creativity, together with a PhD with Integrated Study and an MA in this area. The MFA and PhD will be delivered in collaboration with The Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Birmingham New Library. The necessary procedures for the introduction of the programmes are being followed, and papers submitted to Collaborative Provision Committee and Programme Approval Review Committee.
4. The University does not currently offer a Master of Fine Arts and as such its introduction to Ordinance must be recommended to the Senate by APCR. Furthermore, details of the award criteria must be included in Regulation 7 Assessment, Progression and Award.
5. It is proposed that the Master of Fine Arts at University of Birmingham is a research degree programme, of two years in length, containing taught elements. This is in line with the US model in which the MFA is the terminal award in the arts.
6. Whilst the MFA is a relatively rare award in the UK, it is offered at some institutions. These include Goldsmiths University of London, University of Dundee, University of Roehampton, Newcastle University, University College London and Bath Spa University. MFAs at these institutions are taught programmes and, whilst usually practice-based, do not include a substantive research element.
7. The detailed structure of the programme has been considered by the College of Arts and Law, and will shortly be considered by University Programme Approval Review Committee. Once this has been approved a further paper will be presented to APCR which will set out the detailed award requirements, for insertion into Regulation 7.

Recommendation

8. APCR is asked to **recommend to the Senate** that the Master of Fine Arts is included in Ordinance 4.1.1 (c), with effect from the 2013/14 session.