

Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

Title	Report from UPARC relating to MSc in Healthcare Leadership
Author / Contact	Laura Radbourne (l.j.radbourne@bham.ac.uk ; 48064)
Executive summary	<p>UPARC last year approved the introduction of the MSc in Healthcare Leadership in the College of Social Sciences, delivered KPMG-led consortium (including the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester).</p> <p>There are various 'non-standard' aspects of the programme. APRC) has not been formally consulted with regard to these aspects of the programme, as they are not considered to contravene the University's Regulations.</p> <p>APRC is invited to consider the report and to confirm that it is content with the aspects of the programme as set out.</p>
Impact on current legislation / codes	N/A
Timing of implementation	The programme commenced in 2013/14.

Report from UPARC relating to the MSc Healthcare Leadership

1. Topic and purpose of the paper

APRC is invited **to receive for information** a report on the non-standard elements of a programme recently approved by UPARC. The programme in question is the MSc Healthcare Leadership, a collaborative programme based in the Health Services Management Centre, School of Social Policy.

2. Background

The University of Birmingham's involvement in the design and delivery of the MSc Healthcare Leadership was determined by a tendering process which resulted in the NHS Leadership Academy commissioning a KPMG-led consortium (including the Universities of Birmingham and Manchester) to provide an MSc in Healthcare Leadership to NHS senior managers.

The programme will commence in 2013/14, and is a joint degree with the University of Manchester. It has been agreed that University of Birmingham Regulations will apply to the programme.

3. Non-standard elements of the programme

When the programme proposal was submitted to UPARC, the following was included in the cover paper:

UPARC is asked to note the 'non-standard' aspects of the programme which are outlined in section 33 of the programme proposal form. Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC) has not been formally consulted with regard to these aspects of the programme, however, as they are not considered to contravene the University's Regulations. Nonetheless, UPARC's comments on these aspects of the programme would be welcome.

- Pass/fail internal hurdles: According to the Regulations, each module should generate a single numerical mark between 0 and 100 (see 7.2.1(f)). Each module which comprises the MSc Healthcare Leadership will generate a numerical mark, but will include practical, work-based assignments which are marked on a pass/fail basis. This is not prohibited in the Regulations, but might be considered unusual. The College will carefully scrutinise the module proposal paperwork when it is submitted, in order to ensure that the assessment is sufficiently rigorous.
- Personal Tutoring: According to the Code of Practice on Personal Tutoring and Academic Feedback, students should have 3 individual tutorials per year. In a 24-month programme, students should

therefore have 6 individual tutorials. In this programme, there will be 4 individual tutorials. However, there will also be 5 group tutorials as well as a considerable amount of other support for students (see section 35 of the programme proposal form).

For information, section 35 of the programme proposal provided the following additional detail:

There will be 4 formally arranged individual and 5 formally arranged group tutorials during the duration of this programme. These will be mutually agreed with groups/individuals at the start of the programme. Individual tutorials most likely will be conducted by phone, but may use online facilities such as Skype or GoToMeetings software application, depending on the participant's preference. Group tutorials will take place online, through use of the GoToMeetings software application. It will also be possible for participants to arrange further tutorials with tutors during the programme, if needed.

Drawing on e-learning good practice, tutors have been allocated 6 hours per week for online presence, for:

- Seeding and replying to discussions
- Monitoring and giving feedback to, online learning tasks
- Monitoring attendance and emailing/phoning participants
- Group tutorials (90 - 120 minutes per group of 16)

Maintaining an online presence is crucial to participants engaging with online discussion boards and using these to progress their learning. Tutors will be required to go online regularly each week e.g. 2 hours each Monday, Wednesday and Friday or once a day for an hour to read the materials and then to seed a discussion and engage with participants in their discussions.

Students will also be supported in using the Virtual Campus (VC) by staff at the University of Birmingham. All post graduate staff will be recruited with specific IT and e-learning skills, to ensure that they can undertake their work and provide participants with the support they need. As participants will mostly access the VC in the evenings and weekends, PG admin support staff will work a shift system to provide a 9am - 9pm (weekdays) and 3 hours (weekends) support service.

4. Outcome of UPARC discussions

After considering the programme proposal, UPARC determined that the non-standard elements of the programme should be reported to APRC (see Minute 13/29(g) below):

MSc in Healthcare Leadership

Considered:

A proposal for the introduction of an MSc in Healthcare Leadership in the College of Social Sciences, with effect from 2013/14 (PAR.13.07.11).

Resolved:

That the proposal for an MSc in Healthcare Leadership be approved as set out in paper PAR.13.07.11, with the School taking note of the following:

- (i) That the fees for the programme should be confirmed at the earliest opportunity;
- (ii) That the non-standard elements of the programme should be reported to APRC.

Laura Radbourne
College Academic Policy Partner (Social Sciences)
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August 2013