

University of Birmingham

**Proposal to reduce the minimum duration of the BNurs to
Three Years to bring it into line with Programme Length**

Purpose of Paper

1. To ensure the minimum duration of the Bachelor of Nursing (BNurs) in Regulations is in accordance with practice.

Proposal

2. APRC is asked to **approve** the following clarification to Regulation 6.2.1 (a) to be implemented with immediate effect (deletions struck through):

6.2.1 (a) *The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for Undergraduate awards of the University shall be as follows.*

<i>Award</i>	<i>Minimum period</i>	<i>Maximum period</i>
<i>Bachelors (unless otherwise stated below)</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>9 years</i>
...		
<i>BNurs, Bachelors, including year in industry or additional year abroad</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>12 years</i>

Consultation

3. The College of Medical and Dental Sciences has confirmed that the minimum duration of the BNurs programmes should be three years, and have approved the change.

Background

4. The BNurs is a full-time programme of three years duration; however Regulation 6.2.1 (a), which details the minimum and maximum duration of programmes, currently states the minimum duration of a BNurs to be four years, which implies students who complete the BNurs programme require another year's study before they can graduate.
5. The BNurs was formerly a four-year programme, but was replaced in 2003 by a three-year programme (involving 42 weeks of teaching a year, as opposed

to the normal 30), in response to market demand and needs of programme sponsors.¹ The first cohort of students undertaking the three-year BNurs graduated in 2006.

6. Although the change to programme length was approved by Academic Board, the amendment to Regulations was not made.

Arguments to Support Proposal

7. The University cannot have Regulations that state a minimum programme length greater than the amount of time students spend on a programme, and therefore either the programme needs to be extended for an extra year or the Regulations need to be amended.
8. The three-year BNurs was approved through normal programme approval processes, and has run successfully since 2003, and there is no benefit in this case in trying to change the programme to suit Regulations.
9. As the discrepancy in Regulations seems to have arisen as a result of the Regulations not being amended in light of the approval of the three-year BNurs in 2003, it is suggested that it would be easier to remove mention of the BNurs from Regulation 6.2.1 (a) and allow the BNurs to be treated as with any other bachelor's degree as having a minimum duration of three years (and a maximum duration of nine years).

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¹ Programme documentation is available from the Curriculum Development Office for consultation should this be required.