

Report on changes to the PGCert Academic Practice

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to **receive** and **note** the following arrangement regarding transfer of students from the PGCert Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PGCert L&T in HE) onto the new PGCert Academic Practice (PCAP).

Proposal

2. CLAD wish to transfer those students who have completed the first 20 credit module in the PGCert L&T in HE and have indicated that they wish to continue their studies on the new PCAP, via the process of Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

Background and Consultation

3. A proposal for the award of PCAP was approved at Programme Approval Review Committee of 04 May 2011. This programme will replace the existing PGCert L&T in HE with effect from 2011/12.
4. All the modules in the PGCert L&T in HE are at level M, whereas the first 20 credits in the PCAP are level H (all the others are level M). The students who transfer from the PGCert L&T in HE will therefore have studied 20 credits at a higher level than students who commenced directly onto the PCAP.
5. Academic Services discussed this proposal with Admissions and Taught Student Records, and it was noted that transferring these students via APL is not outside of the regulations, however this situation is slightly unusual as a group of students from the existing cohorts may transfer onto the new programme via APL, where normally the policy is intended to be applied to individual cases.
6. The alternative to this proposal would have been to treat each student as an exception via the Progress and Awards Board. Given that there could be up to 80 students, it was thought that it would be more appropriate to allow these students to transfer as a "batch" via APL.
7. It should be noted that some students who transfer from the PGCert L&T in HE may be close to the end of their maximum period of registration, however normal practice is that students transferred via APL receive a new start date commencing from the date of approval of the request for APL, therefore all students who transfer from the PGCert L&T in HE onto the PCAP will not be outside their maximum period of registration. The PGCert L&T in HE currently has an exemption to regulations in order to allow students to a longer than the normal 2 years maximum registration period and CLAD have requested that a similar exemption be put in place for the PCAP.

Argument to Support Proposal

8. The following sections of the Policy and Procedure for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) relate to this proposal:

- 4.1 *Only previous studies taken at the same level as (or higher than) the University of Birmingham course for which the applicant is requesting partial exemption will be considered for APCL*
- 4.2.4 *The maximum amount of credit that can be imported into an award via APCL is two-thirds of the qualification*
- 9. Although this proposal is not outside of this Policy, it was felt that this situation needed to be highlighted to APRC as there are possible future implications around a programme in which one cohort of students on a programme have studied a number of credits of their programme at a higher level than another cohort of students on the same programme, depending on whether they transferred from the PGCert or whether they were admitted directly onto the PCAP.

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