For APRC
17 June 2013

APRC.13.06.**10**

Addition to Regulations: Master of Fine Arts

Purpose of Paper

1. To propose additions to Regulations with effect from 2014/15 in order to reflect the introduction of a new award, the Master of Fine Arts (MFA), within the College of Arts and Law.

Proposal

2. APRC is asked ***to consider*** and, if thought appropriate, ***to approve*** the proposed additions to Regulations set out in Appendix 1.

Background

3. The College of Arts and Law (School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies) has developed a suite of postgraduate programmes in Shakespeare and Creativity: an MA, MFA and PhD with Integrated Study. The programmes, which will be delivered in collaboration with The Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Birmingham New Library, have been approved by the Collaborative Provision Committee (minute 13/06(c)) and the Programme Approval Review Committee (minute 13/03(c)) for introduction in 2013/14; however, the introduction of the MFA has since been postponed until 2014/15.

4. The MFA at the 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. The programme comprises 120 credits of taught modules, together with a 'creative practice as research' project equivalent to 150 credits.

5. As the University does not currently offer a Master of Fine Arts, the introduction of the award to Ordinances has therefore been recommended to the Senate by APRC (minute 12/49). Consequently, details of the award criteria must be included in Regulation 6 (Programmes of Study) and Regulation 7 (Assessment, Progression and Award).

Recommendation

6. It is **recommended** that the proposed additions to Regulations set out in Appendix 1 are approved for introduction with effect from the 2014/15 session.

Jo Luckett
College Academic Policy Partner, College of Arts and Law
June 2013

Appendix 1

Proposed Regulatory Amendments (2014/15)

(Deletions struck through; additions underlined)

6.1.3 Research Degree Programmes

6.1.3(a) The University defines its research degree programmes as follows:

(xii) Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
A programme, normally of 2 years' duration, comprising 120 credits of taught modules from a notional 270 credits for the programme, together with a creative practice-based research project.

6.1.4 Research Degree Programmes with Taught Elements

6.1.4(a) The Professional Doctorate (including the EngD), PhD with Integrated Study, MFA, MMus and MRes) are programmes consisting of a set of modules and a set of one or more reports. The modules have a defined set of learning outcomes including intellectual and practical skills which a Registered Student must complete to the satisfaction of a Board of Examiners in order to be eligible for the Award.

6.1.4(e) The programme requirements for programmes leading to a Professional Doctorate (including the EngD), PhD with Integrated Study, MFA, MMus and MRes may provide for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate or a Masters degree upon completion of appropriate modules, unless Senate or delegated authority permits an exception.

6.2.3 Research Degree Programmes

6.2.3(a) The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for research degrees of the University shall be:

Award	*Minimum period*	*Maximum period*
MFA	*2 years (full-time)*	*3 years (full-time)* [1]

7.4 Research Degree Programmes – Assessment and Award

7.4.1 Award Requirements

7.4.1(c) The thesis and other assessments for a research degree should demonstrate that the Registered Student:
(i) has an adequate knowledge of the discipline within which the research is grounded and of the literature relevant to the research;
(ii) is proficient in the relevant method(s) of research;
(iii) has undertaken an independent investigation;
(iv) can present information clearly; and
(v) can put forward arguments in an appropriate and coherent form.

[1] The maximum length of the MFA was not specified in the programme proposal. The School has confirmed that it would favour a three-year maximum period of study so as to allow students further a 'writing up' period if required, following completion of their projects, as is the case for other research degree programmes.

7.4.1(d) *The MFA should, in addition to the requirements set out in 7.4.1(c) above, culminate in new, critically examined creative work.*

7.4.1~~(d)~~(e) *A thesis for the two-year MPhil should, in addition to the requirements set out in 7.4.1(c) above, contain original work of merit, worthy of publication in part or in whole, representing a significant contribution to knowledge, and demonstrating that the Registered Student can exercise independent judgement.*

7.4.2 Format of theses or reports

7.4.2 (d) *The maximum number of words in the thesis or report, excluding tables, diagrams and figures (including associated legends), appendices, references, footnotes and endnotes, the bibliography and any bound published material is as follows:*

College	*One-year MRes*	One-year MA/MSc by Res	*Two-year MFA*	Two-year MPhil	Profess-ional Doctorate	PhD	PhD with Integrated Study	Eng D DDS MD
Arts and Law; Social Sciences	*20,000*	*40,000*	*10,000 (as part of 'creative practice as research' project)*	*60,000*	*50,000*	*80,000*	*80,000*	*NA*