



## PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT

## PART A: SUMMARY REPORT

CONFIRMED

Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University

A1	<b>Programme Specification Title(s)</b>	
Master of Research: Education and Society		
A2	<b>Home Department/School</b>	Education and Social Research Institute
A3	<b>Home Faculty</b>	Institute of Education
A4	<b>Type of Event</b>	Review
A5	<b>Date of Event</b>	11 December 2007
A6	<b>Objectives of Event</b>	
<p>To ensure that the design, academic standards and quality of learning opportunities of the existing programme, together with the proposed developments, as approved in principle on 12 October 2007 (PAF ref PARM/07/047 refers) and as outlined in 7 below, remain appropriate to the award to which the Programme leads and are informed by reference to institutional regulations and policies, national benchmarks and relevant professional and employment demands.</p>		
A7	<b>Outline of Proposal/Development(s)</b>	
<p>The MRes was devised in 2002 by a team led by Professor Somekh in response to an ESRC initiative inviting bids for the selective recognition of postgraduate research training courses. The ESRC guidelines for the approval of such courses were framed within guidelines set out in 'Application for Status of recognised outlet/course for the receipt of ESRC studentships' 2002, 2005).</p> <p>The basic aim of the ESRC was to ensure that ESRC studentships would in future only be allocated to such 'recognised outlets'. The development of the course, therefore, set out to achieve such recognition as part of the Institute's strategy to develop a national and international status for its research. The MRes application was successful in that it was recognised by the ESRC as a three-year course in January 2002, making it the only 'new university' research course in Education so validated. It received internal FRDC approval in October 2002. At the ESRC re-validation exercise in 2006, recognition was extended to '1+3' status. This meant that the first year course (i.e., the MRes taught component) now also had ESRC recognition, as well as the subsequent 3-year doctoral training recognised in 2002. The course is one of only two at MMU which has successfully bid for ESRC recognition.</p> <p>The main changes to the Programme proposed under the Review are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On completion of the MRes, students will be eligible for consideration, but not guaranteed entry, for the PhD Programme.</li> <li>2. Assignments to be focussed clearly on the future doctoral work of the student, where this was intended, or identified.</li> </ol>		

3. Additions to be made to the curriculum, based on student feedback, to provide a more coherent student experience.
4. Collaboration with the EdD Programme to provide integrated methodological training and increase cost-effectiveness.

<b>A8</b>	<b>Conduct of the Event and Panel Membership</b>
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The event, comprising private panel meetings and meetings of the panel with members of the Programme Team and representatives of current/former students, was held on the Didsbury Campus.

The panel included the following internal members:

- Prof Val Edwards-Jones (Chair)
- Prof Nigel Hall (FREC representative)
- Miss Clare Holdcroft (RED Officer)
- Mr Andy Jones (Acting Dean of Faculty)
- Ms Janet Edgar (Acting Principal Officer)
- Ms Veronica Horne (Panel Secretary)

The panel included the following external members appointed by the Director of RED after nomination by the Faculty:

- Prof Peter Farrell (University of Manchester)
- Prof Pat Sikes (University of Sheffield)

<b>A9</b>	<b>Documentary Evidence Base</b>
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- Draft Definitive Document (including updated Programme specification)
- Self Evaluation Document incorporating the following appendices:
  - Report of last Programme approval event [15 October 2002]
  - Report of ESRC training and development board visit – 20 May 2004
  - The 2 most recent annual Quality Action Plans, including monitoring statistics and external examiners reports
  - Evidence of student feedback mechanisms
  - Summary CVs of teaching staff
- Programme Approval Form approved in principle.

<b>A10</b>	<b>Conclusions on Innovation and Good Practice</b>
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The Panel identified the following aspects of good practice:

- the coherence, values and philosophy of the Programme, as evidenced in both the content and in the supporting materials;
- the way the Programme builds and capitalises on its existing strengths;
- the well qualified and dedicated staff, some of whom are well known internationally in their fields of expertise;
- the creative and innovative nature and delivery of many of the units;
- *“the publication of the course materials, the involvement of course staff in presenting workshops at the QI conference, and the way in which teaching and publishing/dissemination have interacted, is special and should be commended”* [Prof Pat Sikes, External Assessor].

A11	<b>Conclusions on Quality and Standards</b>
<p>The Panel concluded that the intended learning outcomes of the Programme were being achieved by students, that the standards of the University's awards were being maintained and that the Programme as modified remained current and valid in the light of developing knowledge in the discipline, practice in its operation and developments in teaching and learning.</p>	
A12	<b>Summary of Outcome</b>
<p>The Panel recommended:</p> <p>Continued approval with effect from September 2008 subject to fulfilment of the one condition in Section A13 below.</p> <p>A full list of the award titles approved may be found in paragraph 2 of the updated Programme specification.</p> <p>A full list of changes made as part of this Review event may be found in Appendix 1 of this report.</p>	
A13	<b>Condition of Approval</b>
<p>The following condition of approval must be fulfilled before the modified Programme may commence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To revisit the Definitive Document and correct any inconsistencies or ambiguities, specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the criteria/eligibility for progression to PhD;</li> <li>ii) changes in the assessment criteria for the dissertation unit (page 82 of the Definitive Document);</li> <li>iii) amalgamation of some of the units in order to make the Programme compliant with the University Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Study 2007/08 (point D 1.1);</li> <li>iv) correction of the study pathway (page xii of the Definitive Document).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
A14	<b>Deadline(s) for Fulfilment of Condition(s)</b>
<p>01 February 2008</p>	
A15	<b>Recommendations</b>
<p>The Programme Team must consider and address explicitly the following recommendations in the course of its annual monitoring processes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To keep ESRC recognition and to continue to actively apply for studentships.</li> <li>2. To engage in active marketing in order to keep student numbers viable.</li> <li>3. To press for a resolution of the site licence for the relevant statistical packages and other e-learning resources used on the Programme.</li> <li>4. To consider the use of video conferencing for interviews of overseas students.</li> </ol>	

A16	<b>Date of next scheduled review</b>
The next scheduled periodic review of the Programme will be held during the Autumn term of 2012/2013.	

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A17	<b>Date Report considered by Head of ASQE</b>	
A18	<b>Date of CASQE Recommendation to AQSSc</b>	<i>17 September 2008</i>

End of PARMRPT(A)

**PART C: RESPONSE TO CONDITIONS: STATUS REPORT**

<b>Programme Title</b>	Master of Research: Education and Society
<b>Type of Event</b>	Review
<b>Date of Event</b>	11 December 2007
<b>Deadline for fulfilment of Conditions</b>	01 February 2008
<b>Panel Chair</b>	Prof Val Edwards-Jones

<b>Response to be approved by</b> <i>(indicate as appropriate)</i>	
<b>Panel Chair on behalf of Panel</b>	Yes
<b>All/designated Panel Member</b> <i>(please specify)</i>	

<b>1</b>	<b>Action Taken in Response to Condition(s)</b>
1.	<p><i>To revisit the Definitive Document and correct any inconsistencies or ambiguities, specifically:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>v) the criteria/eligibility for progression to PhD;</i></li> <li><i>vi) changes in the assessment criteria for the dissertation unit (page 82 of the Definitive Document);</i></li> <li><i>vii) amalgamation of some of the units in order to make the Programme compliant with the University Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Study 2007/08 (point D 1.1);</i></li> <li><i>viii) correction of the study pathway (page xii of the Definitive Document).</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) all references to transfer reports have been deleted in the document. Further, criteria have been identified for eligibility to progress to PhD and are reflected as appropriate throughout the definitive document and in the assessment criteria for the dissertation unit.</li> <li>ii) See above.</li> <li>iii) Appropriate units have been amalgamated. Only four of the units remain as 10 credit units.</li> <li>iv) Although the unit structure has been changed to reflect the amalgamation of some of the units, the study pathway for the completion of assignments remains the same.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Documentation submitted to for approval</b>
<p>Programme Team's Response  Revised Definitive Document  Review Report</p>	

3	<b>Panel Chair/Panel Member Comments</b>

4	<b>Confirmation of approval</b>
<p>I confirm that I am satisfied that the conditions of approval have been fulfilled.</p> <p>Signed: <i>Email authorisation available within CASQE files</i></p> <p>Date:</p>	

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C3	<b>Date(s) Response to Conditions considered by Head of ASQE</b>	
C4	<b>Date(s) CASQE Recommendation(s) on conditions submitted to AQSSc</b>	17 September 2008
C5	<b>Date of final AQSSc approval</b>	17 September 2008

End of PARMRPT(C)

