PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT

PART A: SUMMARY REPORT   CONFIRMED

A1	**Programme Specification Title**	
Master of Research		

A2	**Home Department/School**	Research Institute of Business and Management

A3	**Home Faculty**	Business School

A4	**Type of Event**	Review

A5	**Date of Event**	10 December 2007

A6	**Objectives of Event**

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 and as outlined in A7 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.

A7	**Outline of Proposal/Development**

The Master of Research is a successful, existing programme within the Business School, recognised as a 'model' MRes by the ESRC. The MRes was first validated in 2001 and last reviewed in 2004. The programme aims to develop competent social researchers, capable of undertaking successful doctorial study or a career in research. It aims to provide advanced training in research methods and underlying concepts for students in Business and Management through introduction to the principles of research incorporating the philosophy of knowledge, qualitative and quantitative methods and a critical literature review. This periodic Review was scheduled to take place during 2006-07 but was formally deferred to 2007-08 with the agreement of the Faculty Research Degrees Committee due to illness of key staff.

At this Review the Panel is asked to approve a number of changes to the existing programme, these include the following:
The removal of the cognate discipline unit (students usually claim exemption).
The units are now all worth 20 credits (previously some at 10 credits).
The delivery and scheduling of the programme is to be altered to block sessions of individual units.
The attendance requirements of part-time and full-time students will become more distinct, providing more focus and clarity for each group.
The development and use of Web CT and action/ blended learning.

A8	**Conduct of the Event and Panel Membership**

The event, comprising private panel meetings and meetings of the panel with members of the programme team and representatives of current and former students, was held on the 10 December at Aytoun Campus.

The panel included the following internal members:

- Professor Peter Gilroy (Chair)
- Dr Val Edwards-Jones (RED officer: observer)
- Miss Clare Holdcroft (RED officer)
- Ms Tracey Horton (Principal Faculty Administrator: for Faculty Registrar)
- Professor Huw Morris (Dean of Faculty)
- Mr Stephen Howard (Panel Secretary)

The panel included the following external members appointed by the Head of Academic Standards & Quality Enhancement after nomination by the Faculty:

- Professor Lynette Harris (Nottingham Trent University)
- Professor David Price (Henley Management College)

The Panel met with the following current and former students:
- Dr David Bricknell
- Ms Sharika Fernando
- Mr Fernando Lourenco
- Mr Oliver Kayas
- Mr Stephen Mansfield

A9	**Documentary Evidence Base**

- Draft definitive document (including updated programme specification)
- Self evaluation document incorporating the following appendices:
  - Report of professional accreditation report [ESRC/2006]
  - Most recent annual Quality Action Plans, monitoring statistics and external examiners reports
  - Summary CVs of teaching staff
- Programme Approval Form approved in principle

A10	**Conclusions on Innovation and Good Practice**

The Panel identified the following aspects of good practice:

1. The openness and accessibility of staff to students.
2. The positive feedback received from the student representatives upon the existing MRes programme.

A11	**Conclusions on Quality and Standards**

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 remain current and valid in the light of developing knowledge in the discipline, practice in its operation and developments in teaching and learning.

A12	**Summary of Outcome**

The Panel recommended:

Continued approval with effect from January 2008 subject to fulfilment of the conditions in Section A13 below.

A full list of the award titles approved may be found in part one [point 2] of the updated programme specification.

A full list of changes made as part of this Review event may be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

A13	**Conditions of Approval**

The following conditions of approval must be fulfilled before the programme/modified programme may commence:

1. That the Programme team create a systematic procedure to regulate tutor assessment feedback on student assignments, ensuring that the level and depth of this feedback is more uniform and consistent than currently exists. This will be accompanied by a redesigned assignment feedback sheet that included a series of prompted sections for more prescriptive feedback for the students, including a section that outlines how the assignment could be improved.

2. That the reading lists on the unit specifications are thoroughly revised and updated.

A14	**Deadline for Fulfilment of Conditions**

21 January 2008

A15	**Recommendations**

The Programme Team must consider and address explicitly the following recommendations in the course of its annual monitoring processes:

1. The Panel recognised that to achieve the required depth and quality of blended learning materials (WebCT) prior to the start of the revised programme would require much staff development and would thus be resource intensive. The Panel recommended to the Faculty that sufficient priority of resources were made available for this development to be successfully introduced. The Panel requested that any problem or issue concerning the provision of resourcing this development was referred to the Chair.

2. The student induction programme is reviewed and explicit information is provided upon the following issues: inter-library loans; the SCONUL Access Scheme; the availability of statistical software packages (and the support available for these); the provision of English language support; details of the International Students Support Officer; clarity of other support mechanisms available.

This information could, for instance, be provided via a student handbook at the beginning of the programme.

A16	**Date of next scheduled review**

The next scheduled periodic review of the programme will be held during the Autumn term of 2012-13 academic year.

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A17	**Date Report considered by Head of ASQE**	
A18	**Date of CASQE Recommendation to AQSSc**	*17 September 2008*

End of PARMRPT(A)

PART C: RESPONSE TO CONDITIONS: STATUS REPORT

Programme Title	Master of Research
Type of Event	Review
Date of Event	10 December 2007
Deadline for fulfilment of Conditions	21 January 2008
Panel Chair	Professor Peter Gilroy

Response to be approved by *(indicate as appropriate)*	
Panel Chair on behalf of Panel	x
All/designated Panel Member *(please specify***)**	

1	**Action Taken in Response to Conditions**

1. That the Programme team create a systematic procedure to regulate tutor assessment feedback on student assignments, ensuring that the level and depth of this feedback is more uniform and consistent than currently exists. This will be accompanied by a redesigned assignment feedback sheet that included a series of prompted sections for more prescriptive feedback for the students, including a section that outlines how the assignment could be improved.

Procedures for the regulation of feedback on assessments have been brought into line with the MMU Assessment Practice and Policy document (see Appendix 1).

The assessment feedback form has been redesigned taking into consideration the panel's comments (see Appendix 2). A section that outlines how the assignment could be improved has been added and a separate sheet including prompted sections for more prescriptive feedback has been added.

A programme team meeting will be held to present and discuss the new system for assessment feedback and to ensure shared understanding of the terms and expectations before the programme begins in September 2008.

2. That the reading lists on the unit specifications are thoroughly revised and updated.

Reading lists have been revised and updated in consultation with Unit Leaders where appropriate. Suggestions of core texts made by the panel at the revalidation event have been considered and included. Please see revised unit specifications.

2	**Documentation submitted to for approval**

Programme Team's Response
Revised Assessment Practice and Policy document
Updated MRes unit specifications

Revised work submission form

3	Panel Chair/Panel Member Comments

4	Confirmation of approval
I confirm that I am satisfied that the conditions of approval have been fulfilled.	
Signed:	
Date:	

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

End of PARMRPT(C)