

Appendix C.6.3 Scope of Validation Events

The Panel will consider the following areas at the validation event, drawing upon consideration of the documentation, the views of panel members and issues arising in meetings with staff.

1. The programme

- The overall educational programme in relation to the market
- The overall quality of the educational experience
- The commensurability of the programme with HE requirements including the level/s at which it is offered within the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications; any relevant QAA Subject Benchmarks, European reference points; requirements of employers/PSRBs etc.
- The proposed award title and its fit with the content and learning outcomes of the programme.
- The clarity of the proposed admissions policy, its fit with institutional requirements and reference to any additional support that may be needed.
- The overall structure of the programme, credit distribution and proposed exit points.
- How the structure and design of the programme will support and enable students' progression.
- To confirm the Institution's commitment to resources required for the successful management and delivery of the programme, following statements provided in the proposal in principle.
- To review the market interest and potential recruitment to the programme along with future marketing plans.
- Evidence that students, staff and industry professionals have been consulted on the development of the curriculum.

2. Aims and learning outcomes

- The coherence and clarity of learning outcomes.
- How the level/s of the learning outcomes complement the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and any professional body requirements.

3. Programme Content

- The appropriateness of the content in relation to the HE level/s, aims and learning outcomes and any professional body requirements.
- The overall breadth and depth of the curriculum, taking into consideration the academic level at which the programme is positioned within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, and the intended graduate profile and likely destinations.
- The currency and relevance of the curriculum as well as supporting reading and resources lists.

4. Learning, teaching and assessment

- That learning and teaching strategies are appropriate to the HE level/s of the programme and the nature of the discipline.
- The way in which learning, teaching and assessment methods support achievement of learning outcomes.
- The range of teaching, learning and assessment methods including how these have been considered in relation to the student entry profile.
- Arrangements for the management of placements or any other forms of external learning opportunities where these form part of the programme.
- Arrangements for induction, tutorial support and any other forms of student support including that for students with disabilities.
- The resources available to support students in their learning.
- The assessment load within each module and the programme overall.
- The alignment of the programme with the institutional assessment regulations and policies.

5. Maintenance and enhancement of quality and securing of academic standards

- Arrangements for programme management including programme leadership and administrative support.
- Ensuring that programme staff are experienced to deliver and assess at the HE level/s of the programme.
- Where the programme will fit within the Institution's governance structure including arrangements for student representation.
- Mechanisms for internal review and development of the programme including the collection, consideration and responses to feedback from students.
- Opportunities for staff development and how these may inform the development of the programme.

6. Additionally, for research degree programmes, supported by City University

- Clear evidence of the Institution's ability to provide and support adequately a research study programme
- The proposal to provide a research study programme in relation to the Institution's strategy and research policy
- Provision for research methodology and seminars
- The existence of a research culture within the Institution
- The Institution's staff development policy, particularly with regard to research
- The ability of the Institution to provide sufficient supervision of an appropriate standard and a succession plan to safeguard provision.

7. Documentation

The documentation will include:

- the programme and module specifications
- admissions requirements
- the marking criteria for the programme
- details of
 - proposed start date of the programme
 - projected student numbers
 - rationale for the programme and links to Institutional strategy
 - summary of market research and external competition
 - recruitment and marketing strategy
 - resources to support the programme
 - involvement of any partners in programme delivery
 - CVs for teaching staff
 - Any additional supporting documentation, such as comments from external sources