



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

# **Programme Design, Approval, Amendment, Review and Withdrawal Policy**

**Version Number 2.3**

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Helen Sharman	<p><i>Changes to policy in relation to responsibility for who approves suspensions and withdrawals (section 7) including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dean of School to approve all suspensions and withdrawals</i></li> <li>• <i>New requirement for Schools to normally seek Academic Development and Partnerships Committee approval to restart recruitment to a programme that has been suspended.</i></li> </ul>	V2.3	ASQAC 6/2/2019
Helen Sharman	<p><i>Committee changes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Removal of reference to SELTEC (replaced with Associate Dean Academic)</i></li> <li>• <i>Name of committee approving business case changed from AD SG to new committee: Academic Development and Partnerships Committee (ADPC).</i></li> <li>• <i>Removal of reference to the Collaborative Partnerships and Programmes sub-committee (this work is now included in ADPC)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Revisions to programme withdrawal and suspension including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Approval (within recruitment cycle) by Chair of Academic Development and Partnerships Committee (ADPC). The Chair will consult with both Admissions and Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Requirement for teach-out plans</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Quality Code links updated to reflect new code</i></p> <p><i>Added reference to ICZ ready curriculum</i></p> <p><i>External reference points to include Degree Apprenticeship Standards</i></p>	V2.2	Sam Grogan, Chair of ASQAC (27/7/18) (following e-consultation of ASQAC members)
Helen Sharman	<p><i>Revisions to sections regarding programmes offered to Tier 4 Students including to extend period in which teaching can take place to 9pm.</i></p>	V2.1	Sam Grogan, Chair of ASQAC: 26/09/16
Helen Sharman	<p><i>Addition of sections 3.19 to 3.24 (international Students), Table 2 (section C) and sections 5.9, 5.11, 6.6 and 6.7(CMA);4.7 and 4.12 (approval deadlines);</i></p>	V2.0	Sam Grogan, Chair of ASQAC: 8/09/16

	<i>Equality Assessment; minor changes to update website links.</i>		
Helen Sharman	<i>URLs added to Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document.</i>	V1.2	No approval required
Helen Sharman	<i>Committee names updated.</i>	V1.1	No approval required
Helen Sharman	<i>Complete revision of previous documentation round Programme Approval therefore new policy</i>	V1.0	Senate 10/07/2015
<b>Policy Management and Responsibilities:</b>			
Owner:	<i>The Head of Quality and Enhancement has the authority to issue and communicate policy on programme approval and has delegated day to day management and communication of the policy to the Quality &amp; Enhancement Manager.</i>		
Others with responsibilities (please specify):	<i>Members of Academic Development and Partnerships Committee (decide on programme business matters)</i> <i>Members of Programme Approval and Review Panel (decide on programme academic matters)</i> <i>Associate Deans (Academic) (approve minor amendments and sign off programme documentation on behalf of the Dean of School)</i> <i>Deans of School (sign off programme documentation and normally decide on programme withdrawals and suspension to recruitment)</i> <i>Chair of ADPC (decide on programme withdrawals and suspension to recruitment within admissions cycle).</i>		
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Equality Analysis (E&D, HR) <i>Equality Assessment form</i>	1. <i>Completed 5/9/16 , attached as appendix</i>		
Legal implications (LPG)	2. <i>The Chair of Home Office Compliance Assurance Group (HOCAG) is the University's Solicitor who proposed the sections 3.19-3.24 regarding international students.</i>		
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Student facing procedures (QEO)	4. <i>N/A</i>		
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<b>The owner and author are responsible for publicising this policy document.</b>			

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## **Abbreviations and acronyms**

ADPC – Academic Development Partnership Committee

APME – Annual Programme Monitoring and Enhancement

ASQAC – Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee

CPARP – Collaborative Programme Approval and Review Panel

HOCAG – Home Office Compliance Assurance Group

PARP – Programme Approval and Review Panel

PMEP – Programme Monitoring and Enhancement Procedure

PPRR – Periodic Programme Review and Re-approval

PSRB – Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies

SELTEC – Student Experience and Learning and Teaching Enhancement Committee

QAA – Quality Assurance Agency

QEO – Quality and Enhancement Office

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This document outlines the principles and regulations governing the design, approval, amendment, review and withdrawal of taught programmes leading to University of Salford credit or awards, including collaborative programmes delivered wholly or in part by other institutions under affiliation agreements.
- 1.2. In defining its own programme design, approval, amendment, review and withdrawal policy and procedures, the University takes account of best practice in the UK Higher Education sector and the [UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#) .
- 1.3. When considering and reviewing programmes, the University ensures that all relevant business issues (e.g. strategic, financial, resource, legal and reputational) are given due consideration and that any identified risks are appropriately managed.
- 1.4. The University is responsible for the academic standards of its awards and the quality of its programmes. This policy and related procedures are mechanisms to assure academic standards and quality of provision for the University, external stakeholders and students.

## 2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all credit bearing provision approved by the University of Salford wherever delivered and includes:
  - Programme development and design.
  - Programme and module approval (including stand-alone modules).
  - Programme and module amendment.
  - Periodic programme review and re-approval (PPRR).
  - Withdrawal of programmes and temporary suspension of recruitment to programmes.

## 3. Policy Statements

### Strategic Oversight and Evaluation

- 3.1. Academic authority rests with the University's Senate which has the primary duty to oversee the academic quality and standards of the University. On behalf of Senate, the Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (ASQAC) is responsible for ensuring that this policy and related procedures are applied systematically and evaluated, implementing changes where necessary.
- 3.2. Senate has delegated responsibility for decisions about programme business matters including approving proposals for new partnerships for both UK and overseas to the Academic Development and Partnerships Committee (ADPC) and responsibility for academic decisions to the Programme Approval and Review Panel (PARP). Decisions about programme withdrawal and suspension to recruitment are normally devolved to Deans of Schools.

## Process

- 3.3. Procedures and guidance relating to the following are available in Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance document (see Related Documentation section):
- Programme development and design.
  - Programme and module approval (including stand-alone modules).
  - Programme and module amendment.
  - Periodic programme review and re-approval.
  - Withdrawal of programmes and temporary suspension of recruitment to programmes.
- 3.4. The procedures identify the roles and responsibilities of key staff.

## Externality

- 3.5. The University makes use of external participation in its programme-related procedures to ensure independence and objectivity. It uses External Advisors and External Examiners with appropriate academic knowledge and experience and, where applicable, representatives of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) when considering new programmes or reviewing existing programmes. The function of the External Advisor and External Examiner is to comment independently, objectively and with authority on the academic quality of the programme under consideration. Criteria and the process for appointment of External Advisors are available in the Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance (see Related Documentation section). The Chair of PARP will escalate to ASQAC or SELTEC any conditions or recommendations from PARPs that have a wider University implication.
- 3.6. Internal peer review is demonstrated through the PARP membership, which includes an independent Chair.

## Student Involvement

- 3.7. The University embeds student involvement at all stages of programme design, approval amendment, review and re-approval. This is described in the detailed guidance supporting this policy: Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance.
- 3.8. Student involvement is continued through the PARP membership, which includes Students' Union representation.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.9. All stakeholders involved in these processes will receive training or guidance to enable them to contribute effectively.

## Programme Development and Design

- 3.10. All programmes and modules must comply with the University's programme design principles as set out in the [Industry Collaboration Zone \(ICZ\) Curriculum](#):

- 3.11. All programmes must align with the University's Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes (Related Documentation) (unless an approved exception is in place).
- 3.12. All programmes must align with requirements of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including Subject Benchmark Statements and, where applicable, other external references such as those of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) and Degree Apprenticeship Standards.
- 3.13. All collaborative programmes shall satisfy the requirements for partnerships and collaboration as set out in the [University's Collaborative Provision Policy and Procedure](#) (See Related Documentation section).
- 3.14. The details of each programme (or group of cognate programmes) shall be documented on the University's Programme Specification form (see [Link to forms](#)). The details of each module shall be documented on the University's Module Specification form (see [Link to forms](#)).
- 3.15. When Schools are preparing a new programme proposal, they must consult with other Schools which have, or may have, an interest in the subject area, via the relevant Dean of School.
- 3.16. Guidance on programme design and pedagogy is available within the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#)
- 3.17. Advice and guidance on the operation of this policy is available from the Quality and Enhancement Office, email QEO-General@salford.ac.uk

### **Programme suitability for Tier 4 (General) Students and other visas**

- 3.18. This section (3.19 to 3.24) only applies to programmes where international students are required to study in the UK. Therefore, it does not apply to programmes (collaborative or otherwise) delivered wholly overseas or wholly online, as these students do not require a visa other than if they wish to come to the UK for graduation.
- 3.19. The University of Salford holds a Sponsor Licence issued by the Home Office that allows it to recruit and teach Tier 4 (General) students. In order to maintain our licence, the University's Home Office Compliance Programme Approval Checklist is completed for all new programmes, programme re-approvals and programme amendments. This Checklist is maintained by the Head of Home Office Compliance and overseen by the University's Home Office Compliance Assurance Group (HOCAG). It identifies the suitability of programmes for admission for the two most frequently used student visas: Tier 4 (General) student visas and Short-term study visas (See Related Documentation section for links).
- 3.20. The Compliance Approval Checklist is completed at the Business Case Approval stage and reviewed at the Academic Case Approval stage to ensure that any changes in the details of a programme have not affected the suitability for Tier 4 (General) student visas and Short-term study visas.
- 3.21. *Other visas* (i.e. not Tier 4 (General) student visas and Short-term study visas) – The University recognises that there are several other visa types, including for example employees on Tier 2 visas that have specific Home Office Compliance requirements. The University Admissions team consider, on a case-by-case basis, the suitability of programmes for applicants intending to use these less common visa types. Programme teams should seek the advice of the Head of Home Office Compliance



prior to marketing programmes to applicants using the less frequently used visa types and whether they have a right to study.

3.22. *Communicating visa requirements* – Restrictions to visa types are clearly communicated when the programme for admission is marketed or advertised, and before any offers are made to applicants. Similarly, if a programme is not suitable for international students on a Tier 4 (General) student visa or a Short-term study visa this is communicated when the course is marketed or advertised.

3.23. *Contact hours requirements for programmes offered to students on a Tier 4 (General) student visa (Level 4 and above)* – Whilst the Home Office Visa and Immigration rules are not specific about contact hours for Level 4 and above, the University has a minimum standard for classroom type contact time that programmes must normally meet in order to be considered suitable for offering to students on a Tier 4 (General) student visa. The requirements have been developed to provide clarity for programme teams and to ensure that Tier 4 students are maintaining sufficient contact with the University.

**Table 1 – Contact hours requirements (see section following Table 1 for definition of contact hours)**

Levels 4 & 5 of UG <sup>1</sup> programmes and the PG Cert and PG Dip stages <sup>1</sup> of Master's Programmes	Level 3 programmes
The University policy is normally a minimum of eight hours a week contact time over 23 weeks a year <sup>2</sup> . Additionally, the counted contact hours must normally be spread over three or more days per week.	The Home Office Visa and Immigration rules state that a minimum of fifteen hours a week contact time over 23 weeks a year apply. Additionally, the University policy is that the hours must normally be spread over at least four days a week.

For the purposes of the calculations in Table 1 contact hours must:

- Normally take place between 8am and 9pm (but not exclusively 6pm-9pm) Monday to Friday and appear on the student's timetable and/or any programme specific sessions scheduled by a school such as studio sessions.

<sup>1</sup> It is recognised that during the Level 6 final project or dissertation stage and during the final 60 credits of a Level 7 Master's programme, there may be fewer contact hours than the minimum hours. Level 7 projects or dissertations carried out as part of a PGDip or PGCert must still meet the general contact hours requirements

<sup>2</sup> Note regarding reading weeks and revision weeks. The 23 weeks can include up to two reading weeks provided they comply with page 6, section 3.5c of the [University's Timetable Policy](#) and so have a minimum of 8 hours alternative scheduled sessions. Any weeks nominally called "revision" weeks should have the minimum 8 hours contact.

- Be facilitated face-to-face by staff where this is “a lecturer, researcher, technician, member of support staff or graduate teaching assistant of the institution, or a visiting or external specialist”<sup>3</sup>

The following contact hours are not included for the purposes of the calculation in Table 1. hours where:

- A “student is expected to study independently, which may itself be 'guided'. Independent study might include preparation for scheduled sessions, follow-up work, wider reading or practice, completion of assessment tasks, revision, and so on”<sup>4</sup>.
- Attendance is optional.
- Attendance is compulsory for students on a Tier 4 (General) student visa but optional for other (i.e. non international) students.

## 4. Programme Approval Process

- 4.1. The programme approval process has two stages, Programme Business Case Approval and Academic Approval. For detailed information and guidance about the programme approval procedure see the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#)

### Business Implications and Decisions

- 4.2. Programme Business Case Approval considers the business case for the development of a new programme(s).
- 4.3. Operational and academic development plans should, where possible, include details of all new programmes in advance of their development.
- 4.4. Schools have responsibility for developing Programme Business Cases and for confirming, through their School Executive, that a new Programme Business Case can be submitted for consideration to the ADPC.
- 4.5. At Programme Business Case stage, Schools are responsible for ensuring that the programme design, including aims, are in line with earlier sections 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13.
- 4.6. The ADPC has responsibility for approving all new programme proposals as part of the Programme Business Case Approval. This stage of the approval process aims to ensure that:
- There is a sound business case and sufficient resources.
  - The marketing strategy is appropriate.
  - The programme is aligned with the School’s and University’s strategic direction.
  - Potential risks have been identified and plans are in place to manage them.
- 4.7. Business decisions which impact on recruitment to programmes must normally be completed no later than 30 November, 20 months before the first intake (September starts) in the academic year preceding delivery of the programme. Programme teams must consult [Published Programme Approval Dates and Deadlines](#) to ensure timely

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<sup>3</sup> See p4 [August 2011 QAA Document Explaining Contact Hours](#)).

<sup>4</sup> See p7 [August 2011 QAA Document Explaining Contact Hours](#)).

programme development and approval. Exceptions to the November deadline may apply to programmes that are not aligned to standard September starts and to programmes that have a demonstrable market, strong business case and align with University strategy.

- 4.8. New programmes are not advertised until the Programme Business Case is approved.
- 4.9. In addition to 4.8, programmes delivered through collaborative provision agreements are not advertised until approval for the partnership has been granted through the Collaborative Provision Procedure unless written provision is granted by the Chair of ASQAC.

### Academic Decisions

- 4.10. Schools have responsibility for developing academic proposals for new programmes and for confirming, through their Associate Dean Academic that a case for Academic Approval can be submitted for consideration to the PARP.
- 4.11. Academic Approval is granted by the PARP. Membership of the PARP includes an independent Chair and an appropriate independent External Advisor (see section 3.5). This stage of the approval process aims to ensure that a new programme:
- Is aligned with University's design principles (3.10) and with institutional regulations, policies and procedures.
  - Is aligned with appropriate external references (see sections 3.11 and 3.12).
  - Has appropriate content.
  - Will be taught by staff with the appropriate skills and knowledge.
  - Will offer appropriate learning opportunities and support for students.
- 4.12. Academic Approval shall normally be granted no later than 31 January in the academic year preceding delivery of the programme to ensure that any timetabling implications can be accommodated. Programme teams must consult [Published Programme Approval Dates and Deadlines](#) to ensure timely academic case approval. Exceptions to this deadline may apply to programmes that are not aligned to standard September starts and to programmes that have a demonstrable market, strong business case and align with University strategy.
- 4.13. Documentation for Academic Approval shall normally be presented within six months of Business Case Approval.
- 4.14. New programmes are approved for a maximum of six academic years, starting from the academic year when Academic Approval took place.

### Approval of Standalone Modules

- 4.15. All modules within a programme shall be approved as stand-alone modules.
- 4.16. A stand-alone module outside of a programme can be approved through the Programme and Module Amendment Procedure.

## 5. Programme/Module Amendment

- 5.1. For detailed information and guidance about the programme/module amendment procedure see the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) (See Related Documentation section).

- 5.2. The University's programme/module amendment process is intended to provide a framework for the modification and enhancement of programmes and modules so that they continue to accord with institutional regulations, policies and external expectations and are of a standard appropriate to the qualifications to which they lead.
- 5.3. The University's programme/module amendment process is also used for the approval of standalone modules.
- 5.4. External Examiners are asked to comment independently, objectively and with authority on the academic quality of any proposed amendments that may substantially affect the programme content and learning opportunities for students see External Examining for all Taught Programmes (See Related Documentation section).
- 5.5. Major programme and module amendments are defined in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) and are approved by the PARP. The PARP should ensure that the factors listed in section 4.11 and, if applicable, the views of External Examiners are taken into consideration. Minor programme and module amendments are defined in and are approved by Associate Deans (Academic).
- 5.6. Changes to programmes may not be advertised or implemented until the programme amendment process is successfully completed.
- 5.7. The deadline for approval of programme and module amendments depends on the type of amendment and when it is due to be implemented. Amendments should be approved for the next entering cohort, before course/module information is issued to them. Changes which affect information already provided to applicants and/or existing students, such as course/module-related material information upon which they have made an informed decision, will normally only be approved for the next admissions cycle, unless these are clearly in the best interests of all students (see sections 5.9 to 5.11). The table below summarises the normal deadlines for programmes with a September start. Proposers of amendments should seek advice from the QEO regarding deadlines that apply to their proposed amendment. Exceptions to the deadlines may apply to programmes that are not aligned to standard September starts.

**Table 2 - summarising nominal deadlines for approving various types of amendments (assumes change to be implemented the following September starts)**

	Type of amendment	Deadline	Rationale
A	Programme name change	30 November (22 months before first intake on new name)	To ensure the amendment can be implemented in time for marketing deadlines
B	Amendments with timetabling or programme and/or module set up implications	31 January	To ensure the amendment can be implemented in advance of timetabling/set up deadlines
C	Amendments other than A and B above	31 March	To ensure amendment can be communicated and disseminated in time for the start of trimester 1 and comply with the Consumer Rights Act (2015)

- \* Note deadline for documentation will depend on dates of approval meetings see the [Published Programme Approval Dates and Deadlines](#)
- 5.8. Where amendments proposed for an existing programme have the potential to impact on the programme resources and/or marketing, a Programme Business Case shall be required. This is to ensure that the revised programme continues to meet business requirements.
- 5.9. The University is required to comply with the Consumer Rights Act (2015) and to work with prospective and existing students when amendments are made to programmes or programmes are withdrawn, offering them alternative programmes or arranging transfers where appropriate.
- 5.10. Where existing students are, or may potentially be, affected by an amendment to a programme, a consultation should take place (normally via email) that clearly identifies the proposed changes. The students should be given a two week deadline to respond. Consultation should not take place during University holiday periods. Where the change potentially affects the core elements of existing students' programme(s), normally 80% of students should consent to the change. Provided that it can be properly demonstrated that students have been informed in an appropriate format (for example email) a nil response will be seen as consent. The process for consultation is available in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) (see Related Documentation section).
- 5.11. Where prospective students are, or may potentially be, affected by an amendment to a programme, they are informed of the change following the process set out in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) .

## 6. Periodic Programme Review and Re-approval (PPRR)

- 6.1. For detailed information and guidance about the PPRR procedure see the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#)
- 6.2. The PPRR policy complements the [Programme Monitoring and Enhancement Procedure](#) and, for collaborative programmes only, the Collaborative Provision Policy and Procedures (see Related Documentation section).
- 6.3. Schools have responsibility for reviewing documentation required for PPRR and confirming, via their Associate Dean Academic, that the request for re-approval may be submitted for consideration via the PARP.
- 6.4. Re-approval is granted by the PARP. Membership of the PARP includes an independent Chair and an appropriate independent External Advisor (see section 3.5).
- 6.5. Where amendments proposed through the PPRR process have the potential to substantially impact on the programme resources and/or marketing, a Programme Business Case shall be required and be approved by the ADPC. This is to ensure that the revised programme continues to meet business requirements.
- 6.6. The University is required to comply with the Consumer Rights Act (2015) and to work with prospective and existing students when amendments are made to programmes or programmes are withdrawn, offering them alternative programmes or arranging transfers where appropriate. Amendments should be approved for the next entering cohort, before course/module information is issued to them. Changes which affect

- information already provided to applicants and/or existing students, such as course/module-related material information upon which they have made an informed decision, will normally only be approved for the next admissions cycle, unless these are clearly in the best interests of all students (see sections 6.7 to 6.8).
- 6.7. Where existing students are, or may potentially be, affected by an amendment to a programme as a result of PPRR, a consultation should take place (normally via email) that clearly identifies the proposed changes. The students should be given a two week deadline to respond. Consultation should not take place during University holiday periods. Provided that it can be properly demonstrated that students have been informed in an appropriate format (for example email) a nil response will be seen as consent. Where the change potentially affects the core elements of existing students' programme(s), normally 80% of students should consent to the change. The process for consultation is available in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#).
- 6.8. Where prospective students are, or may potentially be, affected by an amendment to a programme as a result of PPRR, they are informed of the change following the process set out in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#).
- 6.9. The PPRR process aims to ensure that the programme presented for re-approval:
- Has systematically reviewed the external (both in HE and more widely) and internal factors that may impact on the programme within the next six years and that any potential risks have been identified and plans are in place to manage them.
  - Has sought and considered the views of current and previous students, employers, External Advisors and (if applicable) PSRBs.
  - Has identified and considered, any intractable or recurring issues in the Programme Action Logs prepared as part of PMEP.
  - Has a continued business case and sufficient resources (see also 6.5).
  - Is aligned with University's design principles (3.10) and with Institutional regulations, policies and procedures.
  - Is aligned with appropriate external references (see sections 3.11 and 3.12).
  - Has appropriate content.
  - Will be taught by staff with the appropriate skills and knowledge.
  - Will offer appropriate learning opportunities and support for students.
- 6.10. Additionally, the PPRR process aims to contribute to the identification and sharing of good practice at both local and institutional levels and propose actions to enhance programmes at a local and an institutional level.
- 6.11. Programmes can be re-approved for a maximum of six academic years, starting from the academic year when re-approval took effect from. This period can be reduced if there are appropriate internal or external requirements or concerns.
- 6.12. Programme changes are likely to arise through the PPRR process which impact on admissions or timetabling. To ensure that any changes can be implemented in a timely manner and avoid a clash with the deadlines for the approval of new programmes, all PPRRs should normally be completed by the end of the fifth academic year following the previous approval. The following academic year the programme will continue to be approved under its earlier approval whilst changes are

- implemented in advance of the next academic year. Exceptions to the deadline may apply to programmes that are not aligned to standard September starts.
- 6.13. Programmes may undertake PPRR singly or be presented for consideration as a group; in the latter case, the group of programmes should normally correspond to the grouping used for the purposes of PMP as applicable.
- 6.14. Those Schools whose programmes are subject to validation or accreditation by an external body, e.g. a PSRB, may seek to combine the consideration of PPRR with the external re-validation or re-accreditation meeting, provided that the function of the PMP is fully achieved.
- 6.15. Programmes involving collaborative provision may bring forward PPRR to align with the review of the collaboration required under the University's Collaborative Provision Policy and Procedures (See Related Documentation section). The collaborative partners must be included in the PPRR process.
- 6.16. Changes to programmes as a result of PPRR may not be advertised or implemented until the PPRR has been approved by the PMP.

### **PPRR Requirements for Withdrawn Programmes**

- 6.17. If a decision is made to withdraw a programme and not replace it with a similar programme, it is not required to undergo PPRR.
- 6.18. If a decision is made to withdraw a programme and replace it with a new, but similar programme, it should normally undergo a PPRR; this may mean bringing forward the PPRR. The new programme should be developed through the PPRR process; this process includes provision (6.5) for programme business matters to be considered by the ADPC.

## **7. Programme Withdrawal and Temporary Suspension to Recruitment**

- 7.1. For detailed information and guidance about the programme withdrawal and temporary suspension to recruitment procedure see the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) (see Related Documentation section).
- 7.2. When considering the withdrawal of a programme or temporary suspension to recruitment, the following factors, as applicable, should be taken into account:
- Academic standards and quality of the programme.
  - Viability of and market demand for the programme (e.g. failure to attract sufficient students to allow the programme to run; impact of external funding changes).
  - Changes in PSRB requirements.
  - Availability of resources to support the programme at School level.
  - The impact on other programmes that share resources and/or modules.
- 7.3. Schools may suspend recruitment to specific programmes for a temporary period of up to two successive years.
- 7.4. The programme withdrawal and temporary suspension procedure in the [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance Document](#) includes proposals for teaching and managing students yet to complete the programme. These proposals must be completed in all situations i.e. including where the initial intention is to resume recruitment after a one year suspension. The plans for teaching and managing

- students yet to complete withdrawn programme or programmes where recruitment has been suspended, must be reviewed annually by the Dean of School or their nominated representative until the final cohort of students has finished.
- 7.5. A programme that has been withdrawn, or where recruitment has been suspended, should not be advertised or offered in any way. A withdrawn programme may be re-activated only by the approval of a new programme proposal.
- 7.6. Schools should normally avoid withdrawal of programmes or suspension to recruitment within an existing admissions cycle. Deans of School are responsible for decisions to withdraw or suspend the recruitment of programmes. School proposals to resume recruitment to a suspended programme are considered for approval by ADPC. The School provides ADPC with a business rationale as to why the School consider the issues that caused the initial suspension are resolved and recruitment should be resumed.
- 7.7. Where appropriate, the programme suspension and withdrawal process aims to contribute to the identification and sharing of lessons learned across the University.

## **8. Policy Enforcement: Role of the Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (ASQAC)**

- 8.1. ASQAC will oversee the effectiveness of and compliance with the programme design, approval, monitoring, review and withdrawal processes through audit and overview reports.
- 8.2. All decisions regarding programme approvals, re-approvals withdrawals and temporary suspension to recruitment must be reported to ASQAC to enable ASQAC to maintain a strategic overview of the University's academic portfolio, whilst ensuring local discretion for the currency and development of the academic portfolio.

## **9. Related Documentation**

- 9.1. **University Policy**  
See also the following related policies and documents.
- [Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes](#)
  - [Collaborative Provision Policy and Procedure](#)
  - [External Examining for Taught Programmes Policy](#)
  - [Industry Collaboration Zone \(ICZ\) Curriculum](#)
  - [Programme Development and Review: Procedures and Guidance](#)
  - [Programme Monitoring & Enhancement Procedure](#)
  - Timetable Policy
- 9.2. **Supporting University Guidance and Forms**  
Guidance and forms can be found on the [QEO Home Page](#)
- 9.3. **External Guidance**  
The following external webpages are maintained by the Home Office UK Visas and Immigration <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>




[Tier 4 \(General\) student visas](#)

[Short-term study visas](#)

## **10. Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Equality Assessment**

**Appendix A**

		<b>Inclusion and Equality Assessment (V2.1 May 2016)</b>		
<b>Proposal Title</b>	Programme Design, Review, Amendment, Approval and Withdrawal Policy	<b>Key aims &amp; purpose</b>	To outline the principles and regulations governing the design, approval, amendment, review and withdrawal of taught programmes leading to University of Salford credit or awards, including collaborative programmes delivered wholly or in part by other institutions under affiliation agreements	
<b>Committee / Board</b>	ASQAC	<b>Meeting date</b>	<u>Not Applicable – approved under Chair’s Action</u>	
<b>Contact name &amp; details</b>	Name: Helen Sharman	<b>Assessment date</b>	05/09/2016	
	Phone: 0161 295 6879	<b>Consultee details</b>	June 2016 - Associate Deans Academic consulted in relation to the first version of the policy. August 2016 - The members of the Home Office Compliance Assurance Group were consulted in relation to sections 3.19 to 3.24	
	Email:h.k.sharman@salford.ac.uk			
<b>To comply with the Equality Act 2010 we are required to consider the possible consequences of decisions the University makes on people from different groups. For more information about the Equality Act follow this link:</b> <a href="http://www.ecu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/external/psed-specific-duties-for-england-sept11.pdf">http://www.ecu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/external/psed-specific-duties-for-england-sept11.pdf</a>				
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	Is it likely that this proposal will affect people who have protected characteristics ( <i>age, disability, gender reassignment, religion and belief, race, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnership</i> ) who are employees, students, service users or other stakeholders, or the wider community?	YES		This policy affects all current students and all prospective students, staff and stakeholders.
2.	Could this proposal support the university to meet the following three requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty?			
	a) Does it support the University to... <i>eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010?</i>			By specifying clear rules, the policy helps to ensure transparency and avoid misunderstanding. The policy embeds the consideration of equality issues in programme approval.

	b) Does it enable the University to... <i>advance equality of opportunity between different groups of people?</i>			See above comments.
	c) Does it help the University to... <i>foster good relations between different groups of people?</i>			See above comments.
<p><b>To comply with the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 Universities are under a legal duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. For further information about the duty follow this link:</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445916/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_For_Higher_Education_England_Wales_.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445916/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_For_Higher_Education_England_Wales_.pdf</a></p>				
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>3.</b>	Is this proposal likely to contain or increase risks that people may be drawn into terrorism?		NO	
	Is a separate risk assessment required?		NO	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Equality Assessor Recommendations and Notes:</b>                  No additional comments.</p>			
<b>5.</b>	<b>Please select an outcome:</b>			<b>Notes</b>
	a) No major change is required:		✓	
	b) The proposal will be adjusted (as above) and submitted for decision:			
	c) The proposal will be continued without change and monitored.			
	d) The activity will be stopped and the policy will be removed:			
	e) Further assessment is required:			