

Programmes Committee (PC)

Tuesday 20 July 2021

10:00-12:00

Present

Dr Clemens Brechtelsbauer (Chair), Dr Lorraine Craig, Ms Michaela Flegrova, Professor Richard Green, Ms Kate Ippolito, Dr Magdalena Jara, Dr Felicitas Starr-Egger, Dr Mike Tennant (Deputy Chair), Dr Vijay Tymms, Mr Scott Tucker, Ms Judith Webster, Ms Men-Yeut Wong (Secretary), Ms Betty Yue.

Apologies

Dr Jo Horsburgh and Dr Jeffrey Vernon

In Attendance

Mr Daniel Lo and Ms Latha Ramakrishnan

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies, as above, were noted.

2 PC.2020.82 Report of actions taken by the Programmes Committee

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 May 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising to discuss.

Items for consideration

4 New Programme Proposals

4.1 PC.2020.83 MSc Conservation Science and Practice

4.1.1 The Programmes Committee considered a new programme proposal from the Centre of Environmental Policy to introduce the above undergraduate programme with effect from October 2022.

4.1.2 The Committee welcomed the programme lead, Dr Morena Mills, who had been invited to present the new programme proposal.

4.1.3 The MSc in Conservation Science and Practice aims to educate and train students to be influential conservation scientists and practitioners. This programme is highly interdisciplinary and embraces the complexity of conservation problems. Students will learn how to think critically about conservation problems to develop solutions that help mitigate the biodiversity crises. The programme will provide a solid quantitative and qualitative basis for conservation science and highlight the need for evidence-based practice.

The programme aims to train students to assess, analyse and solve conservation problems using the best available science and develop the scientific insights needed to answer critical knowledge gaps. It also aims to make the students critical thinkers, and influential leaders and communicators.

4.1.4 The Programmes Committee agreed that a well presented, timely and relevant programme had been presented.

4.1.5 The Committee agreed upon the following recommendations:

- Consider if the programme is able to accommodate a Postgraduate Certificate as an exit/entry award;
 - The Committee agreed that it would be useful to know which modules included blended components and that a diagram or timeline could be produced to highlight how the programme (both full-time and part-time) would be run. This would also be beneficial for students to better understand the blended aspects of the programme;
 - The programme overview should be updated to make more explicit that there will be submission of written work by students by the end of the first term;
 - The programme overview and module outlines should be updated to make more explicit that modules will include the drafting and analysis of policies;
 - The programme overview could be updated to highlight the different career prospects of a student graduating from the programme;
 - The names of some modules are quite neutral, i.e. does not include a reference to the content included – e.g. making effective decisions – perhaps could include some wording at the start/end to reflect the context/content in which the students will learn to make decisions (e.g. Making effective decisions in solving conservation problems);
 - It may be relevant to acknowledge that the students will also have access to the courses offered by the Graduate School, which may support the development of some key skills aimed in the programme: doing presentations, writing dissertations, and others (see full offer here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/students/masters/professional-development/>);
 - Reconsider the overall amount of assessment throughout the programme, it was suggested that 10,000 words across the programme may not align with other College programmes;
 - Review the assignment of assessments to modules to ensure the weighting is correct;
 - How much work should the part-time students have done by the time of each live online session to ensure that they fully benefit from it – is this consistent with being part-time? (Or should you consider running the “later” sessions of each type a second time once the part-time students have had enough time to do the preparation?);
 - To consider the student cohort across different time-zones when hosting live sessions, so that all students are able to participate;
 - It was suggested that the programme aims to produce influential leaders who are able to communicate effectively, it could be useful to organise a conversation with the MSc in Science Communication programme team.
- 4.1.6 The programme team were advised that the recommendations above be considered and that the response to the recommendations be submitted to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement team. Chair’s Action would then be taken to approve the resubmitted documentation and the programme specification would then be published on-line.
- 4.1.7 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2022 subject to the recommendations noted above.

5 Curriculum Review

5.1 PC.2020.84 MSc Geo-Energy with Machine Learning and Data Science (GEMS)

- 5.1.1 The Programmes Committee considered the redesigned programme above from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering with effect from October 2022.
- 5.1.2 The Programmes Committee agreed that a well thought through proposal had been presented bringing the amalgamation of the MSc in Petroleum Geoscience and the MSc in Petroleum Engineering up-to-date and relevant. It was good to see a clear timeframe and outlined methods to evaluate the impact of these changes. The Committee was pleased to see coding exercises are incorporated in some of the more specialised modules (e.g. Fluids and flow in porous media etc) so that students can apply their coding skills.
- 5.1.3 The Committee agreed upon the following recommendations:
- To clarify if the Python pre-session module is required/optional if prior coding experience is a condition of programme entry, it would be useful to include what support a student could access if they struggle with programming over the duration of their studies;
 - As the MSc has a strong data science element, should a good level of statistics be an academic entry requirement?;
 - The proposal form mentioned a low intake of female students for the MSc in Petroleum Engineering. Rather than focus on monitoring the gender balance of applications, could the department think of ways to attract female students in this subject area? E.g. outreach activities targeting girls' schools etc;
 - The proposal form made reference that the fundamental skills taught in the current petroleum MSc programmes are useful in other fields related to sustainable energy and the climate crisis, namely geothermal energy and carbon dioxide storage are not reflected in the current programme content. It would be useful to include this in the programme overview section of the programme specification for the benefit of the applicant;
 - The proposal form included suggestions from students, in particular, "Engagement with topics and potential employers outside the current oil and gas industry". Could the following be added to the programme overview to add as a unique selling point?: "there will also be opportunity to engage with potential employers outside the current oil and gas industry".
- 5.1. The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2022.

6 Major Modifications to Existing Programmes

Faculty of Engineering

6.1 PC.2020.85 MEng/BEng Biomedical Engineering

MEng Biomedical Engineering

BEng Biomedical Engineering

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year abroad

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year in Industry

- 6.1.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Bioengineering to change the rules by which students choose their elective modules and change the compulsory modules of the Bioengineering pathway for named programmes above with effect from October 2021.
- 6.1.2 At the end of the current Curriculum Reviewed version of the programme specification in the section on Progression it states that:

“A student achieving an overall aggregate mark of less than 55% but satisfying all other requirements will be transferred to the programme BH81 (BEng Biomedical Engineering)”

The Department would like to amend this to:

“A student achieving an overall aggregate mark of less than 55% but satisfying all other requirements will be transferred to the programme BH81 (BEng Biomedical Engineering). Module choices in the third year of this course must be agreed with the Director of courses and will not normally include modules outside the department of Bioengineering”

In addition, the Department would like to amend the following wording in the table describing programme structure for Year 3:

From: “Students must then choose one of the four pathways and study the associated compulsory modules”

*To: “Students **on the MEng programme** must then choose one of the four pathways and study the associated compulsory modules”*

And add the following text:

“Students transferred to the BEng programme do not need to choose a pathway, but must choose 5 elective modules from Group E. These modules must be hosted in the department of Bioengineering.”

- 6.1.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.2 PC.2020.86 MEng/BEng Molecular Bioengineering

MEng Molecular Bioengineering

BEng Molecular Bioengineering

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year abroad

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year in Industry

- 6.2.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Bioengineering to change the rules by which students choose their elective modules for named programmes above with effect from October 2021.

- 6.2.2 At the end of the current Curriculum Reviewed version of the programme specification in the section on Progression it states that:

“A student achieving an overall aggregate mark of less than 55% but satisfying all other requirements will be transferred to the programme (BEng Molecular Bioengineering H161).”

The Department would like to amend this to:

“A student achieving an overall aggregate mark of less than 55% but satisfying all other requirements will be transferred to the programme (BEng Molecular Bioengineering H161). Module choices in the third year of this course must be agreed with the Director of courses and will not normally include modules outside the department of Bioengineering”

In addition, the Department would like to amend the following wording in the table describing programme structure for Year 3:

From: “Students study all compulsory modules. Students can then choose 3 elective modules from group A, across FHEQ level 6 & 7 modules – subject to sitting at least 60 ECTS at level 7 modules (including the Individual project) in years 3 and 4.”

To: “Students study all compulsory modules. Students on the MEng Programme can then choose 3 elective modules from groups A & B, across FHEQ level 6 & 7 modules – subject to sitting at least 60 ECTS at level 7 modules (including the Individual project) in years 3 and

4. Students on the BEng programme choose 3 elective modules from group A.”

The Department have also rested to relabel the elective groups in year 4 from B&C to C&D.

6.2.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.3 PC.2020.87 Undergraduate Bioengineering - ‘Modelling in Biology’ (BIOE70002)

MEng Biomedical Engineering

BEng Biomedical Engineering

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year abroad

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year in Industry

MEng Molecular Bioengineering

BEng Molecular Bioengineering

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year abroad

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year in Industry

6.3.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Bioengineering to reclassify the module ‘Modelling in Biology’ (BIOE70002) from FHEQ level 7 to level 6; to also amend the programme specific regulations for named programmes above with effect from October 2021.

6.3.2 This proposal would require the amendment of the following programme specific regulation:
From: “To ensure you complete 60 ECTS at level 7 across years 3 and 4 we have made the level 7 module ‘Modelling in Biology’ compulsory in year 3. To allow you the greatest range of flexibility in technical elective options we also allow you to take further level 7 modules in year 3 and some level 6 modules in year 4 as detailed in the programme structure section of this document.”

To: “To allow you the greatest range of flexibility in technical elective options we allow you to take some level 7 modules in year 3 and some level 6 modules in year 4 as detailed in the programme structure section of this document. You must complete 60 ECTS at level 7 across years 3 and 4 to achieve the MEng qualification.”

6.3.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.4 PC.2020.88 Undergraduate Bioengineering – Rules of Progression

MEng Biomedical Engineering

BEng Biomedical Engineering

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year abroad

MEng Biomedical Engineering with a year in Industry

MEng Molecular Bioengineering

BEng Molecular Bioengineering

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year abroad

MEng Molecular Bioengineering with a year in Industry

6.4.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Bioengineering to make changes to the rules of progression for the named programmes above with effect from October 2021.

6.4.2 At the end of the current Curriculum Reviewed versions of the programme specification in the section on Progression it states that:

“Year Three

A student must:

Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each module. A student may be compensated in modules up to the value of 15 ECTS with a qualifying mark of at least 30%.

Year Four

A student must:

Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each module. A student may be compensated in modules up to the value of 15 ECTS with a qualifying mark of at least 30%. “

The Department would like to amend this to:

“Year Three

A student must:

Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each level 6 module and 50% in each level 7 module. A student may be compensated in modules up to the value of 15 ECTS with a qualifying mark of at least 30% for level 6 modules and 40% for level 7 modules.

Year Four

A student must:

Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each level 6 module and 50% in each level 7 module. A student may be compensated in modules up to the value of 15 ECTS with a qualifying mark of at least 30% for level 6 modules and 40% for level 7 modules”

- 6.4.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.5 PC.2020.89 MSc Innovation Design Engineering

- 6.5.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Dyson School of Design to update the learning outcomes and to change the title of the module ‘GoGlobal’ to ‘Impact (Contextual Impact)’, to update module descriptors and to update module leads with effect from October 2021.
- 6.5.2 The School also proposed to update the English Language Requirement bringing this requirement into line with Global Innovation Design. Specifying Imperial’s Higher level requirement (7.0 overall 6.5 minimum in all elements) with effect from October 2022
- 6.5.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021 for the module changes and with effect from October 2022 for the English Language Requirement changes.

Faculty of Medicine

6.6 PC.2020.90 Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine

- 6.6.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine to include the Student-Researcher Immersion Programme (SRIP) into the Scientific Enquiry and Evidence-Based Medicine (SEEM) module permanently for year 3 with effect from October 2021; to make changes to the delivery and assessment of Year 5 Electives with effect from October 2021; to make an in-session change with the removal of the requirement for submission of the Long Term Patient Project (LTPP) assignment as a criterion of eligibility for entry to the Year 1 summative examinations in academic year 2020/21.
- 6.6.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.7 PC.2020.91 MSc Reproductive and Development Biology

- 6.7.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction to make changes to the learning outcomes, assessments and pattern of learning and teaching to the module 'Bumps to Babies' (META70022) with effect from October 2021.
- 6.7.2 The main points contained within the module learning outcomes have not changed, but they have been re-written so as to reflect the content and aims of the module more accurately, and to ensure that Level 7 descriptors are used throughout.
- 6.7.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021

6.8 PC.2020.92 MSc Allergy

- 6.8.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the National Heart and Lung Institute requesting flexibility with the number of modules to be completed in the third-year and to make changes to the learning outcomes for modules 'Food Hypersensitivity' (NHLI70028) and 'Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis and Immunotherapy' (NHLI70029) with effect from October 2021.
- 6.8.2 **Programme overall:** Students completing the MSc in 3 academic years to be given the flexibility to complete 2 of the 5 modules they are required to complete for the Diploma level in their third year.

Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis and Immunotherapy module:

Add a fourth learning outcome as follows: *Estimate the benefits and risks of allergen specific immunotherapy for the treatment of Hymenoptera venom hypersensitivity.*

Food Hypersensitivity:

Add a fifth learning outcome as follows: *Understand the dietary management principles for both paediatric and adult food hypersensitivity and recognise the increased risk for nutritional deficiencies and how to manage this.*

- 6.8.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

6.9 PC.2020.93 Short Course -Adapt to Postgrad (ATP)

- 6.9.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to make changes to the approximate timings to complete course modules and to also update the course content, with effect from September 2021.
- 6.9.2 In response to thorough pilot evaluation, approximate timings to complete course modules have been updated to reflect insights from data analytics obtained from pilot delivery (Module 1 takes approximately 6 hours for students to complete, rather than the initially predicted 3 hours).

In response to feedback from colleagues across the institution, course content for academic year 2021/22 delivery has been minorly amended (without compromising core aspects or learning outcomes of the course), in order to create a version that could be accessed and appropriate for any prospective PGT student across the institution, rather than restricting access to the Faculty of Medicine.

- 6.9.3 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021.

Imperial College Business School

6.10 PC.2020.94 MRes Business (1Y) 2021

- 6.10.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to remove the elective modules 'Computational Finance' (COMP97025), 'Computational Optimisation' (COMP97055) and 'Operations Research' (COMP96025) from the above programme with effect from September 2021.
- 6.10.2 The modules are delivered by the Department of Computing, which is no longer able to offer them to Business School students as credit bearing modules.
- 6.10.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2021.

6.11 PC.2020.95 MRes Business (1Y) 2022

- 6.11.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to remove the elective modules 'Empirical Asset Pricing' (BUSI97174), 'Asset Pricing' (BUSI97158), 'Corporate Finance' (BUSI97160) and 'Microeconomics' (BUSI97159) from the above programme with effect from September 2022.
- 6.11.2 These modules are aimed at students on the Finance pathway. From 2022/23, these students will be admitted to the 2 year programme, where equivalent modules are being introduced, therefore these modules are no longer required.
- 6.11.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2022.

6.12 PC.2020.96 MRes Business (2Y)

- 6.12.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to make changes to the programme structure for MRes in Business (2 year) 'Finance' stream and 'Economics and Public Policy' stream with effect from September 2022.
- 6.12.2 **The Business School proposes to introduce the following new Compulsory modules:**
Applied Microeconometrics 1 (compulsory for Finance and EPP pathways)
Applied Microeconometrics 2 (compulsory for Fin and EPP pathways)
Asset Pricing Theory (compulsory for Fin and elective for EPP pathway)
Corporate Finance (compulsory for Fin and elective for EPP pathway)
Econometrics (compulsory for Fin and elective for EPP pathway)
Empirical Asset Pricing (compulsory for Fin and elective for EPP pathway)
Macroeconomics (compulsory for Fin and EPP pathways)
Microeconomics 1 (compulsory for Fin and EPP pathways)
Microeconomics 2 (compulsory for EPP and elective for Fin pathway)

A new 2 year MRes programme has been approved by the College to launch in 2021/22, initially for students on the Management & Entrepreneurship pathway. As of 2022/23, students on the Finance and Economics & Public Policy pathways will also enrol on the two year programme. The introduction of these modules will provide appropriate compulsory and elective options for both pathways.

- 6.12.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2022.

6.13 PC.2020.97 MSc Finance Suite

MSc Finance

MSc Finance and Accounting
MSc Financial Technology
MSc Investment & Wealth Management
MSc Risk Management & Financial Engineering

6.13.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to introduce a new assessment for the module 'Banks, Regulation & Monetary Policy' (BUSI97069), to change the assessment format from closed-book exam to open-book exam for the modules 'Machine Learning and Finance' (BUSI97608) and 'Real Estate Investments' (BUSI97064) for the above programmes with effect from April 2021.

6.13.2 **Banks, Regulation & Monetary Policy**
Introduction of MCQs, worth 40% of the exam.

Machine Learning & Finance
Real Estate Investments
Exam format change to open book

6.13.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect.

6.14 PC.2020.98 MSc Financial Technology

6.14.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to remove the elective module 'Big Data in Finance' (BUSI97637) from the above programme with effect from September 2021.

6.14.2 Due to a consolidation of module codes, all Finance Suite students will now take BUSI7541 Big Data in Finance II, therefore BUSI97637 can be withdrawn.

6.14.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2021.

6.15 PC.2020.99 MBA (Full-time)

6.15.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to add the elective modules 'Pricing Strategy' (BUSI97428), 'Insurance' (BUSI97157), and 'Corporate Law and Corporate Tax Strategy' (BUSI97329) to the above programme with effect from September 2020.

6.15.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect.

6.16 PC.2020.100 Global MBA

Global Online MBA (September entry)
Global Online MBA (January entry)

6.16.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to add the elective modules 'Pricing Strategy' (BUSI97001), 'Private Equity' (BUSI97018) and Brand Management (BUSI96036) to the above programmes with effect from September 2019.

6.16.2 These modules have already been made available to the Global MBA students for the current academic year. Retrospective approval is sought to add this to the relevant programme of study.

6.16.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect.

6.17 PC.2020.101 MSc International Health Management

- 6.17.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to remove the elective module 'Global Immersion' (BUSI70045) from the above programme with effect from September 2021.
- 6.17.2 The School intended to introduce the existing Global Immersion module as an elective on this programme. It has since been decided that an elective tailored more specifically to the MSc IHM cohort would be preferable, and therefore Global Immersion will not be delivered on this programme (although will still run on other MSc programmes) and the new Global Health Immersion module will be introduced in its place.
- 6.17.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2021.

6.18 PC.2020.102 MSc Strategic Marketing

- 6.18.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to change the learning outcomes for module 'Relationship Marketing' (BUSI97209) on the above programme with effect from September 2021.
- 6.18.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2021.

6.19 PC.2020.103 Weekend MBA

- 6.19.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to add the elective 'Operations Management' (BUSI97441) to the above programme with effect from September 2020.
- 6.19.2 This module has already been made available to the Weekend MBA students for the current academic year. Retrospective approval is sought to add this to the relevant programme of study.
- 6.19.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect.

6.20 PC.2020.104 Weekend MBA (Saudi Aramco Corporate Stream)

- 6.20.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Business School to withdraw the compulsory module 'Advanced Corporate Finance' (BUSI97743) and add a new compulsory module 'Leadership' to the above programme with effect from September 2021.
- 6.20.2 The Weekend MBA (Saudi Aramco Corporate Stream) is an employer sponsored programme. As such, the sponsors need students to be provided with certain content to best enhance their career aspirations with the company. When Saudi Aramco originally chose the cohort's second year modules, they anticipated a cohort made up predominantly of finance professionals. This has ended up not being the case, and they are therefore looking to replace the currently planned Advanced Corporate Finance module with a Leadership module.
- 6.20.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval effect from September 2021

Short Courses

7.1 PC.2020.105 Essentials of Immunology

7.1.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Immunology and Inflammation to introduce the above online short course with effect from January 2022.

7.1.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval effect from January 2022.

8 Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 14 September 2021, 10:00-13:00

Tuesday 30 November 2021, 13:00-16:00

Tuesday 25 January 2022, 10:00-13:00

Tuesday 29 March 2022, 10:00-13:00

Tuesday 21 June 2022, 10:00-13:00