

Paper for the Graduate School Committee

Background

The policy to prepare doctoral students for teaching through the first module (EDM 120 Learning Teaching and Assessment of the MA Academic Practice has been in place for a few years. Student feedback is that this does provide them with more confidence in their teaching activities.

Current Position

Increasingly these same students are signing up to complete the full Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice in one year. However our advice is that those students who wish to complete a PG Cert should do this over two years. We do ask all PhD students opting for this to get approval from their supervisors prior to us placing them on other modules to ensure this does not negatively impact their doctoral studies. Recently we have found that students attempting to complete a PG Cert in one year have problems keeping up with the work, miss deadlines and so fail assessments or have to withdraw because the work for their doctoral studies is suffering.

Proposal for future

The postgraduate certificate is 60 level 7 credits so if they complete this in one year this represents 600 hours study. We are keen to support PhD students who wish to complete the Postgraduate Certificate, recognising the obvious advantage of this is when they complete their doctorate. We however feel that a policy should be implemented that they spread their study over two years rather than one.

Recommendation

That the committee approves the policy that students who wish to undertake the Postgraduate Certificate do this over two years and not one.

HEA Fellowship

All doctoral students do gain Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy on completion of the first module, EDM 120. It is usual for staff to then gain Fellowship on completion of the 60 credits for the Postgraduate Certificate. Whilst doctoral students can gain the academic award of PG Cert they cannot be granted Fellowship status due their role being limited in terms of their teaching and programme development activity. We do advise students of this.

Paper by

Dr Pam Parker
Acting Director LEaD

Neal Sumner
MA Programme Director LEaD