

The University of Edinburgh

The Moray House School of Education

School Postgraduate Studies Committee

14 March 2017

*Masters in childhood practice as a pathway through the Advanced
Studies in Global Childhood and Youth*

Brief description of the paper

We are proposing a joint programme between the Moray House School of Education (MHSE) and the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS), with collaboration through postgraduate courses, postgraduate supervision, CPD and other potential activities with colleagues in other Schools (e.g. links have already been made with Edinburgh College of Art, School of Health in Social Science, School of Law, and the Usher Institute). Its strongest presentation would be as a combination of advanced studies, with the MSc degree at its core, and the potential for progression onto a PhD and complementary CPD opportunities.

The MSc itself would be an umbrella degree, from which students would specialise and have differentiated exit awards. Such an approach has proved highly successful for other MSc programmes, such as the global health MScs in SPSS and the MSc in Education in MHSE. These have brought together related degrees for strong student recruitment and efficiencies in programme delivery.

The proposed MSc builds on existing provision and maximises existing resources. For example, it will amalgamate the current MSc in Childhood Studies; its core courses will be used across the programme pathways. The degree will use courses already being delivered, most currently cross-listed with the MSc in Childhood Studies, to become core to particular pathways or to ensure students have suitable optional choice. It provides the opportunity to develop a vocational strand in the early years, which has been an on-going demand from applicants for years and has both national and global resonance. This vocational strand has already received initial validation in the MHSE, in 2011. This strand will particularly bring in the success of current Froebel CPD training,¹ offered through the MHSE, to the degree programme.

Action requested

For Approval

¹ <http://www.ed.ac.uk/education/professional-learning/froebel>

Resource implications

Does the paper have resource implications? Yes

If 'Yes', in which section(s) of the paper are they described?

This will be address at the School Policy and Resources committee but it should be noted that the Froebel Trust are willing to fund £50,000 of fees for the first cohort and the programme does not require any new courses

Risk assessment

No because this is about new pathways not new courses

Equality and diversity

This is inherent within the proposed paper work – the programme has key learning outcomes that address this issue.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

If no, please indicate why the paper must be withheld, and for how long (eg until decision is publicly announced):

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice a programme of research		Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs	
Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation		Its disclosure would constitute a breach of confidence actionable in court	
Its disclosure would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act		Other (please give further details)	

Any other relevant information

Please note that the masters in childhood practice passed through an approval process in 2011 that included a panel with external members from the SSSC, Queens University Belfast and internal members from the School of Education. The changes to making it a route with differently named pathways came out of that review – see attached minute

Originator of the paper

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