Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences Board

Approved by Teaching Audit Committee 22/04/13 and EdC 23/05/13

Title of programme
MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention

Brief note about nature of change:
Renaming of the programme from the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention to the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Effective date
1 October 2014

Location of change
Examination Regulations 2012

Detail of change

1. P.710, l.18, after “Intervention” insert “and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)”.
2. P.710, l.20, after “Intervention” insert “and Policy Evaluation”.
3. P.710, l.22, after “Evidence-Based” insert “Social”.
4. P.710, l.22, delete “Interventions” and insert “Intervention and Policy Evaluation”.
5. P.710, l.27, delete “methods of, Evidence-Based Social Intervention” and insert “evidence-based intervention and evaluation methods,.”.
6. P.711, l.2, delete “Intervention” and insert “Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation”.
7. P.711, l.3, delete “interventions” and insert “social interventions and policy
evaluation research”.

8. P.711, l.4, delete “introduce students to a comparative perspective and”.

9. P.711, l.4, after “intervention” insert “and evaluation”.

10. P.711, l.9, delete “interventions” and insert “social interventions and policies”.

11. P.711, l.9-11, delete “There will be a particular emphasis on the appraisal and design of randomised controlled trials for evaluating social interventions.”.

Explanatory Notes

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention (DSPI) has considered how to better reflect the content of MSc/MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention in the course name, and to improve the marketing to prospective students. The Executive Committee of DSPI in consultation with the teaching team has taken the decision to propose a change of name for the MSc/MPhil to “Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)” with effect from the start of the academic year 2014/15.

The course team considered that the title Evidence-Based Social Intervention was somewhat misleading, especially as broader issues of policy evaluation have been a core element from the very beginning of the programmes. After careful consideration the Executive Committee of the DSPI is of the opinion that the proposed name will be a more accurate reflection of the content of the course. Furthermore, the new name should provide a broader base of prospective students, as the old name does not sufficiently signal to prospective students the range of methodological approaches to evaluation of interventions and policies included in the teaching. Moreover, the current name creates the impression of a rather narrow course and thereby unnecessarily and artificially limits the number of student applications.

Clauses 1-11 address all sections of the examination regulations entry for the MSc in EBSI to fully enact the change, predominantly adding ‘Policy Evaluation’ to various points throughout the entry.