Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of 13 December 2010

Title of Programme
MSc in Education

Brief note about nature of change: Revision to the title of the e-Learning route of the programme to 'Learning and Technology'

Effective date
With effect from 1 October 2011 (for first examination in 2012)

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2010

Detail of change

1 In Examination Regulations, 2010, p.712, l.41 and l.49, delete ‘e-Learning’ and substitute ‘Learning and Technology’.

2 Ibid., p.714, delete l.18, and substitute:
   
   ‘(f) Learning and Technology I: theoretical and technological foundations of technology assisted learning’

3 Ibid., delete ll.22-24, and substitute:

   ‘Learning and Technology I addresses the historical, theoretical and technological foundations of technology assisted learning, and examines its global development as a major focus for policy, investment and innovation.’.
4 Ibid., delete l.27 and substitute:

‘(g) Learning and Technology II: Practical applications of technology in education’.

5 Ibid., delete l.28, and substitute:

‘Learning and Technology II explores the practical applications of technology in education, focusing on how’.

Explanatory Notes

The department considers that the title eLearning is becoming both out-of-date and somewhat misleading. Whilst it could still be taken as a generic name for a broad range of practices and theoretical perspectives relating to the use of digital technologies in various fields of education (i.e. schools, HE, workplaces, lifelong learning), this is no longer the case. Increasingly, this term is used to denote either (a) distance learning only or (b) workplace training using new technologies. More recently, terms such as Technology Enhanced Learning and Educational Technologies have been popular, but the first is somewhat loaded in meaning, and the second too technology-focussed. The course concerns theories and practices relating to the use, globally and nationally, of digital technologies to support learning in a wide range of contexts, and the course team is confident - having discussed this with many students over the last twelve months - that this name will be more effective in recruiting students from many parts of the world. This should also help to avoid the confusion that is sometimes created by the term eLearning, in giving the wrong impression that this is a distance online course.

Therefore, the department requested that the course be renamed MSc Education (Learning and Technology) as soon as possible, so that this title can be used in recruitment of students for the next academic year (2011-2012). The term eLearning will continue to be included in promotional material for the time being, in order to clarify the fact that this is the same course as that previously advertised as eLearning – and the course information (on the website, and in the Programme Specifications) will be updated to reflect this change.