

**Internal Periodic Review** of: School of Divinity PG provision

**Date of review:** 1–2 November 2022

**Date of 14 week response:** 10 May 2023

**Date of year on response:** 15 February 2024

The School/Subject Area is responsible for reporting on progress with all recommendations, including those remitted to other areas of the University for action. If any recommendation has been fully addressed please record the action taken and date completed. Any barriers to progress should be highlighted on this report.

Recommendation no	Recommendation	Timescale for completion	Comment on progress towards completion and/or identify barriers to completion	Completion date
1	<p>The review team had sympathy for the staff's view that the named PhD programmes provided layers of unnecessary complexity from an administrative viewpoint, potentially resulting in students being siloed within their research groupings. However, subsequent to meeting the students the team considered that before abandoning these named PhD programmes, it would be important to assess whether they were in fact functioning as an important hook in recruitment. The review team strongly <b>recommend</b> seeking further intelligence from students and applicants on how these labels were feeding into choices made before a firm decision either way was taken. It was also <b>recommended</b> that the School look at interactions between degree finder and google, as when the panel searched "world Christianity programmes" Edinburgh came up top because it is one of the only named PhD programmes in search results.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Immediately following the IPR, Divinity consulted current PhD students, who confirmed that they value the existing structure with its specificity (75% of students surveyed valued the specificity). We also take the point that the specificity of our programmes is good for recruitment. Therefore, we have concluded that we will maintain the status quo for now (i.e. we will continue with our current suite of programme names), but will continue to monitor it in case new programmes are required. The IPR also recommended that we look at how Degree Finder interacts with Google. We will also monitor this, but our main concern is to draw enquiries to our School website rather than Degree Finder, and we have recently updated our website accordingly.</p>	Completed April 2023
2	<p>The review Team considered that blended courses across UG and PGT programmes offered a flexible approach for managing delivery of provision from year to year. It was recognised that this may be a sustainable way of offering broad choice at both levels, and have many advantages for students within the room. However, having a majority of optional offerings in this format is arguably excessive. It was <b>recommended</b> that the emerging 'norm' of automatically producing a level 11 version of existing or</p>	Ongoing	<p>The foremost obstacle to following this recommendation completely is the widely varying enrolments on Divinity's several PGT programmes from one year to the next. An additional complication has been a significant turnover in academic staff over the past several years, including several retirements or departures as well as new additions in growth areas. These challenges notwithstanding, however, we heartily agree that PGT students in any particular programme ought not find themselves in the situation of taking mostly paired level 10/level 11 courses.</p>	Review completed February 2024

	proposed level 10 courses for some PGT programmes should be critically reflected on. So too the diversity of practice across MA programmes with regard to having separate tailored PGT sessions within UG/PGT blended courses should be monitored as student experience seems very variable across programmes.		Hence we have reviewed all current PGT course provision, and are having PGT programme directors plan that for each academic session they are offering stand-alone, unpaired PGT options alongside a wider choice of paired level 10/level 11 courses. This will have to be monitored year on year going forward.	
3	The Review Team noted it would be helpful if University systems could digitally facilitate more modularity across disciplines by using keywords more explicitly and promoting courses likely to have more availability as choices. It was <b>recommended</b> that the process for accurately co-listing courses from year-to year should be monitored.	Ongoing	The work of the Course Enrolment task group formed under the Student Lifecycle Management Group has led to system reports that allow identification of where courses are cross-listed across DPTs and data on the percentage of enrolments of students who are taking a course as a core/ compulsory part of their degree or as optional. This will allow a more transparent review of cross-listing of courses and will encourage Schools to update DPTs to ensure students have a more realistic and guided choice on optional course selections.	System report tool completed February 2024
4	The review team <b>recommend</b> that the University invest in adequate on-site IT support and a stable Wi-Fi connection throughout the building. IT issues were obviously a pressure point felt keenly by all members of the learning community in New College.	Ongoing	The Network Replacement Project is upgrading all networking equipment across the campus. A full physical Wi-Fi performance survey has been undertaken at New College. As a result of this mapping exercise, a number of additional wireless access points have been agreed between ISG and local IT support for installation. This should increase the coverage in areas where it has been identified as missing and also improve the performance in other areas as well. There is no date for this installation work yet, however with drawings completed and agreement there is a need from ISG, it will be picked up in due course as part of the larger Network Replacement Project.	Assessment completed February 2024, installation date TBD
5	The review team <b>recommended</b> the School go ahead with their plans to provide a multi-faith prayer space once the fire asset protection work was completed.	Ongoing	Building works for the multi-faith room are scheduled for June 2024, to be completed by August 2024 in time for the 2024-2025 academic session.	To be completed August 2024
	Please report on steps taken to feedback to students on the outcomes of the review	Both the IPR report and the 14 week response were sent to the School Postgraduate Committee for review, where students reps from PGT and PGR programmes were able to read and comment. We will do the same with this year on response at the next School PGSC.		
For Year on response only	Any examples of a positive change as a result of the review	1. Strong affirmation of the current suite of PhD programme options from our current PhD students		

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|  |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Greater provision of stand-alone, unpaired PGT modules for PGT students</li><li>3. A new system report tool from university systems which will streamline the cross-listing of courses on multiple programmes</li><li>4. Assessment of wifi dead spots across the School's facilities, with an instalment plan for remedying these</li><li>5. The new multi-faith room to be ready for the 2024-2025 session</li></ol> |
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