

VALIDATION PROCEDURES: BLACKPOOL COLLEGE FOUNDATION DEGREE PROGRESSION TO LANCASTER UNIVERSITY VALIDATED TOP-UP DEGREE

SEC/2016/3/0782

OVERVIEW

Blackpool & The Fylde College was awarded Foundation Degree Awarding Powers in 2016 and may now offer Foundation Degrees in its own right. All Foundation Degrees are required by the QAA to have a clear progression or articulation route providing students with an opportunity to move onto a higher-level award on successful completion of the Foundation Degree. On completion of the Foundation Degree students can apply to be admitted onto the related top-up degree. Lancaster currently validates 2 year Foundation Degrees for Blackpool and 1 year top-up degrees.

Lancaster has agreed to provide validation for top-up degrees as a progression route for students progressing from Blackpool Foundation Degrees.

The usual validation approval process will apply for Lancaster top-up degrees onto Blackpool Foundation Degrees following the stages of:

- Business Planning Schedule (BPS);
- Outline Planning Permission (OPP) proposal;
- Full proposal and validation event.

Quality Assurance Processes for Blackpool College Validated Foundation Degrees

Lancaster needs to be assured of the quality and standards of the provision of Blackpool College validated Foundation Degrees as Lancaster must be satisfied that the Blackpool College Foundation Degree awards appropriately prepare students for progression through to Lancaster validated top-up degrees.

Basic Principles

- The Lancaster validation of the top-up degree will follow the usual approval process and be covered under the usual validation fee arrangement.
- Lancaster's consideration of the Blackpool validated Foundation Degree (FD) will be for curriculum articulation purposes only and not a full validation process.
- This process applies to College FDs leading onto Lancaster validated top-up degrees only and does not include consideration of Degree Apprenticeships, for which separate arrangements will be agreed.
- Lancaster will monitor the number of Lancaster validated FDs that are converted to College FDs over the next two academic years and reserves the right to revisit the process articulated here and the associated articulation fee.

Anticipated Work Associated with Quality Assurance Processes related to the FD

Annual Work

- Lancaster's Collaborative Provision Teaching Committee (CPTC) will continue to have annual oversight of curriculum development, including reference to linked Foundation Degrees offered by Blackpool.
- Lancaster will continue to be informed of any changes to curriculum to both the Foundation Degree and top-up degree. AQSC will receive programme changes or module changes and review the impact of changes to the FD on articulation to the Lancaster validated top-up degree.
- Lancaster will continue to be informed of any changes to staffing to both the Foundation Degree and top-up degree. AQSC and the relevant Programme Consultant will receive CVs of new staff.
- Lancaster will continue to appoint External Examiners for Lancaster validated top-up degrees. The same External Examiner will be assigned to cover the related Blackpool Foundation Degree and to consider the articulation between the FD and top-up degree..
- Lancaster will continue to review External Examiner reports for Blackpool programmes including Blackpool Foundation Degrees. AQSC will review the External Examiner FD report in order to remain alert to any potential issues.
- Lancaster will monitor the marketing of the Lancaster validated top-up degree as a progression route from the College FD.
- Lancaster will monitor the entry qualifications and degree outcomes of students progressing onto the Lancaster validated top-up degree.

Work Carried Out Every Five Years

- CPTC will retain overarching responsibility, through Quinquennial Review, for institutional approval of Blackpool Foundation Degree students to progress to Lancaster validated top-up degrees offered at Blackpool.
- Lancaster will continue to provide input into the development of Blackpool's Foundation Degrees via ex-officio membership of the Blackpool Academic Standards and Development Committee. AQSC will scrutinise and comment on the FD Outline Planning Permission.
- Lancaster subject specialists (Programme Consultants) will continue to be consulted as part of the programme development process for the Foundation Degree and assist with development as deemed appropriate.
- Lancaster validation panel will assess the articulation from the Blackpool FD to the Lancaster validated top-up degree. The Lancaster panel members: (Chair, Subject Specialist, External Assessor, and AQSC representative), will consider the FD validation document and curriculum mapping to assess articulation to the Lancaster validated top-up degree.

Approval Procedure for Blackpool College Validated Foundation Degrees

Validation events for Blackpool Foundation Degrees will be held on the same day as a Lancaster validation event for the related top-up degree, in order to provide assurance that the mapping from Foundation Degree to top-up degree is appropriate.

The documentation for the Lancaster validated top-up degree will include a mapping document articulating the progression from the Blackpool Foundation Degree onto the Lancaster top-up degree. The full Foundation Degree validation document will also be made available to the Lancaster panel in order to assess the articulation of the Blackpool Foundation Degree and Lancaster validated top-up degree. The External Assessor will be a member of the Blackpool panel and the Lancaster panel to provide additional continuity.

