



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

To: Heads of School, Directors of Learning & Teaching, Senior Tutors

cc: Prof Charlie Jeffery, Prof Allan Murray, Prof Susan Rhind, Tom Ward, Brian Connolly

Date: 9th February 2016

Student-Led Individually Created Courses (SLICCs)

Phase 2 Pilot, summer vacation 2016

Dear colleague,

We are writing to seek your support for the Phase 2 Pilot of SLICCs.

Background

SLICCs offer students a framework to reflect on the development of their professional and academic skills during an appropriate extra-curricular experience that they arrange for themselves during their summer vacation (e.g. internship, expedition, work experience, summer project), to gain additional academic credit.

The Senate Curriculum and Student Progression Committee (CSPC) has recently reviewed the evaluation of the proof-of-concept SLICCs pilot conducted in summer 2015. They agreed it was successful and that it represented an opportunity for the University to become sector-leading with this teaching innovation. Students who participated in SLICCs were warmly appreciative of the learning experience and outcome. CSPC has agreed to an expanded Phase 2 pilot of SLICCs in summer 2016, involving up to 100 students. This will provide these students with the opportunity to gain 10 credits at SCQF Level 8.

In the SLICC, the student will define their project and learning experience in an initial proposal that must be approved by SLICCs academic tutors prior to the commencement of the SLICC. In this they will design their learning experience around three prescribed learning outcomes. Whilst undertaking their SLICC, students will regularly log their reflections in a blog, with evidence, as part of an e-portfolio. Students will receive academic feedback at three key time-points: on their initial proposal prior to approval; optionally half-way through; and with the summative assessment of their final report.

Student eligibility & progression

SLICCs can be viewed as an elective course for additional credits that Year 1 and Year 2 undergraduate students can opt into for this summer vacation period. Students will have to be in good academic standing at the time of submission of their SLICC proposal, and also starting their SLICC. Essentially, if they are required to take resits over the summer, they will not be permitted to

undertake their SLICC. Permission to register for a SLICC will need to be signed off by their Personal Tutor. Final SLICC assessments will be submitted by students in early September, before the start of the academic year, and will be reviewed by a Board of Examiners in the School of Education in late September 2016. Therefore, their credits will remain unawarded at the time of decisions made on progression, hence they will be for additional credit at the time of progression review.

Timeline

- **w/c 15 February:** promotion to students of the opportunity to undertake a SLICC will commence and will include roadshows and a dedicated website.
- **Wednesday 9 March:** deadline for students' initial applications – places will be limited and students' applications reviewed by a selection panel.
- **w/c 14 & 21 March:** preparatory workshops will be held to support successful students in developing their SLICCs project proposal prior to submission.
- **Following proposal submission:** students' SLICCs proposals reviewed by SLICCs academic tutors, feedback provided and students given opportunity to resubmit where appropriate.
- **Summer 2016:** Students commence their SLICCs.
- **September 2016:** Deadline for students' final reports and BoE meets (late September).

The SLICCs programme can only work with the full support of Schools. We would be delighted if you were able to suggest an academic member of staff who could act as a point of contact in your school (if possible by 1st March so they can be integrated into the workshop training schedule) who would be willing to act as an academic tutor for a small number of students who may be in your school or cross-disciplinary in another school, and also who would participate in the Board of Examiners. Be assured that the funding for this credit will follow the student to the school where the academic time / work is being undertaken.

Your support will be very much appreciated for this exciting innovation that has the potential to address many of our key agendas and in which we have the opportunity to be sector-leading.

Dr Simon Riley, SLICCs Academic Lead (Simon.C.Riley@ed.ac.uk - point of initial communication)

Professor Lesley McAra, Assistant Principal Community Relations

Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Assistant Principal Research-led Learning

Dr Gavin McCabe, Employability Consultancy