

## Curriculum approval

The Quality in Formation Panel holds responsibility for ensuring that the programmes of training undertaken by both ordinands and Readers is appropriate. In order to do this, it approves the curricula offered for that training.

While what is seen as the 'curriculum' is not limited to academic modules, equally it normally does not capture the full breadth of the formational experience (for example, the pattern of corporate worship at the TEI is not normally included). However the full breadth is considered when a new pathway is approved, reviewed annually by the TEI as part of the ASE process (with significant changes noted on the ASE form, and hence transparent to the Quality in Formation Panel), and externally evaluated as part of the PER process.

Hence approval needs to be sought from the Quality in Formation Panel whenever there is a change to the curriculum such that what is offered will be different from what has previously been approved, or when there is a desire to introduce a new curricular proposal. In practice, very minor changes to existing curricula are agreed by Ministry Division staff on behalf of the Panel.

A small sub-group of the Panel considers other proposals, and makes recommendations to the Panel: while on occasion the Chair of the Panel may approve something on the recommendation of the sub-group, at other times the proposal may need to be considered by the full Panel, and TEIs need to be aware that this only meets three times each year.

Where a proposal goes beyond the curricular such that it constitutes a new pathway, the formal process for new pathways needs to be followed: this would include, for example, a proposal by a TEI to offer a mode of training which it does not currently offer.

When the curriculum includes a Common Awards award, the 'TII' form should normally be used to report what is proposed. There is guidance as to what a typical curriculum for ordination or Reader training might include. However this guidance is indicative of what would be typical in the formal taught programme, not definitive either of what is sure to receive approval or of what must be included.

For example, while the guidance suggests that a pathway might typically contain 20 credits in spirituality and/or worship, clearly the Panel will need to know that ordinands and readers will develop in both areas. Or pastoral care might be taught as the topic for an Integrative Learning module. The right hand 'comments' column should be used to indicate significant additional information which will enable the Panel to see how the proposed pathway will indeed appropriately cover the breadth of the formation criteria.

Please note that church curriculum processes need to be followed for any change in addition to any request for approval submitted to Durham University.

For proposals which do not contain a Common Awards award, TEIs are encouraged to use the TII format, but the curriculum may be presented in other ways if the TEI prefers. There may be a need to send more information about e.g. module content if the module title does not sufficiently indicate how it relates to particular areas within the Formation Criteria.

Advice can always be sought from the IME Pathways Adviser ([keith.beech-gruneberg@churchofengland.org](mailto:keith.beech-gruneberg@churchofengland.org))