

ACADEMIC BOARD – MEETING 4/03 (22 MAY 2003)

Paper on Concurrent Diplomas

From 1995, the University's Academic Board approved the introduction of a new type of program - the undergraduate 'concurrent diploma' - designed to enable students to pursue a specialised major in a discipline other than the mainstream of their bachelor's degree program. The first concurrent diploma was to encourage students wishing to continue their language studies through the Diploma of Modern Languages. Initially, the Modern Language diploma was for non-Arts students but this was later changed so that BA students could also study a language additional to their major area of study. This was soon followed by the introduction of the Diploma of Music (Practical) to facilitate continued study of a musical instrument by students without having to undertake a Bachelor of Music.

The concurrent diploma consists of 100 points or the equivalent of one year of study, which is additional to the requirements of the student's bachelor's program. Students are not eligible for the award of the diploma until they have completed the requirements for their bachelor's degree.

In recent years, concurrent diploma programs in Creative Arts, Information Systems and Arts have been introduced, though the program with the most significant enrolments (more than 500 students) is the Diploma of Modern Languages.

The University currently offers five concurrent diplomas: one from the Faculty of Music, three from the Faculty of Arts and one from the Science Faculty:

Diploma in Music (Practical) Handbook p. 677)

Recognising that not all students interested in musical study wish to commit themselves to professional training in music, the University of Melbourne now offers a Diploma in Music (Practical). The Diploma in Music (Practical) will add one year to the total duration of the student's main degree course, and can only be awarded on the successful completion of the student's main degree.

First year

740-146 Practical Study 1D 12.5

740-104 Ensemble 1-1 6.25

740-103 Ensemble 1-2 6.25

Second year

740-246 Practical Study 2D 12.5

740-204 Ensemble 2-1 6.25

740-203 Ensemble 2-2 6.25

Third year

740-346 Practical Study 3D 12.5

740-308 Ensemble 3-1 6.25

740-344 Ensemble 3-2 6.25

Plus

4 Musicology Electives (taken across the 3 years) 12.5 x 4=25.0

Total points: 100

Diploma of Arts (Handbook p. 88)

- Duration is 3 years (4 years for Ancient Greek or Latin)
- 100 point Diploma consisting of 25 points of 1st year subjects; 25 points of 2nd year subjects; 50 points of 3rd year subjects (according to the handbook).
- The Diploma currently exists in a single specified field of study from a list of 29 subject areas.

Diploma in Creative Arts (Handbook p. 351)

- Duration is 3 years
- 100 points consisting of the same distribution as the Diploma of Arts in one of four creative arts areas: creative writing, media arts, theatre studies or visual arts

Diploma in Modern Languages (Handbook P.87)

- Duration is 3 years
- 100 points (minimum). The diploma specifies the study of one language from an available list of ten.
- Stream enrolment and subject sequence determined by relevant department

Diploma in Information Systems (Handbook p.718)

- Duration is 3 years
- 100 points consisting of 3 100-level and 4 200-level specified core subjects plus one other 200-level or 300-level information system subject, also from a specified list.

All five of these diplomas add one year to the principle course undertaken.

In addition there are currently a group of 'Advanced Diplomas' from ILFR (Agriculture/ Forestry Management / Horticulture / and one in Equine Management which is being phased out). These are all two-year, 200-point courses and do not come under the classification of concurrent diplomas.

The five concurrent diplomas all appear to share unity of structure and academic intent. As it stands, that intent is clearly one of specialisation in a single subject area or activity. To date none of these diplomas is generalist which is what APC may have to grapple with in the first current proposal from Arts. There is also no mention of any 'dropping back' mechanism for students enrolled in combined degrees.

Enrolments in Concurrent Diplomas

Concurrent Diploma	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Dip of Arts	3	19	33	42	67	90
Dip of Modern Languages	243	382	376	440	467	506
Dip Creative Arts	NA	(VCA) 15	(VCA) 29	(VCA) 62	74	89
Dip of Music (Practical)	27	31	36	48	50	62
Dip of Information Systems	NA	NA	28	59	67	70

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