

TIMELINES FOR PROGRAMME APPROVAL AND VALIDATION

General principle: programmes complete validation nine months before delivery starts, to allow operational set up.

Recruitment principle: Inclusion in the prospectus allows programmes to get the best recruitment start possible. Timely approval of CVRs and Financial information allows programmes to receive a full cycle of recruitment before entry to give them the best chance of recruiting optimal numbers. Programmes can also be advertised for the longest amount of time possible without a 'subject to approval' caveat.

Where programmes have non-standard entry points (e.g. January starts), the first start of a programme is a minimum of nine months after validation.

SPC - Strategic Portfolio Committee

CVRs - Course Viability Reports

DFSC - Design Feasibility Sub-Committee

Undergraduate and Postgraduate approval timelines

2026-27 entry - undergraduate prospectus sign off is January 2025

School Portfolio Plans to be approved by SPC

Latest approval from SPC for new programme FBC for 2026 entry is January 2025

CVRs for re-validated programmes May 2025; FBC where required September 2025

Validation process between September 2024 and April 2025 or September 2025 and December 2025

Validation process for re-validated programmes between September 2025 and May 2026

Delivery begins September 2026

2027-28 entry – undergraduate prospectus sign off is January 2026

School Portfolio Plans to be approved by SPC – March 2025

CVRs and Financials - latest approval July 2025 to enable programmes to be in the prospectus

DFSC meetings held no later than October 2025

Validation process between January 2026 and May 2026 or September 2026 and February 2027

Validation process for re-validated programmes between September 2026 and May 2027

Delivery begins September 2027

2028-29 entry – undergraduate prospectus sign off is January 2027

School Portfolio Plans to be approved by SPC March 2026

CVRs and Financials - latest approval July 2026 to enable programmes to be in the prospectus

DFSC meetings held no later than October 2026

Validation process between January 2027 and May 2028 or September 2027 and February 2028

Validation process for re-validated programmes between September 2027 and May 2028

Delivery begins September 2028