CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students):
Approval of New Research Programme

FACULTY OF HEALTH: Health and Social Care Research Unit: MPhil

1.1 Award and Title

MPhil in Nursing & Midwifery Studies, Radiography, Imaging Sciences, Paramedical Studies, Psychology or Health Education.

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

Two years full time
Three years part time.

1.3 Entry Requirements

A good Upper Second Class Honours Degree from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject e.g. BSc Biological, Social or Physical Sciences, or Psychology. Where appropriate a professional qualification will be required. Applicants with other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that 4 FTE will be recruited to health-related research degrees each year.

1.5 Programme Management

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Director of Research and Development in the Faculty of Health and, where appropriate, with the relevant Heads of Department (i.e. Allied Health Professions, Health and Social Welfare Studies, Midwifery and Child Health Studies, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Adult Nursing).

1.6 Proposed Start Date

September 2003

1.7 Opportunity and Need

The Faculty of Health has an established record of supervising postgraduate research students (MPhil/PhD) to completion. Members of staff within the Faculty are experienced in supervision and have published extensively in relevant fields. The Health and Social Care Research Unit has been established to provide a focus for postgraduate research within the newly established Faculty of Health (October 2001). The Faculty receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from potential students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in Health and Social Care-related research.

1.8 Aims and Objectives
The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to their discipline. In order to be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (by research and thesis) candidates are required to demonstrate an appropriate ability to conduct an original investigation, to test ideas, whether the candidate's own or those of others, and to understand the relationship between his/her investigation and the wider field of knowledge. The candidate is also required to show appropriate ability in the organisation and presentation of his/her material in the thesis.

Many postgraduate research students in Health and Social Care related disciplines are employed in Health Authorities and/or NHS Trusts or Social Work Departments. Others are employed as academics holding teaching posts in tertiary education. Graduates may gain employment in any of these environments or in the private health and social care sector.

1.9 Programme Outline

- **Research Training**
  Students will be expected to participate in the College Research Training Programme (see Introduction, Section K). Training will also be given in library research skills; modules specific to health-related research and other relevant issues are currently offered and, from September 2003, will from a part of the Masters in Research currently being developed within the Graduate School. Training in additional skills (e.g. IT, writing skills etc.) is available if required. Additional training is tailored to the needs of individual students.

- **Seminars**
  Research students are expected to attend both Faculty Research Seminars and those offered within the individual Departments comprising the Faculty. As their research progresses, students will be expected to present their work in such seminars, and to chair other seminar sessions so as to improve their presentation skills. All students are encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences both internally and at external venues.

- **Progression**
  Students will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress. Students will submit a portfolio of their research work (see Introduction, Section J), which includes their written work to date, together with an updated research methodology and plan for future research activities.

- **Assessment**
  The final assessment of the MPhil will be carried out by examination of a written thesis and performance in a viva voce examination.

1.10 Approved Supervisors

Six members of the Faculty have already received approval as First Supervisors for previous research programmes; additional staff are currently gaining experience to enable them to provide supervision in the future. They are supported by both External Supervisors and other approved Supervisors within the College.

1.11 Research Environment

- The Unit has an established research environment and its academic staff are research-active and regularly publish and present papers in the national and international arena (seminars, conferences). We are currently in receipt of
research grants of approximately (£150,000) per annum from external bodies and local Healthcare Trusts and Authorities.

- We offer a varied seminar programme involving both internal and external speakers visiting our Faculty, and our academic staff regularly receive invitations to speak at other institutions and to present refereed papers at Conferences. Students are expected to attend the departmental seminars and are encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences at external venues and, where appropriate, to present their work to a wider audience.

- Each research student will be allocated desk/computing facilities and will share phone/fax facilities with other researchers. The University College Library holds a large collection of relevant material. In addition, students have access to material at a range of other institutions with which we have contact, such as the nearby Postgraduate Centre Library at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, which is part of the East Kent NHS Hospitals Trust, as well as access to a wide range of relevant electronic databases.

1.12 Student Support and Guidance

- Students are allocated a supervisory team comprising at least two members; one supervisor is designated as the primary contact. An experienced researcher chairs each team. It is expected that the supervisory team will help students to make use of the services offered by the Graduate School where appropriate.

- The student’s progress will be officially monitored through an annual review, where both the student and the supervisory team will be expected to comment on the progress made over the preceding year. These reports will be reviewed by the Research Degrees subcommittee and by the Director of Research.

- During periods of fieldwork, students are encouraged to keep in regular contact with their supervisors by e-mail or phone. Ideally, there should be contact on a weekly basis, unless the nature of the fieldwork prevents this.

1.13 Faculty/Departmental Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- Postgraduate students are represented on the Faculty Board and on the Faculty Research Committee both of which meet once each term; the Postgraduate Association is also represented on the University College Research Policy subcommittee of the Academic Board.

These mechanisms provide students with the opportunity to offer feedback to the Faculty and the University College about Supervisory and all other research issues; they also offer the opportunity for the College/Faculty to inform students about future developments to the programmes.

- In addition to the obligatory programmes arranged by the College Research Office, the Faculty provides its own subject-specific training in methodology and other areas of research training. This programme is tailored to the needs of individual students.

1.14 Departmental Resource Implications

It is not anticipated that this programme will require any additional resources.

1.15 Professional Accreditation

Not applicable for this programme.
CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students):

Approval of New Research Programme

FACULTY OF HEALTH: Health and Social Care Research Unit: PhD

1.1 Award and Title

PhD in Nursing & Midwifery Studies, Radiography, Imaging Sciences, Paramedical Studies, Psychology or Health Education.

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

Three years full time
Four years part time.

1.3 Entry Requirements

A First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree or a Masters from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject e.g. BSc Biological, Social or Physical Sciences, or Psychology. Where appropriate a professional qualification will be required. Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis. Students are expected to register for the MPhil in the first instance and may be upgraded to PhD candidate status in accordance with the University regulations.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that 4 FTE will be recruited within the Unit to research degrees in health-related subjects each year.

1.5 Programme Management

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Director of Research and Development in the Faculty of Health and, where appropriate, with the relevant Heads of Department (i.e. Allied Health Professions, Health and Social Welfare Studies, Midwifery and Child Health Studies, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Adult Nursing).

1.6 Proposed Start Date

September 2003.

1.7 Opportunity and Need

Members of the Faculty of Health and the Health and Social Care Research Unit have an established record of supervising postgraduate research students (MPhil/PhD). Members of staff within the Faculty are experienced in supervision and have published extensively in relevant fields. The Health and Social Care Research Unit has been established to act as a focus for postgraduate research within the newly established Faculty of Health (October 2001). The Faculty receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from
potential students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in health and social care-related research. The Faculty also has a long-standing relationship with external supervisors who are experts in individual fields of study.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to their discipline. The PhD thesis should be an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field of investigation and should demonstrate the candidate's ability to test ideas, whether his/her own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of the investigation to the wider field of knowledge. It should be of such scholarly merit as to justify publication in appropriate journals either as submitted or in an abridged form.

Many postgraduate research students in Health or Social Care related disciplines are employed within Health Authorities and/or NHS Trusts or Social Work Departments. Others are employed as academics holding teaching posts in tertiary education. Graduates may gain employment in any of these environments, within Governmental departments or in the private health or social care sector.

1.9 Programme Outline

- **Research Training**
  Students will be expected to participate in the College Research Training Programme (see Introduction, Section K). Training will also be given in Library Research Skills; modules specific to health related research and other relevant issues are currently offered and, from September 2003, will form a part of the Masters in Research currently being developed in the Graduate School. Training in additional skills (e.g. IT, writing skills) is available if required. Additional training is tailored to the needs of individual students.

- **Seminars**
  Research students are expected to attend both Faculty Research Seminars and those offered by the individual Departments comprising the Faculty. As their research progresses, students will be expected to present their work in such seminars, and to chair other seminar sessions so as to improve their presentation skills. All students are encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences at both internal and external venues and, where appropriate, to present their work to a wider audience.

- **Progression**
  All students will be required to register for the MPhil in the first instance. They will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that their progress is satisfactory. In order to transfer to the PhD programme, students will be required to attend an 'Upgrading' Review which will take place after 18 months (FTE) of study. The upgrading panel will normally consist of the supervisory team (usually the First and Second Supervisor), and the chair of the supervisory team; additional members will, where necessary, be selected according to the candidate's professional discipline.

  Students will submit a portfolio of their research work (see Introduction, Section J), which includes their written work to date together with an
updated research methodology and plan for future research activities. The student will be interviewed on this evidence by the panel. Once the panel is satisfied that existing and proposed work is of an appropriate standard, it will make a recommendation to the Director of Research of the University College for upgrading the student to the PhD programme. The Director of Research will present the case to the College Research Degrees Committee. If ratified by the University of Kent, the Director of Research will then write formally to the student confirming the new PhD status.

- **Assessment**
  The final assessment of the PhD will be carried out by examination of a written thesis and performance in a *viva voce* examination involving both internal and external examiners.

1.10 **Approved Supervisors**

Six members of the Faculty/Unit have been approved as First Supervisors for previous research programmes. They are supported by both External Supervisors and other approved Supervisors within the College.

1.11 **Research Environment**

- The Faculty has an established research environment and many of its academic staff are research-active and regularly publish and present papers in the national and international arena (seminars, conferences). We are currently in receipt of research grants of approximately £150,000 per annum from external bodies and local Health NHS Trusts and Authorities.

- We offer a varied seminar programme involving both internal and external speakers, and our academic staff regularly receive invitations to speak at other institutions and to present refereed papers at Conferences. Students are expected to attend the seminar programme and are encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences both internally and at external venues.

- Each research student will be allocated desk/computing facilities and will share phone/fax facilities with other researchers. The University College Library holds a large collection of relevant material. In addition, students have access to material at a range of other institutions with which we have contact as well as access to a wide range of relevant electronic databases. Students also have access to the post-graduate medical libraries of local NHS Authorities and Trusts from which a wide range of relevant material is available.

1.12 **Student Support and Guidance**

- Students are allocated a supervisory team comprising at least two members with one supervisor being designated as the primary contact. An experienced researcher chairs each team. It is expected that the supervisory team will help students to make use of the services offered by the Graduate School where appropriate.

- The student’s progress will be officially monitored through an annual review, where both the student and the supervisory team are expected to comment on the progress made over the preceding year. These reports will be reviewed by the Research Degrees subcommittee and by the Director of Research.
• Students are encouraged to maintain regular contact with their supervisors during periods of fieldwork, using e-mail or telephone. Ideally, there should be weekly contact, unless the nature of fieldwork prevents this.

1.13 Faculty Quality Assurance and Enhancement
• Postgraduate students are represented on the Faculty Board and on the Faculty Research Committee both of which meet once each term; the Postgraduate Association is also represented on the University College Research Policy subcommittee of the Academic Board. These mechanisms provide students with the opportunity to offer feedback to the Faculty and the University College about supervisory and all other research issues; they also offer the opportunity for the College/Faculty to inform students about future developments to the programmes.

• In addition to the obligatory programmes arranged by the College Research Office, the Faculty of Health provides its own subject-specific training in methodology as previously mentioned. This programme is tailored to the needs of individual students.

1.14 Faculty/Departmental Resource Implications
It is not anticipated that the new programme will require any additional resources.

1.15 Professional Accreditation
Not applicable for this programme.