

Report of Validation Panel for a Special Purpose, Minor or Supplemental Award

Date of Meeting: 04-06-2013

Named Award: Certificate

Programme Title: Certificate in Process Plant Systems

Award Type: Special Purpose Award

NFQ Level: 8

Intakes Commencing: 02-09-2013

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 55

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Hugh McGlynn, Head of School of Science and Informatics (Chair)
Dr Liam McDonnell, Head of Department of Applied Physics and Instrumentation
Patrick McCormack, Stryker Ltd Carrigtwohill, Cork

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Mr Matt Cotterell, Head of School Mechanical and Process Engineering
Dr Gerard Kelly, Head of Department of Mechanical Biomedical and Manufacturing Engineering
Mr Dan O'Brien, Department of Mechanical Biomedical and Manufacturing Engineering
Mr Michael O'Mahony, Department of Mechanical Biomedical and Manufacturing Engineering

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The EGFSN/Forfás Report: Future Skills Requirements of the Manufacturing Sector to 2020 has identified specific skill shortages and gaps across the Biomedical and Biopharmaceutical industries and in particular for Mechanical/Manufacturing engineers – Automation, Development & Design, and Validation, Quality, Polymer, Supply Chain & Automation engineers.

The proposed Certificate in Process Plant Systems, 55 ECTS credits at level 8, is a response to the Springboard Initiative to address this skills shortage. This course will run over 3 semesters.

With the exception of the work placement module MECH8024, all modules are derived from the add-on BSc (Hons) in Process Plant Technology. It is intended that graduates of the Special Purpose Award will be eligible to apply for entry into this degree. Minimum entry requirements for the proposed Certificate in Process Plant Systems are a Level 7 degree in Mechanical or Manufacturing Engineering or equivalent and if possible a number of years of experience of employment in the Manufacturing, Biomedical or Pharmaceutical sectors.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

*NOTE: In this report, the term “Requirement” is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the Panel **must** be undertaken prior to validation and commencement of the Programme. The term “Recommendation” indicates an item which the Course Board (or other relevant Institute unit) should implement at the earliest stage possible, and appropriate implementation of which should be the subject of ongoing monitoring.*

On consideration of the documentation provided and discussion of the programme with the proposers, the Panel has arrived at the following Findings, Requirements and Recommendations:

1. Validation Criteria

1.1 Is there a convincing need for the programme with a viable level of applications?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Springboard initiative indicates need for skills in this area, course proposed meets this skills shortage.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.2 Are the level and type of the proposed award appropriate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Level 8 appropriate

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.3 Is the learning experience of an appropriate level, standard and quality?

Overall Finding: yes

Suite of modules offered allow learners to acquire broad range of necessary skills in Biomedical and Biopharmaceutical sectors.

Finding(s): Learning experience at appropriate standard and quality

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.4 Is the programme structure logical and well designed (including procedures for access, transfer and progression)?

Overall Finding: yes

Finding(s): Programme gives learners the opportunity to enter Level 8 Programme BSc (Hons) in Process Plant Technology

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Course Boards will be convened for this programme and course coordinator appointed

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

Course will run using existing modules and instances of delivery, hence no additional resource requirement needed.

Finding(s): Appropriate resources within School/Department to run this programme

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.7 Will the impact of the programme on the Institute be positive?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Course will attract learners through the Springboard initiative and provide opportunities for progression for learners. This will add to the portfolio of offerings within the Institute and have a positive impact.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

2. Other Findings

Panel complimentary of the proposers' excellent initiative

CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, the Panel recommends to Academic Council:

That the Programme be validated for five academic years, or until the next programmatic review, whichever is soonest, subject to implementation of the Requirements above, and with due regard to the Recommendations made.