

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

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**Date of Meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2015

**Named Award:** Certificate  
**Programme Title:** Certificate in Nautical Studies  
**Award Type:** Special Purpose Award  
**NFQ Level:** 7  
**Intakes Commencing:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016  
**ECTS/ACCS Credits:** 45

### PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Matt Cotterell, Head of School of Mechanical, Electrical and Process Engineering, CIT (Chair)
Karen Ryan, Senior Surveyor, Lloyds Register, Dublin
Capt. Neil Forde, Nautical Surveyor, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Dublin

### IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

### PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Capt. Vivion Gough, Head of Department of Maritime Studies, NMCI, Ringaskiddy, Cork
Capt. Bill Kavanagh, Lecturer in Nautical Studies, NMCI, Ringaskiddy, Cork
Capt. Kim Mulcahy, Lecturer in Nautical Studies, NMCI, Ringaskiddy, Cork

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The aim of the programme is to enable the learner with the knowledge, skills and competence to perform the function of Officer of the Watch at an operational level on merchant vessels of greater than 500 gross tonnage trading worldwide in accordance with the Standards of Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code Table A - II/1.

## 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.*

The proposers and colleagues in the NMCI are to be complimented in bringing this proposal to this final state for consideration by the Panel.

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):** Alternative to previous HC in Science in Nautical Studies. Expected intake is 2/3 students per annum. Entry requirement is that applicants have a minimum of 36 months approved sea-time.

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):**

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** Modules and delivery will be in parallel with the existing L7 BSc in Nautical Studies

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** If students wish to progress and complete the L7 BSc in Nautical Studies they will need to successfully complete the following additional modules:

Applied Nautical Mathematics MATH6026

Applied Nautical Science NAUT6008

Principles of Navigation NAUT7005

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

**1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?**

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):**

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

**1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?**

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** No additional resources required

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** Programme administration will be streamlined

**Requirement(s):**

**Recommendation(s):**

**2. Other Findings**

This academic programme is equivalent to the professional Officer of the Watch (OOW) qualification.

## **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.