

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

Date of Meeting: 18th Dec. 2015

Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Certificate in Nautical Science
Award Type: Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level: 8
Intakes Commencing: 1st February 2016
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 55

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 of Shipping, 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 role of Chief Mate in a management capacity on board ships of greater than 3000 Gross tonnage trading worldwide as stipulated in the Seafarers Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code, Table A-II/2.

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 their colleagues in the NMCI are to be complimented in bringing the 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): Expected intake is 15 students per annum. Entry requirement is that applicants have the Officer of the Watch qualification for vessels of greater than 500 Gross tonnage trading worldwide with subsequent minimum of 12 months approved sea time. Successful applicants can enter the programme in either semester during the academic year.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s): e

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 L8 BSc (Hons) 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 L8 BSc (Hons) 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
Research Dissertation - Proposal NAUT8020
Research Dissertation - Project NAUT8021

Transfer and progression to other programmes will be greatly enhanced by the formal recognition of ECTS credits. Onshore career prospects of graduates of the programme will be expanded.

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. Students will now appear on the CIT Student Record System and the Institute will be able to claim capitation fees similar to other full-time students.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s):

2. Other Findings

This academic programme is equivalent to the professional Chief Mate 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.