

The Department of Computing wish to propose to Academic Council a change to the title of one of their degrees. Feedback from prospective students indicates they are confused about the differences in the departmental programme offerings. The following two degrees in particular have similar names and the department believes that they need to differentiate them:

- BSc (Hons) in Software Development
- BSc (Hons) in Software Development & Computer Networking

The original BSc (Hons) in Software Development & Computer Networking degree was first developed in 1997 and has gone through major changes since. The programme was designed to produce graduates with programming and networking skills. As time moved on less networking was taught and new modules such as Internet & Network Services, C Programming, System Programming, Real-Time Systems, Data Centre Virtualisation and Networking for Internet of Things were introduced. The programme is due to be reviewed as part of the School of Science Programmatic Review next year and there are proposals to introduce further new modules in Embedded Systems, Mobile, Security, Software Defined Networking (SDN), Information Analytics and Internet of Things modules.

The Programme Board are recommending that the programme name be changed to the **BSc (Hons) in Computer Systems** from September 2017. They believe that such a title change better describes the current programme and will offer clarity to prospective students. The Department would like the title change ratified so that new title can be listed in the 2017 CAO handbook.

The proposed title change was reviewed by two external reviewers

Dr Sean Duignan	Mike Cronin
Head of Department	Leader
Department of Computer Science & Applied Physics	Ireland Innovation Garage
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Tyco Innovation

Both reviewers are supportive of the proposal. For instance, Dr Duignan states that:

To my mind, the proposal to re-title the BSc (Hons) in Software Development & Computer Networking to BSc (Hons) in Computer Systems is well merited. In particular, I note the following:

- (1) Better differentiation of the programme offerings; not just through content (which is often not looked at in detail by prospective student early on), but in title too.*
- (2) To some extents – at undergraduate level in particular – ‘Computer Networking’ is implicit in degree programmes of this type; we live in a network age.*
- (3) ‘Computer Systems’ is a broader collective term for hardware, software, computational processes and networking, and also a valid term to embrace new and emerging technologies including cloud, virtualisation, and Internet of Things, among others. In that regard, I think the proposed title has not only currency, but longevity too.*

In brief then, I would see this proposed title change as appropriate to the programme content, and appropriate too in the context of CIT’s broader suite of programme offerings, providing, as noted above, better differentiation of programme offerings and hopefully better signposting for prospective students.

Proposal: Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Software Development and Computer Networking be re-titled Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computer Systems.

This change to come into effect in September 2017.