

Proposal

- 1) Name Change
 - a. Bachelor of Arts in Social Care to Bachelor of Art in Social Care Work
 - b. Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Care to Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Care Work
- 2) Minor module changes to link to CORU Standards of Proficiency
- 3) Remove elective choice from the Bachelor of Art in Social Care programme
- 4) Module changes undergone external review

Minor Change 1: Rationale for Change of Name for L7 and L8 programmes from 'Social Care' to 'Social Care Work' with External Reviewer Approval.

We are proposing a change of name for our programme from 'Social Care' to 'Social Care Work'

Why?

1. The Social Care Workers Registration Board (CORU) is currently preparing for the registration of the profession.
2. To reflect the nature of the programme and to allow for a distinction between the 'Social Care' programme offered by IT Tralee, and our 'Social Care Work' programme offered by CIT, during and after the MTU process; which is currently underway.

This proposal has been reviewed and recommended by:

Aisling Sharkey, Head of Department of Social Sciences, IT Tralee

Patrick McGarty, Senior Lecturer, Applied Social Sciences, IT Tralee

Cathy Jones, Head of Department of Applied Social Sciences, LIT

Minor Change 2 - Regulatory requirements as rationale for Minor Module Changes to Level 7 programme, with link to CORU Standards of Proficiency. 2 x Module Title changes at Level 8.

Very minor changes have been made to modules in order to address CORU Standards of Proficiency more explicitly. Some learning outcomes have been amended to make clear their relationship to CORU SOP's, reading lists have been updated and module titles have been updates in some instances. This is the extent of the changes. The team have sought to retain the breadth and spirit of the existing programme while responding to the requirements of our graduates as set out in the Standards of Proficiency. All modules have been made available to the Module Moderator at CIT.

Please follow link to CORU Standards of Proficiency here:

[http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_\(31.05\).pdf](http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_(31.05).pdf)

In the case of the Level 8 programme two module titles have been amended:

LEGS8002' Social Care Law' becomes 'Social Care and Citizenship': The module examines legal principles relevant to the management of social care, legal capacity reform and social care advocacy law. It explores legal agency and contested meanings of social citizenship in the Republic of Ireland today.

PSYC8006 'Gender and Sexuality' becomes 'Gender and Sexuality in SC' : To explicitly link content in this module to Social Care Work.

Minor Change 3 - Regulatory requirements as rationale for move toward all mandatory modules at Level 7

Up to the end of the 2018/19 academic year students on the Social Care programme (L7) were afforded the opportunity to choose some modules; as electives. The Social Care Workers Registration Board (CORU) is currently preparing for the registration of the profession. The Department of Applied Social Studies submitted the Programme Approval Application (Part A) to CORU in respect of this Social Care Work programme (L7) on 27th May 2019. The programme will be subject to CORU's approval process.

In recognition that the L7 programme must address an extensive set of standards of proficiency (which provide details on the knowledge and skills that all graduates must possess at entry to CORU's Register of Social Care Workers) the decision has been taken to move toward all mandatory modules.

In order to achieve this some modules in Health, Home Management and Creative Arts have been amalgamated into 2 new modules (and approved by External Reviewers; see Minor Change 4 below) and this allows for modules including Disability Studies and Educational Disadvantage (previously electives) to become mandatory modules. One module: POLA6002 'The Politics of Welfare' is no longer offered: the politics of welfare is a topic which is integral to the social care programme and is covered across many existing modules, in particular it is communicated in SOCI7009 Social Policy and SOCI7016 The Future of Social Care (formerly titled Applied Sociology).

The intention is to retain the essence and scope of our offering from previous years while moving toward all mandatory modules so that we can stand over the full extent of content covered by all graduates.

Please follow link to CORU Standards of Proficiency here:

[http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_\(31.05\).pdf](http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_(31.05).pdf)

Minor Change 4: 2 x new modules (amalgamation of previous modules), 1 amended module, Level 7 programme, with External Reviewer comments

These modules are amalgamations of existing modules. **Rationale:** We have brought some modules together where we see the opportunity for the content to merge so that we can maintain the character and range of our existing programme and make room for content from modules previously offered as electives on disability, older persons and intercultural studies to sit within our mandatory offering. We took this decision so that all students can cover these topics and work toward regulatory standards of proficiency. We will no longer be offering electives at L7 so that we can ensure that all graduate will cover the same modules which will be mapped to CORU's Standards of Proficiency (80 in total). Please follow link to CORU Standards of Proficiency here:

[http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_\(31.05\).pdf](http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/Standards_of_Proficiency_for_Social_Care_Workers_(31.05).pdf)

External Module Evaluation Reports were completed and reviewers recommended that the following new modules proceed to approval:

1. **Music, Art and Drama** More detail featured in indicative content for Art and Drama per reviewer's recommendation. Both reviewers commented on heavy 6 hour workload for

students (3 x 2 hour labs). Module workload has been reduced in response to these comments.

- 2. Healthy Food and Recreation.** Reviewer suggested that certain elements in the indicative content and learning outcomes could be omitted: marketing methods for food, circuit training, gym usage and fitness testing, in favour of a greater focus on social care users and the module has been amended to reflect these suggestions. On feedback from the lecturers involved that course content on food and recreation is enough for the one module, there spaces element in this module has been removed and the opportunity to engage with the experience of space and space as a key sociological concept will be addressed across other modules in the programme including the youth and community work module, sociology for social care, disability studies, culture inclusion and identities and the future of social care module. This will be attended to further in the forthcoming mapping of our programme to CORU's standards of proficiency.

Amended module: We envisioned a new module called '**The Future of Social Care**' to update previous module SOCI7016 'Applied Sociology' and include the advanced elements from the previous POLA6002 'The Politics of Welfare' module. An outline for this was provided to the external reviewers who approved this. Feedback from the reviewers was that contact hours should increase and that contemporary issues such as robotics and Artificial Intelligence in social care should be covered in this module. On foot of these comments it was decided that minor changes to the *existing* SOCI7016 'Applied Sociology' Year 3 module could address these comments and feature content on the politics of welfare. **Rather than proceeding with a completely new module, The SOCI7016 module, formerly called 'Applied Sociology' will be retained, with minor changes taking account of reviewer feedback on future focussed content (included) and appropriate contact hours in lecture time (3 hours) and the title will be changed to SOCI7016 'Social Science of Care Work: Social Science of Care Work + the Future'.**

Reviewed by Patrick Mc Garty, Senior Lecturer, Social Sciences, IT Tralee – 07/05/2019

Cathy Jones, Head of Department Applied Social Sciences, LIT – 03/05/2019