

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

Date of Meeting: 24 May

2013

Named Award: Diploma

Programme Title: Diploma in Clinical Laboratory Practice

Award Type: Special Purpose Award

NFQ Level: 8

Intakes Commencing: September 2013

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 60

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Margaret Linehan (School of Humanities) Chair,
Mr Liam Blake (Pathology Service, HSE);
Dr Debbie Corcoran (Biological Sciences, DIT),
Dr Hugh O'Donnell (Dept. of Biomedical Engineering);

IN ATTENDANCE

Nam / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Dr Hugh McGlynn, Head of School of Science & Informatics, CIT
Dr Brendan O'Connell, Head of Department of Biological Sciences, CIT
Dr Lesley Cotter, Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, CIT
Mr Michael Healy, Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, CIT
Dr Fiona O'Halloran, Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, CIT
Dr Brigid Lucey, Director, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Biomedical Science, CIT

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Clinical Laboratory Practice Programme is proposed, as a Special Purpose Award due to commence in the academic year 2013/2014. The aim of the programme is to ensure that students achieve a level of practical competence required to practice as Medical Scientists in the hospital laboratory or allied diagnostic services. The clinical placement is in a designated training laboratory. Each student spends a minimum of seven weeks' duration in each of five disciplines of Biomedical Science in their designated hospital laboratory namely Biochemistry, Haematology, Histopathology, Microbiology and Transfusion Science. In addition, students may spend some time in other laboratory areas, such as the Quality Assurance, Haemovigilance, Immunology and the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. Students may also spend some time at alternative sites to ensure a variety of experiences e.g. the Irish Blood Transfusion Service as part of their training in Transfusion Science. The Diploma in Clinical Laboratory Practice is proposed as a 60 credit programme run over 2 semesters from September to December (Internship Clinical Placement 1) and January to May (Internship Clinical Placement 2). This Diploma will be at level 8 and it will be awarded by CIT.

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 and Recommendations:

1. Validation Criteria

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

Overall Finding: Yes

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

Overall Finding: Yes

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Recommendation(s):

1. Ensure that Garda clearance is established for the students entering placement.
2. Organise bi-annual workshops in September and June for training officers overseeing the placements.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

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

Overall Finding: Yes

2. Module Level Findings

1. Change the terminology in the clinical practice submission document to reflect the suggestions of the external reviewer as indicated in her report
2. Adopt a reflective portfolio as an assessment instrument. It may be necessary to procure guidance for how to do this over the summer to take effect in the next academic year.
3. Intern Clinical Placement 1& 2. Add an additional learning outcome relating to health and safety, quality management and accreditation requirements for the pathology laboratory service.

4. Assessment Schedule

- i. Clinical Placement 1: Laboratory placement 50%; oral examination 30%; dissertation 20%
- ii. Clinical Placement 2: Laboratory placement 50%; oral examination 30%; project 20%
- iii. Clinical Placement 2: Address the newly agreed weighting for the dissertation by adding a poster component for presentation to the workload.

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.

Implementation of Requirements	
1.3.1	Contact made with Registrar's Office and procedure in place to have Garda clearance for the 2013-2014 intake
1.4.2	Workshops will be organized in September and May of each academic year
2.1	Complete. Registrar's Office sign-off: 17 June 2013.
2.2	Reflective portfolio adopted.
2.3	Complete. Registrar's Office sign-off: 17 June 2013.
2.4	Complete. Registrar's Office sign-off: 17 June 2013.