



Date of Meeting:	21 September 2012
Named Award:	Certificate
Programme Title:	Certificate in Cloud Computing Technologies
Award Type:	Special Purpose Award
Award Class:	Minor
NFQ Level:	6
Intakes Commencing:	September 2012
ECTS/ACCS Credits:	40

PANEL MEMBERS

Name
Mr. Gerard O'Donovan, Head, School of Business, CIT – Chair
Mr. Peter Given, Lecturer, IT Tralee
Mr. Alan Twomey, Solarwinds
Mr. Vincent Ryan, Department of Computing, CIT

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name
Mr. Jim O'Dwyer, Head of Department of Computing, CIT
Mr. Eoin O'Regan, Lecturer Part-time, Department of Computing, CIT
Mr. Pat McCarthy, Senior Technical Officer, CIT
Mr. Tim Horgan, Head, Cloud Computing Centre, CIT

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The purpose of this validation panel is to consider the approval of a new Special Purpose Award in Cloud Computing Technologies (40 credits). Previously learners got a certificate for practical based professional assessment but their learning was not accredited on the National Qualifications Framework. The modules on Enterprise Virtualisation and Information Systems Management will also be offered as single certification module awards and are embedded in the programme.

To that end the proposers have furnished documentation to show that they have

- (1) Converted all of the original course material in line with the CIT modular system.
- (2) Prepared the institutes SPP1 form.
- (3) Sought and received external validation for the 4 modules proposed.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

1. General Findings

The Panel commends the programme team on the programme presented and for the lively discussion during the validation meeting. Some changes are required but the panel recommends the validation of this programme which is in high demand.

2. Validation Criteria

The Panel has considered the documentation provided and has discussed the programme with the proposers. The panel has concluded that the programme meets the required standards in the IT/computing field of study at Level 6 of the National Qualification Framework.

With regard to the CIT Validation Criteria:

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

YES. The programme comprises of four core areas of Cloud computing e.g. storage, virtualisation, networking and operating systems. Students will also take professional exams e.g. CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Linux+, VMware VCP and EMC ISM as part of the programme which will make their skillset attractive to employers. The demand for the programme under the Springboard initiative which encourages unemployed people to return to the labour market meant that over 100 applications have been received for 20 places. There is a clear market need for graduates with this skillset and there is a large number applying for the programme.

Recommendation(s): None

Requirement(s): None

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

YES. This 40 credit, one year part time duration, taught Level 6 programme is consistent with other Level 6 taught provisions across the Institute. All modules are at level 6 of the NQF Framework. This program aligns well with HETAC Level 6 descriptors.

Recommendation(s): None

Requirement(s): None

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

YES. There is an appropriate balance between course work and practical work as part of their learning and is appropriate for a Level 6 Award.

Recommendation(s):

- a) The programme team might consider Assessment Breakdown as follows: Multiple Choice Exam 15% Practical Skills 50%, Project 30% and Multiple Choice Exam 15%. The multiple choice exam could be administered through blackboard. This proposed breakdown would facilitate the assessment of theory that will be covered after week 6.

Requirement(s): None

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

YES. The program consists of four mandatory 10 credit modules. These modules are delivered across two semesters and as presented there are no barriers to progression between semesters.

The modules offered cover all of the appropriate technical and practical aspects of the subject area. Entry requirements are appropriate for an award of this type and the program corresponds with the CIT Modularisation and Semesterisation guidelines.

Recommendation(s):

- a) In relation to Minimum Entry Requirements, "or have past relevant industry experience in an IT role" should be replaced by "or relevant IT Professional Experience.
- b) Consider renaming the award title to "Certificate in Cloud Infrastructure Technologies" which would align better to what is covered on the programme.
- c) The modules should be kept generic in name to ensure flexibility to adapt to changes in technologies.
- d) The programme team should consider whether there should be a special condition/regulation for practical skills in each module to ensure that students pass the practical elements of assessment to ensure they graduate with practical skillset that industry requires.
- e) It needs to be communicated to students that the combination of modules is one award only.

Requirement(s):

- a) Create a programme on CIT approved module and programme builder for "Certificate in Cloud Infrastructure Technologies"
- b) Ensure that module assessment breakdown adds up to 100% for each module. E.g. Information Storage Management and Enterprise Virtualisation need to be adjusted.
- c) Learning outcomes need to be rewritten for the programme e.g. how does Linux System Administration fits in as an overall learning outcome.
- d) The reassessment strategy for each module needs to put up on the module builder.

2.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

YES. A Programme Board operates for this program, in line with the institutes QA system.

Recommendation: None

Requirement: None

2.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

YES. The panel has been assured by the proposers that the resource requirements for the programme are in line with CIT practice.

Recommendation: None

Requirement: None

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

YES. This course aligns well with the institute's mission to deliver career-focused education and to ensure we deliver graduates that are employable and ready for the workplace.

Recommendation: None

Requirement: None

3. Conclusions

The Panel recommends that the programme be validated with due regard to the recommendations made and approval by the Registrar's Office and Academic Council.

*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 commencement of the Programme. The term "Recommendation" indicates an item to which the Institute/Academic Council/Course Board should give serious consideration for implementation at an early stage and which should be the subject of on-going monitoring.*