

Report of Validation Panel

Date of Meeting: 30th October 2012
Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Biopharmaceutical Processing
Award Type: Special Purpose Award
Award Class: Minor
NFQ Level: 7
Intakes Commencing: September 2013
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 10

PANEL MEMBERS

Name
Dr Hugh McGlynn Head, School of Science and informatics, CIT - Chair
Ms. Helga Weston, Senior Project Engineer, PM Group Global, Cork
Dr Rosemary Rea, Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, CIT
Mr Daithi Fallon, Head of Department, Mechanical, Biomedical & Manufacturing Engineering , CIT

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name
Dr Sandra Lenihan, Lecturer, Department of Process Energy & Transport Engineering
Mr Matt Cotterell, Head, School of Mechanical & Process Engineering

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The purpose of this validation panel is to consider the approval of a new Level 7 Special Purpose Award in Biopharmaceutical Processing (10 credits)

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

1. General Findings

The Panel commends the programme team on the programme presented and for the discussion during the validation meeting. Some minor updates to the program documentation will be required and the panel recommends the validation of this excellent programme.

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 Biopharmaceutical processing g field of study at Level 7 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 was proposed to meet the upskilling needs of a local pharmaceutical and project management companies. It is envisaged to start with a cohort of 10 students. At the time that the programme commenced the Department provided a springboard course in Chemical Engineering and a Good Manufacturing Practice course. The course team indicated that this proposed offering would not detract from intake to these courses and it would provide the complete portfolio of offerings to the Pharmaceutical Industry. Should the department chose to run this programme in the future it is envisioned that there would be significant interest in the programme.

Recommendation(s): None

Requirement(s): None

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

YES. This 10 credit, two semester, taught Level 7 programme is consistent with other Level 7 taught provisions across the Institute. The modules are at the appropriate level of the NQF Framework. This program aligns well with HETAC Level 7 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 lectures, course work and practical work

Recommendation(s): None

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 two mandatory 5 credit modules . These modules are delivered across two semesters and as presented there are no barriers to progression between semesters. The modules offered are appropriate with respect to the needs of the pharmaceutical industry at this point in time.

The modules offered cover all of the appropriate technical 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. Discussion was given to the recommended prerequiistes in the Upstream Boproceeing module.

Recommendation(s): Amend course outcomes on the programme proposal document to be consistent with that appearing on CIT website.

Update modules to reflect new management structures within proposing Department.

Requirement(s): None

2.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

YES. A Programme Board operated for this program, in line with the institutes QA system and will avail of existing external examiners from the GMP programme..

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 and no additional resources are required to run this programme as team will avail of module sharing.

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 foster engagement opportunities with industry partners.

Recommendation: None

Requirement: None

3. Conclusions

The Panel recommends that the programme be validated with due regard to the recommendations made.

*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.*