

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

Date of Meeting: 20-09-2013

Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Certificate in Plant and Piping Design
Award Type: Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level: 7
Intakes Commencing: 02-09-2013
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 55

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Hugh McGlynn, Head of School of Science and Informatics (Chair)
Mr Harvey Makin, Department of Applied Physics and Instrumentation
Mr Peter O'Leary, Senior Project Engineer, Winthrop Engineering

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Mr Matt Cotterell, Head of School Mechanical and Process Engineering
Dr Michael J O'Mahony, Head of Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering
Mr Fergus Delaney, Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering
Mr William Bateman, Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The EGFSN/Forfás Report: Future Skills Requirements of the Manufacturing Sector to 2020 has identified specific skill shortages in particular for Building Services engineers in particular in the area of design, construction and maintenance.

The proposed Certificate in Plant and Piping Design is 55 ECTS credits at level 7 is a response to the Springboard Initiative to address this skills shortage. This course will run over 3 semesters.

The programme will offer modules that will facilitate Level 6 entrants or those with a crafts background, with appropriate electives in CAD or Project Management. Additionally delivery of modules encompassing core skills including team-working, self-directed learning and communication, CV and interview skills will be offered to facilitate entry into the workforce in a structured and supportive manner.

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, Requirements and Recommendations:

1. Validation Criteria

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Springboard initiative indicates need for skills in this area, course proposed meets this skills shortage.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Level 7 appropriate

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

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

Overall Finding: yes

Suite of modules offered allows learners to acquire broad range of necessary skills that can be applied to the Building Services, BioPharma Plant Services and Food Bioprocessing industries

Finding(s): Learning experience at appropriate standard and quality

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

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

Overall Finding: yes

Finding(s): Programme gives learners the opportunity to progress to Level 7 Stage 3 of BEng in Building Services Engineering.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Course Boards will be convened for this programme and course coordinator appointed

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes (Resources available through Springboard)

Course will run using existing modules and instances of delivery, tow additional modules have been developed specifically for this course but no additional resource requirement needed.

Finding(s): Appropriate resources within School/Department to run this programme

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Course will attract leaners through the Springboard initiative and provide opportunities for progression for learners. This will add to the portfolio of offerings within the Institute and have a positive impact.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

2. Other Findings

Panel complementary of the proposers excellent initiative and proposers keen to explore the possibility of developing additional awards in this area such as a 10 credit SPA in 3D Piping Design .

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.