

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

Date of Meeting: 9th May, 2014

Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Certificate in Mechanical Services Technology
Award Type: Minor Award
NFQ Level: 6
Intakes Commencing: September 2014
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 40

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr. Joe Harrington, Chair, Head of School of Building & Civil Engineering
Michael O' Hanlon, H.A O' Neill
Dr. Stephen Cassidy, Dean of Academic Quality Enhancement, Registrar's Office
James Kilduff, Lecturer, Department of Construction

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Michael Hourihane, Head of the Centre of Craft Studies
Eamonn Sheffron, Lecturer, Centre of Craft Studies

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

This proposed Level 6 Certificate in Mechanical Services Technology consists of 40 credits of eight five credit modules (all pre-approved) which are currently offered in Years 1 and 2 of the Level 7 BSc Craft Technology – Mechanical Service Programme. This proposed Level 6 Certificate Programme (Minor Award) was originally developed in response to the Springboard 2014 National Call.

The proposers have outlined the need for the programme and have identified the external demand primarily from a potential cohort of student currently in employment in the relevant Mechanical Services Industry.

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.*

The Panel welcomes this programme proposal and is satisfied that it meets the validation criteria as outlined below.

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): There is a need for the programme as outlined by the proposers with potentially strong demand from industry from a cohort currently in employment in the Mechanical Services Industry. The Panel notes the consultation process undertaken with representatives from the Mechanical Services Industry as part of the programme development phase and the industry support for the proposed programme.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s): The proposers should strongly market the programme on a local, regional and national level. This marketing campaign should begin without delay and should be undertaken in collaboration with the Mechanical Services Industry. It is clear that the programme will be of benefit to the industry and that industry support will be forthcoming.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The level and type of proposed award is appropriate for a NFQ Level 6 Certificate Programme (Minor Award).

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s):

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The learning experience is at an appropriate level and standard. The modules are pre-approved and are delivered on a current Level 7 Programme.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s): The proposers should consider the potential induction and orientation requirements of the students registered on the programme and should consider, as appropriate, any additional academic supports required including through the Learning Support Centre (e.g. Mathematics, IT) and through current support mechanisms in place for Mature Learners. The level of support required is likely to also be influenced by the mode of delivery of the programme, e.g. full time or part time. The proposers should also consider the potential for RPL in the context of learners with prior experience and the potential for them to gain credit based on their prior learning.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The programme structure is logical and well designed. In general the modules are independent of one another allowing the potential for the programme to be delivered on a part time basis, as necessary.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s): The proposers should consider the most appropriate approach to programme delivery (on a full time or part time basis) in the context of the profile of the learner cohort and ensuring accessibility and flexibility for the learner.

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The programme will be managed and delivered through the Centre of Craft Studies which is currently responsible for the delivery of the Level 7 BSc in Craft Technology – Mechanical Services Programme. The proposed programme is a Minor Award with all modules delivered as part of the Level 7 BSc in Craft Technology – Mechanical Services Programme

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s):

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The resource requirements are reasonable. The modules may be delivered as part of a current on-going Level 7 programme delivery or may be delivered separately. In the latter case the programme fee will be set at an appropriate level to meet any additional resource requirements.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s):

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The impact on the Institute will be positive. The programme provides an up-skilling route for a potential cohort of students currently working in the Mechanical Services Industry. The proposed programme also provides a potential progression opportunity onto the Level 7 BSc in Craft Technology – Mechanical Services.

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s):

2. Other Findings

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.