

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

Date of Meeting: July 29th 2015

Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Food Processing Fundamentals
Award Type: Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level: 6
Intakes Commencing: September 2015
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 60

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Stephen Cassidy, Dean of Academic Quality Enhancement
Vivion Gough, Head of Department, Department of Academic Studies, National Maritime College of Ireland
Donal Caples, High Voltage Stns. Supervisor, ESB Networks, Tralee
Brendan Murphy, Technical Director, Seefin Engineering, Cork

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Mr Michael Loftus, Head of Faculty, Faculty of Engineering & Science
Mr Matt Cotterell, Head of School, School of Mechanical & Process Engineering
Dr Michael O'Mahony, Head of Department, Department of Process, Energy & Transport Engineering
Mr Michael Hourihan, Head of Centre, Centre of Craft Studies

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

This Special Purpose Award will provide learners with the basic principles of food processing principles and technology in a regulated manufacturing environment. It is designed to allow learners with appropriate qualifications and experience to progress to level 7 programmes in Good Manufacturing Practice or equivalent. This programme is in response to the needs of the Dairy and Food Polytechnic in Saudi Arabia under the auspices of CINOP, an independent, international research and consultancy agency specialised in lifelong learning, vocational education & training (TVET) and adult education.

The proposed Certificate in Food Processing Fundamentals is a 60 ECTS-bearing offering at level 6 and will initially be delivered on a full-time basis over 2 semesters.

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

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, subject to certain Requirements and/or Recommendations.

Finding(s): All modules on this programme are currently approved and are being delivered on cognate programmes

Requirement(s):

Recommendation(s): The second semester elective regulation should be reviewed and clarified.

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

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.