

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

Date of Meeting: June 11th

2015

Named Award: Certificate
Programme Title: Certificate in Advanced Mechatronics
Award Type: Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level: 8
Intakes Commencing: September 2015
ECTS/ACCS Credits: 10

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Joseph Harrington, Head of School, School of Building and Civil Engineering, CIT (Chairperson)
Donal McAuliffe, Cork ETB (formerly Fás)
Dr. Conor O' Farrell, Lecturer, Department of Physical Sciences, CIT

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Daithi Fallon, Head, CAMMS Centre, CIT
Mike McGrath, Manager, CAMMS Centre, CIT
Niall Morris, Lecturer, Department of Mechanical, Biomedical & Manufacturing Engineering, CIT

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

This programme is a Level 8 Special Purpose Award in Advanced Mechatronics and forms a potential progression route for learners who complete the CAMMS Centre managed and well established Level 7 Special Purpose Award in Automation and Control. Industrial automation has become ubiquitous with an increase in the level of complexity of programming and control and the consequent challenges that this provides for the training of skilled technicians. The aim of this programme is to contribute to addressing the deficit in training needs at this level of automation and forms a natural progression for learners who have completed the Level 7 SPA in Automation and Control.

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 would like to commend the programme proposers on the quality of the programme documentation and their engagement with the panel during the meeting.

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): The panel finds that there is a need for the programme with a viable level of interest through the Springboard Programme and through learners who have completed the Level 7 SPA in Automation and Control (and more generally across a range of industry sectors).

Recommendation(s):

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The panel find that the level and type of the programme is appropriate to the intended target student cohort and to the graduate skills being developed.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The panel find that the programme and the individual modules are at the appropriate level, standard and quality.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The panel is satisfied that the structure of the programme is logical, well designed and meets the needs of learners. It is clear that the proposers have planned a well-structured programme.

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The programme will operate and will be managed by the CAMMS Centre which has a long and distinguished track record of successfully managing such programmes.

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The resource requirements are currently in place including a well-equipped specialist laboratory; no additional resources are required.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

2. Other Findings

The Panel welcomes this proposal which is timely, relevant and a logical extension of the current programme delivery in automation in the CAMMS Centre. It will address a pent up demand from recent graduates of the Level 7 SPA in Automation and Control and will contribute to addressing a clear training gap in automation. It seems likely that the demand for the programme from both Springboard and industry applicants will exceed the target number.

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.