

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

Date of Meeting: 16 May 2019

**Named Award:** Certificate  
**Programme Title:** Certificate in Fundamentals of Operational Excellence  
**Award Type:** Special Purpose Award  
**NFQ Level:** 6  
**Intakes Commencing:** September 2019  
**ECTS/ACCS Credits:** 10

### PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
<i>Chair:</i> Professor Margaret Linehan
Joan Walsh, Partnership International
Eoghan Sadlier, Limerick Institute of Technology

### IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

### PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Don Crowley, Head, Department, Organisation and Professional Development
Dr Breda Kenny, Head, School of Business
Sheila Butler, Lecturer, CIT
Deirdre Goggin, CIT Extended Campus
Ronan Emmett, Head of Talent Acquisition and Learning, Boston Scientific
Eilish Walsh, Learning and Development Specialist, Boston Scientific
Kathryn Carey, Department of Organisation and Professional Development

## 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 Department of Organisation and Professional Development recognise the need for professional development opportunities for product builders in manufacturing environments who wish to further their education and gain an insight to higher education by offering this new Level 6 programme. The department has an established a strong record in SPA design, development and delivery, in close collaboration with industry, and this new programme will afford graduates the opportunity to complete a programme in conjunction with their employer and associated work experience. The programme will give students the opportunity to study fundamental level modules grounded in theory and practice. The key distinctive feature of this programme is that industry will be involved I the delivery of much of the content and will assign a workplace mentor, while assessment will be directed and undertaken by academic staff in the department.

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 were provided with two presentations, the first by Don Crowley, Head of Department, and the second by Ronan Emmett from Boston Scientific. There is a strong learning partnership between the two organisations, and the panel heard of plans to grow this partnership.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** The level and type of the proposed award at Level 6 is appropriate.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s)**

**Requirement(s):** Review recommended reading lists and resources and include more updated versions. Review overall percentage of marks allocated to the reflective log, and consider giving less than currently allocated, instead consider inserting another assessment piece.

**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):** As this is a Level 6 programme, the proposing team have considered access and transfer adequately.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

**1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?**

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** There are existing structures already in place between CIT and Boston Scientific so the current management structures can be applied to this programme.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

**1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?**

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** Don Crowley, Head of Department outlined that resources will be shared by the Department of Organisation and Professional Development and Boston Scientific, so adequate resources are in place.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

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

Overall Finding: Yes

**Finding(s):** The existing partnership between CIT and Boston Scientific will be strengthened based on the approval of this programme. The work-based element of the programme will also have a positive impact on the Institute.

**Requirement(s):** None

**Recommendation(s):** None

The panel would like to congratulate the proposing team for bringing this innovative programme for approval. The programme should enhance the existing partnership between CIT and Boston Scientific. The programme is intended to be used as a 'feeder' programme for existing Boston Scientific staff, and can be transferable if staff leave Boston Scientific.

## 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.