

VALIDATION REVIEW REPORT

Title of Programme:	A Certificate in Food Entrepreneurship & Innovation
School/Centre:	Innovation Hubs School of Science
Duration:	18 Weeks
NQAI Level:	Level 9
Date of Review:	Monday 15 th June 2015
Panel of Members:	Chair – Dr. Joe McGarry, Secretary – Michael Hannon IOT Member – Michael Barrett University Member – Michelle O’Sullivan Professional Practitioner – Tom Canavan

1.0	<p><u>Rationale for the Programme</u></p> <p>In December 2014, Forfas published “Guidance for Higher Education Providers on Current and Future Skills Needs of Enterprise“, which clearly identified a gap in Entrepreneurial programmes: “Entrepreneurial activity can be improved with an increased emphasis on creativity and design turning inventions into innovations. Cultivating an Entrepreneurial mind-set, by developing entrepreneurial skills, behaviours and attitudes and equipping learners with the key entrepreneurial competences for entrepreneurial careers or new start-ups is more necessary now in the internationally competitive economic environment“. In the same report, the agri-food industry was recognised as <i>being “a key component of Ireland’s modern economy accounting for some eight per cent (8%) of GDP“</i>. Skills shortages across a range of roles in the food sector were listed if the targets in Harvest 2020 are to be achieved.</p>
2.0	<p><u>The Consultation Process</u></p> <p>This programme concentrates its efforts on creating the job creators through entrepreneurship. We foresee that a significant portion of the participants will create their own job and if not the remaining participants will be ideally suited to support the growing food SME community. A range of employers were consulted during the development of this programme. A one to one consultation process determined two key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What skill set and personal traits are dominant for food entrepreneurs and - What should be the main focus of the programme -
3.0	<p><u>Relevance of this programme to the mission and strategic plan of GMIT</u></p> <p>At its broadest level, this programme is a strong contributor to the regional, economic and social remit of the Institute. The aim of providing graduates with a lifelong learning opportunity to refine and develop a business idea which is likely to be based in the region is a strong fit with the Institutes mission.</p>

4.0	<p><u>Student Demand</u> This course targets people who have an interest in developing new or existing careers in the food industry. The main product of the course will be the development of an entrepreneurial mindset that can be applied to a business venture or as an employee.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Resource Implications</u> This programme is approved for Springboard funding</p>
6.0	<p><u>Findings and Recommendations</u> The panel commend the proposers on this novel programme and engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>A. Conditions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APS needs to be updated and all modules need to be captured on Module Manager. • Clarification needed on the programme schedule and throughout the document in relation to hours. • References to named individuals throughout the document need to be removed. • Programme learning outcomes need to be re-written. • The assessment methodologies should reflect Level 9 learning outcomes. <p>B. <u>Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources should be presented as 'required' and 'recommended' and follow the Harvard referencing model. • Facilitation resources provided needs to be at the appropriate level to achieve the learning outcomes.
7.0	<p><u>For the Attention of Academic Council:</u></p> <p>The External Review Panel recommends that this programme as listed be approved by Academic Council subject to the proposing team addressing the conditions listed in this report and also demonstration how the recommendation have been considered. A revised document clearly addressing the conditions and recommendations to be submitted to the Registrar. The Registrar will confirm with the Chair of the panel when this has been submitted and the conditions and recommendations be addressed.</p>
	<p>Approved <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Approved subject to recommended changes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not approved at this time <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Dr. Joe McGarry, Chair</p> <p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Mr. Michael Hannon, Secretary</p>