

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BSc (Hons) in Quality for Industry Certificate in Quality for Industry (Minor Award, 40 Credits)				
2.	NFQ Level(s):	8				
3.	Duration:	1 year				
4.	ISCED Code:	0413				
5.	School / Centre:	School of Science				
6.	Department:	Department of Biopharmaceutical and Medical Science				
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No:	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Differential Validation:	Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.	Date of Review:	12 th June 2017				
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blended
10.	Panel Members:	Dr Joe McGarry, Retired IoTI, Chair Mr Wesley McKnight, University of Ulster Mr Liam Costello, IT Tallaght Mr JJ Killian, Industry Ms Carmel Brennan, GMIT, Secretary				
11.	Proposing Staff:	Dr Des Foley Dr Seamus Lennon Ms Marilla Keating Ms Ita Kelly Ms Rachel McCarthy Dr Judith Wurmel Mr Peter Butler				
12.	Programme Rationale:	The School of Science has been delivering a Level 7 programme in Quality for three years, and over 30 graduates of this degree have expressed an interest in obtaining an honours degree in quality. Most the current Level 7 students have also expressed a desire to progress to a Level 8 programme, thereby ensuring that there is a pipeline of applicants for this degree. Many companies/organisations require that a staff member holds an honours degree before they can be considered for promotion to certain roles.				

		<p>The Galway region is a centre for the medical device sector in Ireland, with many indigenous and multinational companies, in addition to a number of medical device research centres, including GMedTech, based in GMIT. There are over 8,000 people employed in this sector in the greater Galway region.</p> <p>Galway and the surrounding areas also represent a cluster location for the healthcare and the IT sector, and is a location for other industries such as the automotive industry.</p> <p>The Forfás report “Future skills requirements of the manufacturing sector to 2020” (2013) highlighted the “critical shortage of skills in ... Quality engineering...” The proposed delivery of a Level 8 award is designed to teach Quality Engineering skills at Level 8 and as such is a direct response to the Forfás concerns of a skills shortage in this area.</p>
13.	Potential Demand for Entry:	Demand for progression amongst current students and graduates is strong.
14.	Stakeholder Engagement:	<p>A wide-ranging consultation of students, employers and professionals in the area was completed during the development phase of the programme. Staff within the School of Science and Computing have a strong relationship with local, national and international employers and there is much interaction at an informal level, as well as through more formal structures such as placement of students.</p> <p>Representatives of the local medical device industry were consulted about the need for this programme, and there was a very positive response, verifying the need for the programme, and influencing the programme structure and content.</p>
15.	Graduate Demand:	Many of the students on the Level 8 programmes will already be based in industry. Those that are taking up these proposed programmes will gain crucial skills, demanded by the Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Sectors, which will enhance their promotional prospects or aid employment.

		Other potential employment lies within the food industry, the automotive industry, healthcare, the IT Sector and the service sector.
16.	Entry Requirements:	These programmes will be available to graduates of the Level 7 BSc in Quality for Industry. For applicants without this qualification, GMIT's RPL process will be used to determine admission to the programme.
17.	Access, Transfer & Progression:	<p>Major Award: Graduates will be eligible to apply for a suitable Level 9 award. GMIT offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Quality.</p> <p>Minor Award: Graduates will be eligible to apply to complete the BSc in Quality for Industry.</p>
18.	Programme Structure:	<p>The programme design was informed by consultation with employers, current students, the programme team's expertise and the content of the existing level 7 programme.</p> <p>Major Award:</p> <p>It is planned to deliver the programme at night, with deliver two evenings per week over two years. In year 1, the students will study quality management systems and the regulatory frameworks of various sectors. This is followed in year 2 with the study of operational management.</p> <p>The research project in year 2 will facilitate the integration of the knowledge and skills gained over the duration of the programme and will allow the student the freedom to apply their learning to a specific project, and to generate a substantial body of work focussed on a specific area of interest to the student and their organisation.</p> <p>Minor Award:</p> <p>The Minor Award consists of the modules delivered in the first year of the Major Award plus the Research Project module. It will be delivered over a calendar year, with the project being undertaken over the summer.</p>
19.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	The ethos behind this programme is to facilitate student-led learning. The responsibility for learning remains with the

		<p>student and the role of the lecturers is to facilitate this learning process.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered face-to-face to facilitate peer learning. The classroom environment allows students to explore and debate theories and their application. Resources will be provided ahead of class so that students can review the material to be prepared for embedding the knowledge during class.</p> <p>Assessment measures the achievement of learners, and is one of the most important tasks undertaken by this Programme Board. The assessment strategy and schedule is prepared by the Programme Board, and will be the subject of regular review.</p> <p>A wide range of assessment methodologies will be used within the programme, namely examinations, in-class assessments, presentations, case studies, reports, projects – individual and group, and reflection.</p>
20.	Resource Implications:	There is a requirement for extra staff (approximately half a lecturing post) to deliver the programmes. The programme will be self-funding.
21.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	None.
22.	Findings and Recommendations:	<p>General:</p> <p>The panel welcomed the two proposed programmes, and noted their relevance for local industry. The team were complimented on their interaction with local industry in developing and structuring the programmes. Both programmes were approved subject to the following recommendations:</p> <p>Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:</p> <p>Major Award:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate that module content includes quality excellence models e.g. EFQM. 2. Ensure that in the delivery of the programme that the programme team have regard for the dynamic nature of changing quality standards in industry.

		<p>3. Ensure that there is a mechanism enabling ongoing interaction with industry, keeping the programme and delivery team up to date with current practices and development.</p> <p>4. Elaborate on the teaching strategy for the Technical Writing Skills module to ensure that students practice writing skills and receive regular formative feedback.</p> <p>5. Include the supervision hours for the Research Project module on the APS.</p> <p>Minor Award: As above.</p>	
23.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary