

## EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	<b>Title of Programme(s):</b> (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BA (Hons) in Geography and Outdoor Education				
2.	<b>NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:</b>	8 240 ECTS				
3.	<b>Duration:</b>	4 years				
4.	<b>ISCED Code:</b>	0220				
5.	<b>School / Centre:</b>	Mayo				
6.	<b>Department:</b>	Business, Humanities and Technology				
7.	<b>Type of Review:</b>	Differential Validation				
8.	<b>Date of Review:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2019				
9.	<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	X	<b>Part-time</b>		<b>Blended</b>
10.	<b>Panel Members:</b>	Mr Gerard MacMichael (Chair) Dr Maura Fitzsimons Dr Carmel Heaney Dr John McDonagh Ms Carmel Brennan (Secretary)				
11.	<b>Proposing Staff:</b>	Prof Neville McClenaghan Mr Michael Gill Mr Kevin O'Callaghan Ms Orla Prendergast Dr Margaret O'Riordan				
12.	<b>Programme Rationale:</b>	GMIT has offered a programme in Outdoor Education for over 20 years, which includes the study of the natural and cultural environment and landscape studies. The programme contains a large geography component, but this is not readily visible to potential students. The proposal to offer an award titled BA (Hons) in Geography and Outdoor Education in addition to the currently approved programme will enhance the study options and range of careers available to learners, without compromising the essential character or standard of the outdoor education component of the programme.				
13.	<b>Potential Demand for Entry:</b>	It is anticipated that the additional offering will attract a number of new students. As all modules are currently offered on the Outdoor Education and History and				

		Geography programmes there are no additional costs for delivery.
14.	<b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b>	The proposal was informed by past, prospective and current learners in addition to from parents and career guidance teachers.
15.	<b>Graduate Demand:</b>	This programme will provide outdoor educators a multidisciplinary knowledge of the outdoor environment, the ability to interpret the landscape and environment for others, and excellent interpersonal skills. Graduates will enhance the outdoor experience for their clients by ensuring that there are opportunities for learning about the natural and cultural landscapes that they travel through.
16.	<b>Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer &amp; Progression:</b>	The standard GMIT entry requirements for a level 8 student apply. Transfer opportunities exist to the BA (Hons) in Outdoor Education and Geography programme. Students who complete the BA in Outdoor Education and Leisure programme can progress to the final year of the BA (Hons) in Outdoor Education and Geography having taken the specified geography content in their programme.
17.	<b>Programme Structure:</b>	The programme is structured around the following themes: adventure education, teaching, safety, environment and geography, and academic and support modules. The programme includes work experience and a dissertation.
18.	<b>Learning, Teaching &amp; Assessment Strategies:</b>	The programme combines a range of pedagogic approaches appropriate to the subject and the learners including lectures, group discussions, field and laboratory practicals, active learning, and learning journals. A 'problem posing' method of teaching is utilised enabling the learner to actively engage with the module being taught.
19.	<b>Resource Implications:</b>	None
20.	<b>Synergies with Existing Programmes:</b>	Shared modules with BA (Hons) in Outdoor Education and BA (Hons) in History and Geography.
21.	<b>Findings and Recommendations:</b>	<b>General:</b>
		The programme is approved subject to the following conditions (2) and recommendations (7):
		<b>Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):</b>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the updated programme learning outcomes derived from the BA (Hons) in Outdoor Education (Ab Initio) to the panel for approval.</li> <li>2. Amend the APS to show the correct duration of stage 4 modules, the calculation of the award and the special regulations relating to failed elements.</li> </ol>
		<b>Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:</b>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Highlight the transferable skills, beyond the geography content of the programme, that will be useful to the</li> </ol>

		<p>employability of those pursuing the teacher education route.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. During Programmatic Review, consider reviewing the appropriateness and desirability of a large number of 5 ECTS modules, the volume of assessment, and the number of module learning outcomes.</li> <li>5. Stipulate clearly the transfer options open to BA (Hons) Geography and Outdoor Education students.</li> <li>6. Indicate the conditions under which students on the BA in Outdoor Education and Leisure can progress to the final year of the BA (Hons) in Geography and Outdoor Education.</li> <li>7. Bring the admissions requirement relating to reserved places for applicants demonstrating a high level of achievement in adventure sports to the attention of the ATP Committee for inclusion in the ATP policy, if relevant.</li> <li>8. Given the commonality of the first two years of the BA (Hons) in Outdoor Education and the BA (Hons) in Geography and Outdoor Education programmes, ensure that prospective students are provided with clear information as to study pathways.</li> <li>9. Edit the DV document to ensure use of correct module titles, and to reflect the findings of the panel.</li> <li>10. Consider the idea during the programmatic reviews of promoting a common two years for the two programmes stating that transfer is possible after two years.</li> </ol>	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:	Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary