

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Certificate in Science in Sustainable Building Technology (Special Purpose Award)				
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	8 50				
3.	Duration:	1 year				
4.	ISCED Code:					
5.	School / Centre:	Mayo Campus				
6.	Department:	Department of Business, Humanities and Technology				
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:	X	No:	
		Differential Validation:	Yes:		No:	
8.	Date of Review:	14 th June 2018				
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	X	Part-time		Blended
10.	Panel Members:	Prof Graham Heaslip Dr Eleanor Rainsford Mr Eamon Walsh Mr Mark Costello, RPS Ms Carmel Brennan, Secretary				
11.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Michael Gill Ms Mairead Ludden Mr John Scahill Ms Anne Wiseman Dr Deirdre Garvey				
12.	Programme Rationale:	<p>The main aim of the programme is to provide those who already possess a level 7 qualification in a cognate area of construction with an opportunity to upskill to level 8 through the study of project management, sustainable building technology, construction informatics (including BIM) and building energy systems.</p> <p>The National Skills Bulletin 2017 identifies shortages among construction professionals in the areas of construction project management, quantity surveying, building services and site engineering.</p>				

13.	Potential Demand for Entry:	12 students Consultation has suggested demand, particularly given the proposed blended delivery mode.
14.	Stakeholder Engagement:	Consultation was undertaken with a range of companies in the construction industry, with many of these providing letters of support for the programme. Consultation was also undertaken with the Construction Industry Federation and the local authority.
15.	Graduate Demand:	Opportunities exist in both the public and private sector for technical staff wishing to upskill in critical areas where there are skills shortages such as project management and BIM. Opportunities exist for graduates in roles such as construction manager, construction technician, site engineer, BIM technician.
16.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	The minimum entry requirement is a level 7 qualification in a cognate area, or equivalent. In accordance with the Institute's Code, Recognition of Prior Learning may also be used to gain admission to this programme.
17.	Programme Structure:	The programme consists of four 10 ECTS modules as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Building Technologies • Building Energy Systems • Construction Informatics • Project Management These modules are complemented with a module to prepare students for work and a work experience module.
18.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	This programme will be delivered using a blended delivery mode with online content delivery and face-to-face workshops which will be block delivered. Self-directed student learning and project work are a key element of the proposed programme. There is a strong industrial focus to this programme, with stakeholders invited to review the construction projects completed by students.
19.	Resource Implications:	This programme will be delivered on a self-financing basis. 17 hours per week lecturing capacity is required to deliver this programme. This will be derived from existing capacity where available.

		<p>Staff will require ongoing upskilling in relation to online delivery in order to engage in continuous improvement of delivery.</p> <p>No additional library resources are required for the delivery of this programme.</p>
20.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	All modules are common with other programmes, but delivery will be separate due to the blended delivery model proposed for this programme.
21.	Findings and Recommendations:	General:
		The panel welcomed the development of this programme and approved it subject to the following conditions (4) and recommendations (11):
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the Programme Learning Outcome mapping to ensure that it is complete and accurate. 2. Revise the work experience module to ensure that graduates will gain relevant innovation skills. Reconsider the assessment for this module considering the inclusion of additional assessment elements, and explain more completely the management of the work placement. Specify the alternative that will be provided for students unable to undertake placement. 3. Provide a 10 ECTS Professional Practice Project elective to be offered against 'The Next Step – Transitioning to Work' and the 'Work Experience' modules. 4. Revise the entry requirements for the programme, removing barriers to entry, and including RPL as an entry route.
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Reconsider the programme title to ensure that it fully reflects the breadth of the programme content. 6. Include provision for an approved graduate element within each module e.g. BRE AG. 		

		<p>7. Outline the findings from the consultation process undertaken and how this influenced the programme content, structure and delivery.</p> <p>8. Expand on the employment opportunities available to graduates.</p> <p>9. Highlight the difference between the programme learning outcomes and those of the BSc (Hons) in Sustainable Building Technology.</p> <p>10. Consult with Engineers Ireland or other professional bodies regarding potential accreditation for the programme.</p> <p>11. Include in the updated documentation the additional information provided to the validation panel relating to the programme delivery and assessment.</p> <p>12. Add additional BIM process content time in addition to BIM project time.</p> <p>13. Further elaborate on the programme teaching and learning strategy, with particular emphasis on the blended delivery.</p> <p>14. Consider revising the programme/module assessment strategy in light of the blended delivery of the programme.</p> <p>15. Ensure that there is access to the Institute's Education Technology Officer and/or the Institute's Instructional Designer to support staff in the delivery of this programme.</p>	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary

