

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Higher Certificate in Arts in Heritage Studies					
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	6					
3.	Duration:	2 years					
4.	ISCED Code:	0220					
5.	School / Centre:	Galway International Hotel School					
6.	Department:	Department of Heritage and Tourism, Language and Humanities					
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	No:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Differential Validation:	Yes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.	Date of Review:	8 th May 2018					
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blended	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Panel Members:	Mr Dermot O'Donovan Ms Trish O'Connell Mr Eamon Walsh Ms Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council Ms Carmel Brennan					
11.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Diarmuid O'Conghaile Dr Mark McCarthy Dr John Tunney Dr Suzanne O'Shea Mr Paul Gosling Mr Cian Marnell Dr Cilian Roden					
12.	Programme Rationale:	Heritage Studies as a discipline area has been successfully delivered in the GMIT since 1995. The programmes that have been delivered since then have changed to reflect the needs of the Heritage sector in Ireland. The team delivering these programmes have extensive experience and knowledge in this discipline and are also recognised leaders on research in this area. This collective level of expertise and the innovative delivery methods they employ have been the major success factor in the delivery of both under-graduate and post-graduate Heritage Studies programmes in the GMIT since 1995.					

		At the time of review and approval in of the level 7 and 8 degrees in Heritage Studies in 2015, a level 6 award was not presented as either an entry or exit award. The programme board are proposing the approval of a level 6 Higher Certificate in Arts in Heritage Studies, which will also act as an embedded exit award for the level 7 and 8 degrees.
13.	Potential Demand for Entry:	The approval and delivery of a level 6 programme should increase the number of students studying in this discipline area. Such an increase would have no impact on resources as the proposed level 6 programme is drawn without amendment from stages one and two of the current level 7 and level 8 programme. It is envisaged that this programme may prove to be more attractive to a certain cohort of prospective students who are seeking a shorter period of study with the view to seeking employment, although these students may also subsequently seek to progress with their studies.
14.	Stakeholder Engagement:	The Programme Board are very well connected in the many facets of the heritage industry, and increasingly so as graduates gain employment in the discipline. Lecturers are proactively involved in a wide spectrum of heritage projects. Through these projects and networks, the Programme Board have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, who have responded positively to the proposed new award.
15.	Graduate Demand:	Employment opportunities for graduates of the Higher Certificate in Arts in Heritage Studies will be entry level positions in the following areas: arts administration; antiques and collectibles; archaeology; business; charities and NGOs; civic trusts; civil service; community development; conservation and restoration; creative digital media; environmental consultancies; family history centres; genealogical companies; government departments; heritage agencies; heritage centres; hospitality; journalism; leisure; local authorities; museums; national parks; publishing houses; retail outlets; start-up enterprises; technology companies; tour guiding; tourism agencies; and visitor attractions.
16.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	The minimum entry requirement for this programme will be the entry requirements as stated in Code of Practice No. 4. At present this is a Grade 06/H7 or better in five Leaving Certificate subjects including Mathematics and English or Irish with a minimum of 160 points.

17.	Programme Structure:	The first two years of the proposed programme are directly equivalent to the first two years of the BA in Heritage Studies and the BA (Hons) in Heritage Studies.
18.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	A wide variety of teaching and assessment methodologies are used on this programme. Guest speakers and fieldtrips are used where possible, and students are introduced to relevant technologies.
19.	Resource Implications:	The delivery of the proposed programme will require no additional resources.
20.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	All modules are common with the level 7 and level 8 heritage programmes.
21.	Findings and Recommendations:	<p>General:</p> <p>The proposing team were complimented on the quality of their proposal, and their proactive engagement with change generally, and in their engagement with the validation panel. The panel are recommending that the programme be approved subject to the following recommendations (8):</p>
		<p>Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):</p>
		<p>None.</p>
		<p>Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the level of detail provided in relation to access, transfer and progression. 2. Revise the Programme Learning Outcomes to ensure that they read appropriately. 3. Further elaborate on the types of employment positions available to graduates of the Higher Certificate in Arts in Heritage Studies considering the skills set they will acquire during the programme. 4. Highlight how technology is embedded in the programme, and the relevant skills that students will gain. 5. Revise the Approved Programme Schedule to ensure that all modules are displayed in the correct semesters and that elective rules are clear. (Irish & European History 1200-1600 should be moved from semester 1 to 2.) 6. Review the programme document to provide a more comprehensive reflection of the learning, teaching and diverse assessment strategies used by the programme team. 7. Provide more detail on the staff profile in the AQA2 document highlighting the depth of skill and knowledge of the staff relevant to the programme.

		8. During Programmatic Review revise the level of modules ensuring they are appropriate to this award. It is also recommended that the length of reading lists be reviewed at this time to ensure that they are appropriate to the level of the award.	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary