

1.	<b>Title of Programme(s):</b> (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Higher Certificate in Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care
2.	<b>NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:</b>	6 120 ECTS
3.	<b>Duration:</b>	2 years
4.	<b>ISCED Code:</b>	0112
5.	<b>School / Centre:</b>	Mayo Campus
6.	<b>Department:</b>	Department of Nursing and Health Care
7.	<b>Type of Review:</b>	Differential Validation
8.	<b>Date of Review:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
9.	<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	Full-time
10.	<b>Panel Members:</b>	Mr Michael Gill, Chair Mr Davy Walsh Ms Caroline Clarke Ms Patsy Baissangourov, Lecturer in Early Childhood Care, Health and Education, Letterkenny Institute of Technology Ms Carmel Brennan, Secretary
11.	<b>Proposing Staff:</b>	Mr Justin Kerr Ms Joanne Doherty Ms Mary Skillington Ms Louise Kilbane
12.	<b>Programme Rationale:</b>	The Mayo Campus has approved and is delivering level 7 and level 8 degrees in Early Childhood Education and Care. As part of the approval process a level 6 exit award was approved. Based on market demand approval is being sought for a level 6 major award which will be offered on the CAO. The level 6 award is of particular significance as a qualification at this level enables graduates to be employed as a room leader in an ECEC setting. This programme will further increase the professionalism, competence and capability of the sector through enhanced education.
13.	<b>Potential Demand for Entry:</b>	It is anticipated that there will be 30 students in stage 1 across the level 6, 7 and 8 programmes.
14.	<b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b>	Extensive consultation was undertaken during the development of the degree programmes, and ongoing

		feedback from the sector, including placement employers, informed the current proposal.
15.	<b>Graduate Demand:</b>	The introduction of the Free Preschool Year (ECEC) scheme in 2010 and its extension to a second year in 2016 has increased demand for qualified practitioners.
16.	<b>Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer &amp; Progression:</b>	<p>Grade O6/H7 or better in five Leaving Certificate subjects including English or Irish and Mathematics OR Foundation Certificate OR QQI FET Level 5 or 6 award OR mature applicants in line with GMIT's access policy.</p> <p>Advanced entry is available for those with a QQI FE Level 6 award in Early Childhood Education and Care or cognate.</p> <p>Recognition of prior learning (RPL) may be used for admittance or exemption from this programme in line with GMIT's RPL policy.</p>
17.	<b>Programme Structure:</b>	This is a two-year full-time programme with a mix of semesterised and year-long modules. Work placement a core element of both years.
18.	<b>Learning, Teaching &amp; Assessment Strategies:</b>	<p>Through collaborative processes the programme content will be delivered through a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops, readings, class discussions, ICT, group work and case-studies. Learners will be encouraged to participate in the classroom and to relate concepts to actual situations. Case studies will be encouraged, particularly as a mechanism for developing learners' team-working, problem solving, communication skills and the integration of theory to practice.</p> <p>A diverse range of assessments will be used in this programme based on the learning it is designed to assess.</p>
19.	<b>Resource Implications:</b>	No additional resources are required to deliver this programme.
20.	<b>Synergies with Existing Programmes:</b>	All modules are part of the level 7 and 8 degrees in Early Childhood Education and Care.
21.	<b>Findings and Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>General:</b></p> <p>The programme was approved subject to the following conditions (1) and recommendations (7).</p>

		The panel commended the variety and type of assessment, its value to students, and its strong basis in the community.	
		<b>Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):</b>	
		1. Ensure the title of the programme is stated consistently as Higher Certificate in Arts in Early Childhood Education and Care.	
		<b>Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:</b>	
		1. Remove 'be able to' from the start of each Programme Learning Outcome as it is included in the initial statement and should not be repeated. 2. Consider including electives on this programme in the future. 3. Consider removing reference to DCYA list in the entry requirements given this list is currently being updated. 4. Consider retitling one or more module titles to ensure that it is visible on transcripts that the programme deals with 0 to 6-year olds. 5. Ensure that the assessment strategy gives exposure to the rich variety of applied assessments used and include reference to this in promotional material. 6. Include a graphic to clarify the delivery of the programme. 7. Review the documentation to edit layout and typo issues.	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary