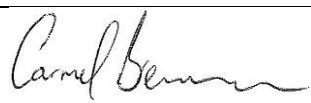# VALIDATION REPORT

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BSc in Business Information Systems L7 & L8 BA in International Hotel Management L8 BB Hotel & Catering Management L7 BB Retail Management L7 & L8 BB Event Management with Public Relations L7 & L8 BA Culinary & Gastronomic Science L7 & L8 BEng in Software & Electronic Engineering L7 & L8 BSc in Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science L7 & L8 BSc in Sport & Exercise Science L8 BSc in Freshwater & Marine Biology L7
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	7 & 8 180 & 240
3.	Duration:	3 or 4 Years
4.	ISCED Code:	Miscellaneous
5.	School / Centre:	Institute Wide
6.	Department:	Institute Wide
7.	Type of Review:	Differential Validation
8.	Date of Review:	17th December 2020
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time
10.	Panel Members:	Dr Joe McGarry, Educational Consultant, (Chair) Dr Carine Gachon Mr James Corbett Ms Katherine O'Sullivan, General Manager, O'Donnell Design Ltd Dr Michael Hannon, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Registrar, (Secretary)
11.	Proposing Staff:	Ms Carmel Brennan Mr Diarmuid O'Conghaile Ms Natasha Rohan Mr Ronan MacGearailt Mr John Keary Ms Frances Martin Dr Des Foley Mr Eamon Walsh Ms Bridie Killoran
12.	Rationale for Proposed Changes	Work Placements are a key element of many programmes in GMIT and contribute to the applied nature of the education that GMIT

delivers. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on every aspect of Irish society since Spring of this year, not least on industry and employment. It is recognised that facilitating placement of students during the Covid-19 Pandemic provides unique challenges for many industries, and in some instances, it may not be possible to place some students or entire cohorts of students. In other instances, only partial placements may be feasible. In addition, we need to be prepared should we face a situation similar to March 2020 when there was a directive from the Department of Education and Skills to cease all placement activity with immediate effect.

Whilst many programmes have inbuilt alternatives to placement which were validated when the programme was initially developed, others do not. The purpose of this differential validation is to propose and approve substitutes for programmes which require an alternative. It is acknowledged that it is not feasible to fully and accurately mirror the learning that would occur in a placement. However, the proposed structure for alternatives proposed aims to provide students with valuable learning which reflect as closely as feasible the learning outcomes of their placement module albeit in a non-work environment.

| 13. | Summary of Changes | A review of the size and level of existing work placement modules and their learning outcomes in conjunction with a review of relevant literature review informed the proposed structure of the work placement alternative. The chosen model needed to reflect the following scenarios: |

1. Work placement modules vary from 10 to 30 ECTS. Therefore, flexibility is required in relation to the construction of the placement through the collection of modules of varying credits.
2. The focus of work placement modules vary along a continuum from discipline specific to generic skills development. Therefore, it was agreed that modules would be provided relating to work, to specific disciplines and to personal and professional development. This reflects the discipline, cross-discipline and transversal skills required by industry.
3. The proposed alternative may apply to entire cohorts of students or only some students within a class group who are unable to secure placement due to fall out from Covid. Given the variance in numbers an Institute wide approach was deemed most suitable so that students from different class groups may be combined as appropriate. The new

		modules i.e. Applied Project and Professional Environment & Practice and Industry Placement, Reporting & Reflection have been written generically so they can apply to a range of programmes and disciplines. Work is ongoing in relation to ensuring that cohorts for each of the modules proposed are viable and that resources are in place for each. 4. The proposed alternative may be required when students are unable to undertake a placement, but also where they are only able to partially complete their placement. To facilitate this a module allowing students to reflect and report on their partially completed placement was included which could be used in conjunction with other modules. The proposed alternative, therefore, is a framework of modules with those chosen by each Programme Board outlined in the attached table which is an extract from the submission document.
14.	Resource Implications:	Lecturing/supervision resources will be required for the new modules, and in instances where approved modules need to be delivered to unique cohorts. Work is ongoing at Head of Department level to identify the specific resources required in light of student numbers requiring an alternative becoming clearer.
15.	Findings and Recommendations:	General: The panel approve the changes with the commendations (1) listed below and subject to the following condition(s) (0) and recommendation(s) (6): Commendations: 1. The establishment of an appropriate framework in a very quick period of time given all the constraints of the current environment. Special conditions attaching to approval (if any): None

		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought: 1. Identify opportunities for deeper engagement with industry in the delivery of the work placement alternative, for example inviting industry to provide guest lectures or to deliver relevant workshops. 2. Build on disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning by providing students with opportunities for deeper integrated learning through engagement with workshops/talks delivered on other modules across the Institute. A mechanism to disseminate information on relevant activities should be considered. 3. Review the resources which are required to support and scaffold student learning in the new modules. 4. Review the teaching and learning strategies for 'Professional Environment and Practice' and 'Creative and Critical Industry Analysis' taking into consideration the student learning journey and the module credit weighting, ensuring that students are appropriately scaffolded to engage successfully with these modules. 5. Refer to the supervision hours in both 'Applied Project' module descriptors. 6. Consider, as part of the Programmatic Review process, how this framework for work placement alternative can be evolved to be part of an ongoing opportunity for students within Schools and/or across the Institute.

22.	FAO: Academic Council:	Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:	Joe McGarry	
		Chair	Secretary

Programme	Module Title	Level	ECTS	Grading Mode	The Next Step 5	Comm & Neg 5	Env & Prac 10	Tech Writ 5	Python 5	Qual Mgt 5	Ind Anal 15	App Proj 15	App Proj 10	Ind Plac Rep 15	Blockchain 5		No. Students	Comment on how the alternative proposed broadly meets the outcomes of the work placement module.
	Work Placement Module for which alternative is being proposed				**Proposed Alternative**													
BSc (Hons) in Business Information Systems	Work Placement	8	30	P/F	X	X			X				X	X				See Module Learning Outcomes.
BSc in Business Information Systems	Work Placement	7	30	P/F	X	X			X				X	X			8	
BA International Hotel Management	Industry Work Placement	8	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X			127	See Supporting Document in Appendix B (Separate Document) re modules in Galway International Hotel School
BB Hotel & Catering Management	Industry Work Placement	7	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BB (Hons)Retail Management	Work Placement	8	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BB Retail Management	Work Placement	7	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BB (Hons) Event Management with Public Relations	Work Placement	8	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BB Event Management with Public Relations	Work Placement	7	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				

| Programme | Work Placement Module for which alternative is being proposed | | | | Proposed Alternative | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
	Module Title	Level	ECTS	Grading Mode	The Next Step 5	Comm & Neg 5	Env & Prac 10	Tech Writ 5	Python 5	Qual Mgt 5	Ind Anal 15	App Proj 15	App Proj 10	Ind Plac Rep 15	Blockchain 5		No. Students	Comment on how the alternative proposed broadly meets the outcomes of the work placement module.
BA (Hons) Culinary & Gastronomic Sciences	Industry Work Placement	8	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BA Culinary & Gastronomic Sciences	Work Placement	7	30	Numeric	X		X				X			X				
BEng (Hons) in Software & Electronic Engineering	Work Placement	8	30	Numeric	X	X			X	X			X	X			1-3	The selected modules provide a good balance between the personal development, technical development and applied project skills of the students. Students who do not get a placement take the Applied Project (10 credits, The Next Step (5 ECTS), Bus Comm & Neg (5 ECTS) plus 2 other 5 credit modules. Students who do a partial placement take the Industrial Placement Report (15 credits) plus The Next Step (5 ECTS) plus 2 other 5 credit modules.

Programme	Work Placement Module for which alternative is being proposed				Proposed Alternative													Comment on how the alternative proposed broadly meets the outcomes of the work placement module.
	Module Title	Level	ECTS	Grading Mode	The Next Step 5	Comm & Neg 5	Env & Prac 10	Tech Writ 5	Python 5	Qual Mgt 5	Ind Anal 15	App Proj 15	App Proj 10	Ind Plac Rep 15	Blockchain 5		No. Students	
																		See Module Learning Outcomes in Appendix C.
BEng Software & Electronic Engineering	Work Placement	7	30	Numeric	X	X			X	X		X	X					As above.
BSc Chemical and Pharmaceutical Science	Placement	7	30	Pass/Fail	X	X			X	X		X					~10 -15	Topics chosen to match with existing LOs. See Appendix D.
Forensic Science & Analysis	Placement	7	30	Pass/Fail	X	X			X	X		X					10-15	Topics chosen to match with existing LOs. See Appendix D.
Sport and Exercise Science	Professional Skills in Sport and Exercise Science	8	15	Numeric							X						~10	See Appendix D.
Freshwater and Marine Biology	Professional Practice	7	15	Numeric	X							X					~15	See Appendix D.