Differential Validation Report

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BSc (Hons) in Business Information Systems BSc in Business Information Systems
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	7 and 8 180 and 240
3.	Duration:	3 years 4 years
4.	ISCED Code:	0610
5.	School / Centre:	School of Business
6.	Department:	Department of Accounting & Information Systems

7.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:		No:	X
		Differential Validation:	Yes:	X	No:	

8.	Date of Review:	13th June 2018

9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	X	Part-time		Blended	

10.	Panel Members:	Ms Cáit Noone, Chair Mr Colm Kelleher Dr Brian Ashall Mr Michael Cox, Business Solutions, Intuity Ms Carmel Brennan, Secretary
11.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Eamon Walsh Dr Miriam McSweeney Mr Phelim Murnion Mr Ronan MacGearailt
12.	Proposed Change and Rationale:	The proposal is to include a 30 ECTS work placement module in semester 6 of both programmes, replacing 30 ECTS of taught modules. This substitution was the intention of the programme design team when the programme was initially designed in 2014, and this substitution was recommended by the external panel of the original programme validation process. The programme team cited the absence of an Institute work placement resource allocation model as the predominant reason that impeded the inclusion of the work placement module at the time of the original programme validation. However, the programme was designed so that semester 6 could be replaced with a work placement module in the future. This was also a stated recommendation of the initial validation panel. In addition, an alternative to work placement is

| | | proposed in the form of six modules, which have been approved in previous programme validations in the School.

The inclusion of a work placement is based on many factors including student demand, GMIT strategy, national objectives of the Education Action Plan, enhancing the appeal of the programme to potential students including international students, aligning with similar programmes and enhancing relationships with employers. |
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| 13. | Resource Implications: | It is the view of the programme team that this proposal will be resource neutral. |
| 14. | Findings and Recommendations: | General: |
| | | It was the judgement of the Registrar that the changed proposed do not run contrary to the aims, ethos or rationale of the programme and do not undermine anything which was essential to the original validation decision. The proposal does not constitute extensive and substantial changes to the programmes. However, the proposal does represent significant structural changes to the programmes and, in accordance with para 4.1 of Code of Practice No. 2, a Differential Validation should be carried out.

The panel recommends the approval of the proposed changes subject to the following conditions (7) and recommendations (10). |
| | | Special conditions attaching to approval (if any): |
| | | 1. Outline clearly and explicitly the research which has been undertaken with industry in relation to potential workplace hosting, and the findings from this process.
2. Review the assessment strategy and the grading strategy for the Work Placement module, clarifying whether it is pass/fail or graded.
3. Clarify the award classification methodology for the level 7 award.
4. Develop a detailed work placement handbook that will inform and guide all stakeholders (staff, students and host employers) on the operation of all aspects of the work placement including arrangements for pre-placement, placement, and post-placement. This should include, inter alia, procedures for confirming suitability of a placement, responsibilities and expectations of |

		stakeholders, assessment, arrangements for pay (if relevant), etc…. 5. Provide enhanced detail on the workshops which will support students in preparation for placement. Note in the module descriptor and the APS that pre-placement workshops will take place in semester 5. 6. Provide further detail on the repeat mechanism for the placement. 7. The alternative modules and the work placement module need to appear on the APS as electives, with an explicit elective rule.
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
		8. Strengthen the rationale for the benefits of the work placement learning experience for students, and the benefits that accrue to employers. 9. Specify that the work placement undertaken by students must be suitable to the programme. 10. Plan for contingencies for instances where students are unable to complete placements due to personal or external factors. 11. Stipulate the specific duration of the work placement. 12. Include the work placement supervision hours on the module descriptor to appear on the APS. 13. Expand on the types of 'technical components' which students will learn on placement and how this will be decided, agreed and measured. 14. Revise the book list and other resources listed in the module descriptor. 15. Provide specific details of the resources required to deliver the work placement through the application of the work placement allocation model. 16. Consider whether all 'alternative modules' should be drawn from the same programme. 17. Thoroughly review the documentation, editing to ensure accuracy and remove typos.
22.	FAO: Academic Council:	
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary