

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Certificate in Emerging Technologies and Business Models for the Workforce Special Purpose Award
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	Level 8 10 ECTS
3.	Duration:	2 Semesters (26 weeks)
4.	ISCED Code:	0410
5.	School / Centre:	School of Business
6.	Department:	Business, Humanities and Technology
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme
8.	Date of Review:	2 nd December 2021
9.	Delivery Mode:	Blended, Part-time
10.	Proposed Student Intake:	24
11.	Proposed Start Date:	September 2022
12.	Panel Members:	Mr Gerard O'Donovan, MTU (Chair) Dr Janine McGinn, GMIT Dr Carina Ginty, GMIT Ms Anne Conlon, Castlebar Chamber of Commerce Mr Hugh Mc Bride, GMIT (Secretary)
13.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Michael Gill, GMIT Mr Declan Hoban, GMIT Dr Vicky O'Rourke, LyIT Ms Caroline Clarke, GMIT
14.	Programme Rationale:	<p>The aim of the proposed programme is to prepare graduates for contemporary challenges and opportunities in emerging technologies and business models and for future developments.</p> <p>It aims to demonstrate to learners how contemporary emerging technologies and new business models are transforming the workforce, and will provide organisations with a competitive edge in relation to being more agile in reaching markets more expediently. This added competitive advantage will enable organisations to enhance brand identity and sustain customer satisfaction. The proposed programme is particularly relevant with the emergence of new technologies and business models that will reshape the way organisations will undertake their tasks.</p> <p>The proposed programme will demonstrate to learners that to succeed in today's environment, organisations need to improve their ability to capture and analyse an immense amount of data to develop timely customer, competitive and operational insights.</p>

		<p>They need to embed innovation within their core business, and to use the latest technologies as business innovation enablers and create an agile culture, organisation, and asset base to thrive in an environment of change.</p> <p>The proposed special purpose award has been approved for HCI funding under Pillar 3 – Innovation and Agility. Information on the HCI funding granted for the proposal is provided in an Appendix to the programme document.</p> <p>The programme was designed in a partnership and collaboration among staff of GMIT, IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT. The nature of the collaboration was outlined by the programme team during the validation meeting. The intention is that the award be validated by GMIT, and if approved, will be offered and delivered across each of the three Institutes which are soon to be merged into the Atlantic Technological University (ATU).</p>
15.	Stakeholder Engagement:	<p>Evidence in support of the relevance of the programme is provided by quotations from several articles and reports. The proposal was reviewed very favourably by an external expert, Dr D. Fleming (IT Carlow). Letters of Endorsement for the proposal were provided by Ballina Beverages, Castlebar Chamber of Commerce, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, Local Enterprise Office Donegal and Hotel Westport.</p> <p>There are no similar comparable programmes offered in Ireland.</p>
16.	Graduate Demand/Employment:	<p>It is envisaged that graduates can seek employment in local multinationals, public and private sector, start-ups, retailers, the hospitality industry, professional practice and the voluntary sector.</p>
17.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	<p>The programme is aimed at people working or aspiring to work in business and non-business professions and who share a common interest in emerging technologies and business models that will help reshape the workforce during turbulent and opportunistic times. Potential students are likely to already be in employment across industries. The programme will also appeal to candidates who have already achieved qualifications in business or other professions besides business. It will offer mature learners an opportunity to return to education. Students will come predominantly from the western/north western region but also from further afield.</p> <p>Applicants for the proposed programme must have completed a Level 7 programme or equivalent. Candidates not having a formal qualification can be assessed for equivalence through RPL. There is no requirement that applicants be in employment, or have a background or a cognate qualification or equivalent in business.</p>

18.	<p>Programme Structure:</p>	<p>The proposed programme comprises a single 10 credit module, 'Emerging Technologies and Business Models for the Workforce', at Level 8.</p> <p>Three themes have been interwoven into the learning outcomes and content: emerging technologies and business models for the workplace; transformation; creating an agile workforce to meet changing market demands. Sustainability is also referenced as a key theme reflected in the intended learning outcomes and content.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered over 2 semesters (26 weeks), requiring 78 student contact hours in total (a weekly average of 3 hours) comprising 39 hours of face-to-face lectures (a weekly average of 1.5 hours) and 39 hours of online learning (a weekly average of 1.5 hours).</p>
19.	<p>Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:</p>	<p>The delivery mode will be blended, involving a mix of face-to-face and online delivery.</p> <p>The blended format responds to the needs of students in the workplace and the employers supporting them. It permits learners to work, with minimal disruption to their employment, and to simultaneously gain further qualifications and apply their new skills into their workplace.</p> <p>The face-to-face element is considered particularly important for engaging students and encouraging peer learning.</p> <p>For the face-to-face element of delivery, it is proposed that students will attend for one full-day every four weeks throughout the academic year (8 attendance blocks in total). A residential weekend is also planned to facilitate group work and networking. During the validation meeting, the programme team indicated that the full-day delivery for each entry cohort would be scheduled for provision sequentially in four campus locations (in Sligo, Letterkenny, Galway and Mayo).</p> <p>Little if any detail is provided about the online delivery element.</p> <p>It is envisaged that a programme team of staff from each of the collaborating Institutes will be involved in delivery. Guest speakers from industry with discipline specific expertise and practical experience will be regularly invited to contribute. In addition, the programme includes an experiential workshop in which guest speakers will play a key role. The programme will work with professionals, companies and organisations in the region to build a professional community.</p> <p>Assessment will be entirely by continuous assessment. It will consist of a group project (60%), group presentation (10%) and an online quiz (30%). The assessment is formative in nature with the primary purpose of providing the learner with feedback and</p>

		<p>encouraging engagement. Feedback will be communicated using an assessment clinic.</p> <p>Assessment is designed to assess the student's knowledge and understanding of emerging new technologies and new business models and the application of these to their work environment. The project allows the students the opportunity to link their learning on the programme back to their organisation and to make connections between theory and practice.</p>
20.	Resource Implications:	<p>Delivery of the programme will involve a staff team from across GMIT, Sligo IT and LyIT. Staff skilled and knowledgeable in the area of emerging technologies and business models are available to teach the programme.</p> <p>No additional staffing or other resources will be required to deliver the programme; it will be provided from within existing resource capacity.</p> <p>The programme has been approved for HCI funding.</p>
21.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	None identified.
22.	Findings and Recommendations:	<p>The Panel commends the programme team for undertaking this inter-institutional collaboration and for the innovative cross-disciplinary nature of the programme proposal.</p> <p>The Panel recommends approval of the proposed programme subject to the conditions and recommendations outlined below.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rewrite the intended programme learning outcomes ensuring clarity and alignment with the stated programme themes and the module descriptor. 2. Review the intended module learning outcomes. 3. Reconsider the award and module title, and in particular remove the words 'for the workforce'. For example, consider whether the title 'Business Models and Emerging Technologies' might be more reflective of the aim, themes and content of the proposed programme. 4. Document the proposed inter-institutional collaborative provision, including arrangements for programme management, co-ordination, staffing and resourcing. 5. Clarify the proposed delivery model, including the multi-campus delivery element, the scheduling for face-to-face contact time and the online element. 6. Review the module content and the teaching and learning strategy to incorporate a greater emphasis on practical application and the use of digital technologies. 7. Clarify the arrangements planned to support and enable students not in employment, or not having a business

		<p>background or cognate qualification, to contextualise and apply knowledge to practice in the workplace.</p> <p>8. Reconsider the assessment strategy, including the proposed % weighting for each assessment element, the appropriateness of an online quiz for the level, and the nature and authenticity of the group project and its relevance to the learner’s workplace.</p> <p>9. Edit the programme document, removing reference to ‘HCI micro-credential requirements’, and clarifying the stakeholder consultation and market research actually undertaken.</p>	
		<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>1. Strengthen the commitment to using guest lecturers from industry in the teaching and learning strategy outlined in the module descriptor.</p> <p>2. Consider establishing an Industry Advisory Panel to support the programme provision, drawn from the professionals, companies and organisations in the region that the programme team plans to work with.</p> <p>3. Review the required reading book list.</p>	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:	Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary