

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Certificate in IT Project Management Special Purpose Award			
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	7 20 ECTS			
3.	Duration:	1 Semester			
4.	ISCED Code:	0688			
5.	School / Centre:	Mayo Campus			
6.	Department:	Department of Business, Humanities and Technology			
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme, SPA			
8.	Date of Review:	11 June 2019			
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time		Part-time	Blended X
10.	Work Based Learning	Work Placement		Work Based Project	X
		No. ECTS		No. ECTS	5
11.	Panel Members:	Mr Gerard MacMichael, GMIT (Chair) Ms Deirdre O'Donovan, GMIT Mr Paul Forry, IT Manager, Portwest Mr Gerald Hughes, Operations Manager, Arkphire Cloud Services Ms Carmel Brennan, GMIT (Secretary)			
12.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Michael Gill Dr Deirdre Garvey Mrs Noreen Henry Mr Seamus Dowling Mr Pearce McDonnell			
13.	Programme Rationale:	<p>The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs identified that “highly skilled project managers and marketers will always be in demand to ensure the technology sector in Ireland continues to grow.”</p> <p>Project management skill and effectiveness is one of the key business skills requirements identified in relation to the impact of digitalization on Ireland’s workforce (Expert</p>			

		<p>Group on Future Skills Needs, 2018b, pp. 9,71). ICT specialists & project managers have been identified as having higher than average medium-term employment growth prospects according the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs 2016.</p> <p>The Galway Executive Skillnet Research Study (Walker, 2019, p. 18) identified Project Management competency development as a priority, to deal with the current and future skills gaps within roles such as Systems Engineers and Software Engineers. This report also identified in the need for soft skills' and people skills' development.</p>
14.	Potential Demand for Entry:	It is envisaged that there will be an initial intake of 24 students.
15.	Stakeholder Engagement:	Focus groups were held with business and community representatives in February 2018 and 2019. IT Project management, general IT management and transferrable skills were identified as a local skill deficiency. In addition, these skills deficits have been identified by GMIT's industry partners. The findings from this consultation process influenced the programme design and content.
16.	Graduate Demand:	A review of job opportunities shows demand for roles with this expertise. It is also envisaged that graduates of this programme will have additional expertise to contribute to their roles within their own companies.
17.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	<p>Minimum Entry Requirements The minimum entry requirement is a level 6 Higher Certificate or equivalent in Computing/Technology/Business or cognate area.</p> <p>English Language Requirements Minimum score of 5.5 (with a minimum of 5.0 in each component) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) ore equivalent. Further details in Admissions policy.</p> <p>Recognition of Prior Learning Recognition of Prior Learning can be used in accordance with GMIT's policy.</p>

		<p>Application Route Application is direct to the Institute (or Springboard if funded).</p> <p>Selection Applicants will be ranked in order of merit.</p>
18.	Programme Structure:	The programme consists of four 5 ECTS modules, culminating in a Work Based Project Management module giving student the opportunity to practice and implement the skills and knowledge gained in the programme.
19.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	<p>This programme will be delivered in a blended manner, with block delivery of the practical elements of the programme. The blended part of the programme will include live and recorded webinars and forum discussions among other techniques. Social interaction will be encouraged and facilitated in the real and virtual classroom as an aid to learning.</p> <p>The assessment strategy reflects the applied nature of the programme with strong emphasis on continuous assessment and projects.</p>
20.	Resource Implications:	This programme will be self-financing. Students will require access to MS Project outside of the Institute to engage with programme learning and assessments. CPD is required for staff with an approximate cost of €5,000.
21.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	None.
22.	Findings and Recommendations:	General:
		The programme was approved subject to the following recommendations (8):
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):
		None
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correct the number of students on the Mayo Campus in the introductory part of the AQA2 document. 2. Use QQI rather than HETAC throughout the document. 3. Provide full reference details of all reports referred to in the rationale for the programme.

		<p>4. Review the volume of Programme Learning Outcomes given the number of credits attached to the programme. Consideration should be given to combining learning outcomes where relevant.</p> <p>5. Clarify the wording relating to progression opportunities for students.</p> <p>6. Articulate the arrangements for the work-based project module for students not in employment.</p> <p>7. List the language requirement for admission as the standard Institute requirement for undergraduate programmes.</p> <p>8. The Institute needs to review the instructional design resources required for programme design and the technical resources and supports required for the delivery of blended/online programmes. Lecturers on online and blended programmes should not have to develop their own technical support solutions.</p>	
23.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary