

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

Title of Programme:	BA (Honours) in Contemporary Art, Level 8 BA in Contemporary Art, Level 7 Higher Certificate exit award Level 6 in Contemporary Art
School/Centre:	College of Tourism & Arts
Duration:	4 years
NQAI Level:	Level 8 – 240 credits Level 7 – 180 credits Level 6 – 120 credits (Exit Award)
Date of Review:	Wednesday 20 th May 2015
Panel of Members:	Dr. Joe McGarry (Chair) Prof Desmond Bell, NCAD Conor Harrison, Professional Development Service for Teachers Megs Morley, Practitioner Michael Hannon, Secretary

1.0	<p><u>Rationale for the Programme</u></p> <p>CCAM had offered programmes in Art & Design since 1997. The publication of the national strategy for Higher Education emphasised broadening participation and increasing engagement in creative programmes and this was the key consideration for the proposing team. The review of creative arts education in the Dublin region was also considered during this period and it should be noted that some of the outcomes from this review are relevant to CCAM. For example the development of vertical partnerships with other education providers such as schools and further education institutes.</p> <p>The creative arts sector plays a significant role in the regional landscape of the west of Ireland. As other higher education centres in the region also offer art & design programmes. It has been necessary to reflect how CCAM can forge a distinctive identity addressing new demands in a changing National and International cultural landscape.</p> <p>The choice of the new titles – Contemporary Art – addresses shifting perceptions in visual culture. For the first time the centre proposes to offer an Honours Degree in Contemporary Art in addition to a level 8 award of the same title. The new awards reflect the changing landscape of contemporary art. They address an increasing emphasis on inter-disciplinarity and the fluid nature and multiple roles played by artists within the cultural sphere and society in general.</p>

2.0	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>Consultation with employers and professional bodies. During the programmatic review held during 2013/2014 staff in CCAM engaged with various stakeholders from programmes in Art & Design and Film & Documentary. Key cultural, institutional and policy stakeholders were consulted on existing courses and whether these met the challenges of a rapidly changing culture sector. Further details are contained in the AQA2 documentation.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Relevance of this programme to the mission and strategic plan of GMIT</u></p> <p>The proposed programmes are aligned with the institutes strategic plan and address objectives under each of the five pillars.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Student Demand</u></p> <p>In the early to mid 2000's demand for the Art & Design programmes was strong with an average yearly intake of 80 – 100 students, however since 2012 demand has decreased with the number of applicants in 2013 and 2014 in the region of 50 to 60 students. This is largely attributable to the fact that the institute does not offer a level 8 award in this area. The proposing team believe that the new suite of offerings with the new programme titles will address this decline in demand.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A. Human – as these programmes are replacing an existing programme they will be delivered within existing resources.</p> <p>B. Information Technology & Workshops – on going refurbishment and upgrading of equipment is addressed in the AQA2 document.</p>
6.0	<p><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></p> <p>A. Conditions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation in support of the level 7 programme is to be submitted as a separate document to the Registrar. • One programme board should be established for this family of programmes. • Replace the Learning and Innovation Skills module with the official approved version. • Produce a clear graphic showing the pathways that are possible. • The hours allocation per credit rated module to follow a standard formula, with no fractions of hours appearing in the approved programme schedule. • Review learning outcomes as per advice from the panel. Some examples include: page 44 of 355, learning outcome number 5 which states participation in student activity. Page 49 of 355, learning outcome number 3 which states, communicate and co-ordinate clearly with staff in a problem solving context, in order to create a simple moving image sequences. • The use of the verb <u>understand</u> is overused in the learning outcomes and should be replaced with a verb that is more measurable. A suggestion was made in relation to page number 58 of 355 learning outcome number 1 where understand is used and a suggestion was made to change this to “differentiate between the key themes and debates, defining critical theory and its relationship to arts and culture”.

	<p>B. <u>Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management, budget preparation, tendering and the development of business plans should be included, probably later in the programme and within the Professional Development module. • Transitions to the workplace module should be offered as an elective in stage 4. • The proposers should consider including junior cert art as an entry requirement and structures should be put in place to provide additional support to candidates entering this programme with no art experience. • The impact of not having a portfolio as an entry requirement should be reviewed on an annual basis. • Post graduate programmes should be developed, the panel strongly encourage the development of this recommendation for contemporary art. • The proposers need to provide assurance that the programme meets the requirements of the Teaching Council before it is advertised as such. • Awarding assessment marks of up to 10% for participation in first year modules as is documented in the programme is encouraged, but this should not exceed 10% and should not be available for modules post first year. • The AQA2 document should be revised and edited as per the following recommendation/suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It is not necessary to included responses to the recommendations of the programmatic review within this AQA2 document. B. Page 32 of the AQA2 document includes an additional pillar that is not part of the Institutes Strategic Plan. C. Page 38 under access requirements. State that new access requirements will be incorporated into a revised version of Code of Practice number 4. D. Second last paragraph where it states application for entry to year 1 will be through the CAO applicants for advanced entry to year 2 or subsequent years is made directly to the institute also include here “or to the CAO via advanced entry route”. Page 44, the table 4 refers to progression routes and not transfer routes. E. Page 49 2.3 should refer to intended programme learning outcomes as distinct from intended learning outcomes.
7.0	<p><u>For the Attention of Academic Council:</u></p> <p>The External Review Panel recommends that the 3 programmes as listed at the start of this report be approved by Academic Council subject to the centre and proposing team addressing the conditions listed in this report and also demonstration how the recommendation have been considered. A revised document clearly addressing the conditions and recommendations to be submitted to the Registrar. The Registrar will confirm with the Chair of the panel when this has been submitted and the conditions and recommendations be addressed.</p> <hr/> <p>Approved subject to recommended changes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p>Signed: _____ Signed: _____</p> <p>Dr. Joe McGarry, Mr. Michael Hannon, Chair Secretary</p>

