

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme:	MA in Creative Practice					
2.	School / Centre:	CCAM					
3.	Duration:	12 months					
4.	NFQ Level:	9					
5.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:	√	No:		
		Differential Validation:	Yes:		No:		
6.	Date of Review:	9 th June 2016					
7.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	√	Part-time	√	Blended	
8.	Panel Members:	Dr Joe McGarry, chair Prof Janis Jefferies, Goldsmiths, University of London Prof Phillip Napier, NCAD Helen O'Donoghue, IMMA Michael Hannon, Secretary/VP for Academic Affairs & Registrar					
9.	Proposing Staff:	Ms Julia Roddy Dr Seamus McGuinness Mr Mike Minnis Dr Gavin Murphy Ms Deirdre O'Mahony					
10	Programme Rationale:	<p>The MA in Creative Practice has been developed in response to the findings of GMIT's Self Evaluation Review (SER) and the Programmatic Reviews in 2014. It has also been informed by the validation process for the BA (Hons) Contemporary Art and BA (Hons) Film and Documentary programmes in CCAM. Each of these repeatedly identified the need for level 9 provision in the creative arts in the region and the need for a deeper professionalization of creative practices. They also recognized the value of inter-disciplinary opportunities within a project-based educational environment.</p> <p>The programme will serve the needs of the Creative Sector and the broader economy in terms of creative and innovation skills. The Irish government's Action Plan for Jobs includes actions involving developing the Arts, Culture and Creative Sectors as world class business sectors. "In economic terms, the cultural and creative sector is globally one of the fastest growing. Estimates value the sector at 7% of the world's GDP and forecast 10% growth per year." The plan identifies the arts, cultural and creative industries as key and primary economic contributors.</p>					

11.	Potential Demand for Entry:	Projected student numbers = 16 - 20 per annum
12.	Stakeholder Engagement:	<p>A number of consultative processes have taken place over recent years in terms of the needs and demands for postgraduate opportunities in film, design and contemporary art educational provision in the Galway and Mayo region. This was primarily carried out in the Programmatic Review process that the programmes at CCAM successfully completed in 2014 and more recently in the design, development and external validation of our new Contemporary Art programme in 2015. Through this process, a series of surveys and meetings with current students, graduates and regional stakeholders, identified the need for the provision of Level 9 and 10 programmes. Focus groups with key visual culture and film industry stakeholders identified the development of a Level 9 programme as both desirable and necessary to the further development of culture in the region.</p> <p>In a graduate survey in 2014, 68% of those surveyed expressed interest in post-graduate study at CCAM. Also, when presented with five possible routes CCAM might take in terms of new offerings, Postgraduate Programmes ranked highest at 3.78 out of 5, with 46% of respondents ranking this as first preference. External Examiner reports over the past five years have also repeatedly pointed to the need for postgraduate provision at CCAM.</p>
13.	Graduate Demand:	<p>Targeted areas of employment for graduates of this programme are located within the extensive range of creative networks and cultural infrastructure of the city, region and beyond.</p> <p>Employment would include socially engaged and public art projects, self-employed artists, arts administration, curation, film makers, technicians and designers. Within education, opportunities exist for engaging in research at level 10, as well as opportunities in second and third level teaching, lecturing and education programmes in museum and cultural institutions.</p> <p>The 'creative' workforce in the west is forecast to be over 38,000 strong by 2020 (WDC, 2011). A conservative replenishment rate of 2.5% would result in a need for 950 new entrants to the workforce each year. Future annual graduates from GMIT in CCAM will have circa 80 in Contemporary Art, 80 in Design, 50 in Film & Documentary, and 20 in Creative Enterprise. We also have circa 50 annual graduates on the Furniture programmes in Letterfrack. The new MA in Creative Practice with target numbers of 20 will attract CCAM graduates and will help address the demand for people with higher level degrees in the creative</p>

		sector. It is also likely that graduates will find employment in the broader economy due to the increasing interest in creative skills and processes. Entrepreneurial opportunities are also significant in this area. GMIT are also supporting these opportunities through the establishment of the Creative Enterprise Hub.
14.	Entry Requirements:	<p>Students will have to meet the entry requirements as indicated in GMIT's Academic Code of Practice No. 4 (Access, Transfer and Progression), at any given time.</p> <p>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) can be used as a means to document qualifications for entry to the programme, or gain exemptions in accordance with Code of Practice No. 6 (Policy and Procedures for the Recognition of Prior Learning). Prior learning can be certified or experiential, and will be assessed in accordance with the code.</p> <p>International students holding cognate qualifications at the appropriate level will be considered for entry. Individual applicants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in line with GMIT's policies. The Centre also engages with GMIT's International Office as required to map progression from partner colleges abroad.</p> <p>These strands are developed through a common modular structure. The PG DIP in Creative Practice is a year-long 60 credit course consisting of the following modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes and Issues in Creative Practice (10 credits) • Professional Development (10 credits) • Research and Innovation (10 credits) • Creative Practice Projects (30 credits)
15.	Programme Structure:	<p>The MA in Creative Practice is a year-long 90 credit course consisting of the following modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes and Issues in Creative Practice (10 credits) • Professional Development (10 credits) • Research and Innovation (10 credits) • Research Project & Thesis (60 credits) * <p>*Where students have taken the 30 credit Research Project and Thesis in their Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Practice, it will be opened to them to take an additional 30 credit Research Project and Thesis module to meet the MA requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Practice Projects (30 Credits) Elective

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Thesis (30 Credits) Elective
16.	Module syllabi:	As per programme document
17.	LTA:	<p>The aims and objectives of the course in terms of its teaching and learning strategy are to encourage students to explore contemporary culture in its broadest sense and to examine strategies of integrating practice and theory in order to support the student in a profound understanding of their practice and research area. The development of the student's research project is tied closely to questions of innovation and strategic positioning of their practice within the wider cultural sector.</p> <p>Study will be primarily self-initiated and self-directed. This will be augmented by directed lectures, seminars, workshops, symposia and field trips. The student will also be encouraged to share knowledge and develop collaborations within their peer group. This will be achieved through individual/group tutorials, workshops and through seminar presentations.</p> <p>The aims and objectives of the programme are also realized through the assessment strategies adopted. A range of assessment strategies are in place to evaluate the student's performance. The assessment strategy of each of the four modules is tailored to their syllabus and learning outcomes.</p>
18.	ATP:	<p>Discussion are beginning with Uversity to explore the potential for the use of modules from our programme in their MA in Creative Process. This may open up opportunities for transfer in the future.</p> <p>The flexibility we are designing into the delivery options for the programme will also give students alternatives. They include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time, On Campus, with studio and workplace allocation • Full-time, On Campus attendance at classes, with Off Campus studio/workplace • Full-time, Off Campus, On-line attendance at classes using VR technology, with Off Campus studio/workplace • Applicants may already have identified potential collaborative possibilities with other applicant(s).
19.	Resource Implications:	The department currently has available capacity to deliver the MA programme without hiring new lecturers. As student numbers increase across the undergraduate programmes it is expected

		<p>that more lecturers will be required across all disciplines and programmes.</p> <p>A number of current lecturers hold qualifications to Masters and PhD level and many are nationally and internationally accomplished in their practice. There are already members of staff with the required skillset to teach on this MA programme.</p>	
20.	Synergies with existing programmes:	Not applicable	
21.	Findings and Recommendations:	Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capture uniqueness of the programme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bespoke nature of collaboration and output should be reflected more in the USP of the programme 2. Develop a more innovative description of the programme with an emphasis on interdisciplinary practice 2. Clarification around the P/G Diploma pathways should be more clearly articulated 3. Volunteerism: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. refer to as 'valued experience' 4. Reflect on bespoke criteria for assessment and consider including students' self-evaluation as part of the overall assessment. 	
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):	
		None	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	✓
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary