

VALIDATION REVIEW REPORT

Title of Programme:	Special Purpose Award Mechanical Engineering
School/Centre:	School of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Department.
Duration:	1 year – Part time
NQAI Level:	Level 6 – 55 credits
Date of Review:	Friday 12 th June 2015
Panel of Members:	Dr. Joe McGarry (Chair) AC – Jim O’Connor AC – Des O’Reilly Dr. Ian O’Connell, Practitioner Michael Hannon, Registrar

1.0	<p><u>Rationale for the Programme</u></p> <p>This Minor Award arises from discussions first held in 2014 between GMIT and IMDA when GMIT was awarded the tender to deliver this course to IMDA member companies. By way of background, there are currently 250 medical technology companies in Ireland who employ 25,000 people – the highest number of people working in the industry in any country in Europe, per head of population. Exports of medical devices and diagnosis products now represent 8.5% of Ireland’s total merchandise exports: and growth prospects for the industry globally remain good. The Irish Government has identified the medical technology sector as one of the key drivers of industrial growth for the future and provides a wide range of supports to encourage and foster this growth. The demand for unskilled operators is gradually being replaced by the need for technicians who can operate, calibrate, maintain and debug assembly and test equipment. The skills need is recognised in the Expert Group on Future Skills Need 2015 Report as the need for “skills to drive operations excellence and skills needed to support a drive towards greater automation”. Sample job titles which people graduating from this course could apply for are process technicians. The aim of this programme is to deliver technician upskilling for unemployed people. It will give them skills which are known to be in demand in the medical device and / or life sciences manufacturing sector.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>IMDA were consulted on the need for this programme.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Student Demand</u></p> <p>20 Applications</p>

4.0	<p><u>Resource Implications</u> Springboard funded programme</p>
5.0	<p><u>Findings and Recommendations</u> Pedagogical approach in delivering the modules will be critical to take account of the pre-requisite knowledge of the students.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be greater clarity re the main objectives of the programme. • A materials science component with a focus on basic materials science should be addressed within the module on Manufacturing Engineering. • Minor Award should be reviewed at the end of one delivery period with the objective of customizing the modules to industry requirements.
6.0	<p><u>For the Attention of Academic Council:</u></p> <p>The External Review Panel recommends that this programme. A revised document clearly addressing the recommendations to be submitted to the Registrar. The Registrar will confirm with the Chair of the panel when this has been submitted and recommendations be addressed.</p>
	<p>Approved <input data-bbox="1195 1028 1246 1066" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Approved subject to recommended changes <input checked="" data-bbox="1195 1099 1270 1137" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not approved at this time <input data-bbox="1195 1171 1241 1209" type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Signed: _____ Signed: _____</p> <p>Dr. Joe McGarry, Mr. Michael Hannon, Chair Secretary</p>