



School Response to Report of Programme Validation Panel

Date: 25th May 2017

Named Award:	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Programme Title(s):	BSc (Honours) in Computing in Cloud Computing
Exit Award(s):	n/a
Award Class:	Major
NFQ Level:	8
ECTS / ACCS Credits:	60
First Intake:	September 2017

Panel Members

Mr. David Denieffe	Chair	VPAA and Registrar, IT Carlow
Mr. Barry Feeney	External Academic	Head of Department, IT Tallaght
Mr. Nigel Whyte	External Academic	Head of Department, IT Carlow
Mr. Stephen Howell	External Discipline Expert	Academic Program Manager, Microsoft Ireland
Mr. Sean Convery	External Discipline Expert	Boylesport, Dundalk.
Dr. Breda Brennan	Secretary to Panel	Assistant Registrar, DkIT

Programme Development Team

Dr. Gerard Bob McKiernan, Head of School of Informatics and Creative Arts	
Dr. Christian Horn, Head of Department of Computing Science and Mathematics	
Mr. Tony McCarron, Programme Director	
Mr. Martin McCourt	Ms. Amanda Clancy
Mr. Shane Darcy	Mr. Kilian Logan
Mr. Dermot Logue	Ms. Caroline Sheedy
Mr. Stephen Larkin	Ms. Bernadette Brosnan
Ms. Michelle Graham	

1 Introduction

The following report to Academic Council is a validation panel report from an expert panel of assessors on a proposal from the School of Informatics and Creative Arts at Dundalk Institute of Technology to design the following programme(s):

BSc (Honours) in Computing in Cloud Computing

The evaluators would like to thank the members of the development team for engaging generously and openly with the review process.

The report is divided into the following sections:

- Background to Proposed Programme
- General Findings of the Validation Panel
- Programme-Level Findings
- Module-Level Findings

2 Background to Proposed Programme

See programme submission for more detailed information.

3 General Findings of the Validation Panel

The panel commend the programme team for their work in the development of the programme and engagement with the panel.

Having considered the documentation provided and discussed it with the programme development team, the validation panel recommends the following:

BSc (Honours) in Computing in Cloud Computing

Accredited for the next five academic years or until the next programmatic review, whichever occurs sooner	
Accredited subject to conditions and/or recommendations	X
Re-designed and re-submitted to the same validation panel after additional developmental work	
Not Accredited	

Note:

Approval is conditional on the submission of a revised programme document that takes account of the conditions and recommendations outlined below and a response document describing the actions of the Department to address the conditions and recommendations made by the programme validation panel. In this report, the term Condition is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the validation panel must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the programme. Conditions are mandatory if the programme is to be approved. The term Recommendation indicates an item to which the Programme Board

should give serious consideration for implementation at an early stage and which should be the subject of on-going monitoring.

4 Programme-Level Findings

This section of the report addresses the following programme level considerations:

- Demand
- Award
- Institute strategy alignment
- Entry requirements
- Access, transfer and progression
- Standards and Outcomes
- Programme structure
- Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Assessment Strategy
- Resource requirements
- Quality Assurance.

4.1 Demand

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Is there a convincing need for the programme and has evidence been provided to support it?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.2 Award

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Is the level and type of the award appropriate?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.3 Institute Strategy Alignment

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Is the proposed programme aligned to the Institute's strategy and are the strategic themes of entrepreneurship, sustainability and internationalisation embedded in the proposed programme as appropriate?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.4 Entry Requirements

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Are the entry requirements for the proposed programme clear and appropriate?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- Entry requirements should be clarified. In particular, specify the sub-disciplinary background required to undertake various streams.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

Response:

The Entry requirements have been clarified by adding the following clause:
Candidates must have undertaken a number of software development modules as part of their level 7 qualification.

4.5 Access, Transfer and Progression

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Does the proposed programme incorporate the procedures for access, transfer and progression that have been established by the NQAI and does it accommodate a variety of access and entry requirements?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.6 Standards and Outcomes

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Does the proposed programme meet the required award standards for programmes at the proposed NFQ level (i.e. conform to QQI Award Standards)? For parent award? For exit award (if applicable)?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

The awards standards requirements for programmes on the NFQ Framework can be found at <http://www.nfq-qqi.com/index.html>

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.7 Programme Structure

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Is the programme structure logical and well designed and can the stated proposed programme outcomes in terms of employment skills and career opportunities be met by this programme?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.8 Teaching and Learning Strategies

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Have appropriate teaching and learning strategies been provided for the proposed programme?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.9 Assessment Strategies

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Have appropriate programme assessment strategies been provided for the proposed programme (as outlined in the QQI Quality Assuring Assessment Guidelines for Providers 2013)
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Assessment strategies are required in line with QQI’s Quality Assuring Assessment Guidelines and should form a substantial part of the documentation to be considered by the programme validation panel. <http://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Quality%20Assuring%20Assessment%20-%20Guidelines%20for%20Providers,%20Revised%202013.pdf>

Accordingly the assessment strategy should address the following:

- Description and Rationale for the choice of assessment tasks, criteria and procedures. This should address fairness and consistency, specifically their validity, reliability and authenticity;
- Describe any special regulations;
- Regulate, build upon and integrate the module assessment strategies;
- Provide contingent strategy for cases where learners claim exemption from modules, including recognition of prior learning;
- Ensure the programme’s continuous assessment workload is appropriately balanced;
- Relate to the teaching and learning strategy;
- Demonstrate how grading criteria will be developed to relate to the Institutional grading system.

The Institute resource entitled Assessment and Learning: A Policy for Dundalk Institute of Technology (Nov 2010) (<https://www.dkit.ie/celt/documents-and-policies/assessment-and-learning-guidelines- Dundalk-Institute-Technology>) should also be consulted.

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- The panel encourage the team to review the number, weighting and use of final examinations on the programme.

Response:

The development team has reviewed the use of final examinations. In its opinion the use of final examinations is appropriate for a final year, in particular in modules with a substantial theoretical component. The module “Microservices” has been changed to 100%CA.

4.10 Resource Requirements

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Does the Institute possess the resources and facilities necessary to deliver the proposed programme?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- Ensure that cloud access, for practical purposes across modules, includes public cloud in addition to private cloud.

Response:

The resource requirements have been updated.

4.11 Quality Assurance

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Does the proposed programme demonstrate how the Institute's quality assurance procedures have been applied and that satisfactory procedures exist for the on-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

The Institute's Quality Assurance Procedures are published in the Academic Quality Assurance Manual available at: <https://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/academic-quality-manual> and include approved procedures for the on-going monitoring and periodic review of Programmes.

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.12 Module-Level Findings

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- Correct the module learning outcome verbs for some modules, using only active verbs appropriate for a level 8 standard.
- Make the topics Security, Compliance and Data Protection more explicit in the programme.
- Consider using E-Portfolios as a means of showcasing student project work.
- In the *Enterprise Computing* module, add in more on Risk Management and Outsourcing.
- Future proof the *Cloud Networking* Module (both assessments and learning outcomes), reducing the references to SDN.

Response:

The recommendations have been taken into account. Module descriptors have been updated accordingly.

4.13 Assessment Strategies

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Have appropriate module assessment strategies been included in the proposed programme?
<i>Overall Finding:</i>	Yes

Condition(s):

- Provide more clarity regarding the assessment and re-assessment of the Project modules, in particular the *Project Definition* module.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

Response:

The module descriptor has been updated accordingly.

4.14 Other Findings

Condition(s)

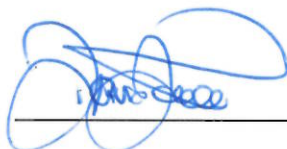
- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None

Validation Panel Report Approved By:

Signed:

 21/6/2017

Mr. David Denieffe, Registrar IT Carlow

Date: <date>