



School Response to Report of Programme Validation Panel

Date: 17th May 2017

Named Award:	Certificate
Programme Title(s):	Certificate in Acute Medicine Nursing
Exit Award(s):	n/a
Award Class:	Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level:	8
ECTS / ACCS Credits:	10
First Intake:	September 2017

Panel Members

Dr. Derek O'Byrne	Chair	Registrar, Waterford Institute of Technology
Ms. Rosemarie Derwin	External Academic	RCSI School of Nursing
Mr. Ciaran Conlon	External Discipline Expert	Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
Dr. Breda Brennan	Secretary to Panel	Assistant Registrar DkIT

Programme Development Team

Dr. Edel Healy, Head of School of Health and Science DkIT	
Dr. Myles Hackett, Head of Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Studies DkIT	
Dr. Geraldine O'Connor, Head of Part Time Section, School of Health and Science DkIT	
Sinead Costello, Lecturer DkIT	
Skype Participants:	
Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, IT Waterford	Dr. Catrina Heffernan, IT Tralee
Dr. Francis Finn, IT Waterford	Louise Nagle, IT Tralee
Gerardina Harnett, IT Tralee	

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 Health and Science at Dundalk Institute of Technology to design the following programme:

- Certificate in Acute Medicine Nursing

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 on this initiative and on the quality of the documentation presented.

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

Certificate in Acute Medicine Nursing

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
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	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):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- Consider replacing the requirement to be working in an acute medicine setting to having access to same. The admissions policy should give priority of places to those working in that setting.

School Response:

The entry requirements have been changed accordingly, see attached revised Curriculum document.

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):

- Present the total workload for programme in accordance with ECTS requirements (i.e. 200 - 250 hours) and show in the module descriptor how this will be achieved through a combination of contact hours, online contact and independent learning.

School Response:

The module descriptor has been amended to include this information. The revised module descriptor is attached.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.8 Teaching and Learning Strategies

<i>Validation Criterion:</i>	Have appropriate teaching and learning strategies been provided
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	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):

- None.

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):

- None.

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):

- Prior to implementation of the programme, a detailed consortium agreement outlining the operational arrangements for the delivery of the programme should be agreed with Office of the Registrar.

School Response:

A consortium agreement is currently being developed with the partners in consultation with the Registrar's Office. This is being developed in parallel with a Service Level Agreement with the HSE (funder for the programme) a draft of which has only just become available for discussion.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.12 Module-Level Findings

Condition(s):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

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):

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

4.14 Other Findings

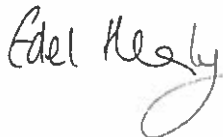
Condition(s)

- None.

Recommendation(s):

- None.

Response signed by:



Dr. Edel Healy
Head of School of Health and Science 24th May 2017

Validation Panel Report Approved By:

Signed:



Dr. Derek O'Byrne, Registrar WIT

Date:

<date> 26/5/2017