



Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Report of the Panel of Assessors

PART 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT: Department of Business Studies

DATE OF VISITATION: 19 June 2017

PROGRAMMES EVALUATED:

Higher Diploma in Business in Finance and Technology

MEMBERS OF PANEL OF ASSESSORS:

Dr Larry Mc Nutt, Registrar, IT Blanchardstown

Dr Barry Feeney, Head of Department of Computing, IT Tallaght

Professor Paul McKeivitt, School of Creative Arts & Technologies, Ulster University

Dr Brendan Ryder, Head of Department of Visual and Human-Centre Computing,
Dundalk IT

Wayne Bowden, Training and Governance Manager, Optum Letterkenny

Secretary to Panel: Dr Seán Duffy, Head of School of Tourism

INSTITUTE STAFF

Michael Margey, Head of School of Business

Patricia Doherty, Head of Department of Business Studies

Lecturers

Gary Cullen
George Onofrei
Helen McMahon
Joanne Enright

PART 2 FINDINGS OF ASSESSORS

The Panel of Assessors are satisfied that the proposal adequately addresses the following criteria:

(1) Education and Training Requirements

The programme is consistent with the Institute's mission, avoids redundant provision and makes efficient use of resources (collaborating where this is beneficial).

(2) Unity

There is an underlying unifying theme and the modules are bonded by interactions which are either implicit or explicit. The proposal demonstrates how the standard (of knowledge, skill and competence), determined by QQI for the named award to which the programme proposes to lead, evolves throughout the programme as a whole.

(3) Teaching and Learning

The proposed approach to teaching and learning is clearly indicated and justified.

(4) Learner Assessment

The learner assessment methods are fully elaborated and consistent with QQI's policy on fair and consistent assessment. The assessment methods are capable, among other things, of demonstrating attainment of the standards of knowledge, skill or competence, determined by QQI, for the related award.

(5) Resources

The proposed staffing levels are appropriate and the levels of qualifications and competence of the staff is sufficient to deliver the programme. The necessary facilities available in terms of accommodation, equipment, and library and information technology resources are satisfactory to support the proposed programme.

(6) Quality Assurance

The proposal demonstrates how the Institute's quality assurance procedures have been applied in the development of the proposed programme and satisfactory procedures exist for the on-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes.

(7) Programme Title and Award Title

The award title is consistent with the named awards determined by QQI. The programme title is clear, accurate, succinct and fit for the purpose of informing prospective learners and other stakeholders.

(8) QQI Standards

The learning outcomes of the programme are stated in such a way that the compliance with the appropriate QQI standard is demonstrated.

(9) Access Transfer and Progression

This programme incorporates the procedures for access transfer and progression that have been established by the NQAI and is consistent with QQI policy in accommodating a variety of access and entry requirements.

PART 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

(For the attention of the Academic Council)

The Panel of Assessors advises the Academic Council that the Institute and the School/Department should take cognisance of following recommendations:

1. Details of progression to further courses be included in document using examples of postgraduate courses as appropriate.
Complete.
2. Consideration should be given to including additional certification/accredited courses relating to the financial technology area.
We have engaged with ISACA, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. It is an independent, non-profit, global association which engages in the development, adoption and use of globally accepted, industry-leading knowledge and practices for information systems. The majority of the IT staff in Pramerica and other FinTech companies would study towards ISACA accredited courses. We are looking at gaining accreditation for this course and/or exemptions from certain IASCA accredited exams.

The programme team are also exploring relevant LOMA courses where students would take LOMA exams for accreditation purposes (based on the modules studied as part of their course). LOMA awards professional designations in insurance and financial services industry education.
3. The area of IT security should be explicitly mentioned in the programme syllabus.
Complete (referenced in PLO1 and Software Engineering for FinTech module).
4. Simulation programmes/software should be included in the programme modules where appropriate.
Details of simulation programmes/software now included in relevant modules.
5. Consideration should be given to reducing the overall number of final exams and introducing more focused elements of continuous assessment.
Financial Systems Analysis has moved to 100% CA.
6. The general template used for each module should be reviewed to ensure that all content is relevant e.g. remove reference to final exams when module is 100% CA.
This is the standard LYIT module template however references to final exams in 100% CA modules has now been removed.
7. The teaching and learning approach utilised for a diverse group of learners, should be expanded to include examples of actual assessments types and teaching methods mentioned during meeting with panel.
Further examples of assessments types and teaching methods now included in the Teaching & Learning strategy and Indicative Approaches to Assessment Table.

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the final reports of the Panel of Assessors

8. Indicative syllabus, while developed for specific industry partners, should reflect the discipline content and opportunities available in the wider Fin Tech field.
The programme team are confident that the content is applicable to the FinTech industry and not just Pramerica or Allstate.
9. The syllabus should acknowledge that the specific programming languages used will be decided from time to time in consultation with industry.
Complete.
10. The naming of modules should be more reflective of the specific nature of the overall programme.
Systems Analysis has been renamed Financial Systems Analysis. Software Engineering has been renamed Software Engineering for FinTech.
11. There should be a clearer breakdown on all modules descriptors between lecture, tutorials and laboratory contact hours.
Complete.

Module Specific Recommendations:

The Financial Services Industry

Use of spreadsheets and simulations should be explicitly stated in module content.

Complete.

Debt

Include mention of trends in this area.

Complete.

Project Management

This module should be contextualised for this specific programme and include specific software applications. There should be explicit mention of agile approaches.

Complete.

Systems Analysis

Module should be contextualized and made specific to this programme.

Complete.

Software Engineering

Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a mini project.

Include more references to modern techniques/software.

Complete.

The Panel of Assessors advises the Academic Council that approval of the programmes subject to general conditions of approval together with the following additional condition:

1. Indicative approaches to assessment outlined on page 49 of the document must be reflected in each of the individual module descriptors under the section of module assessment.

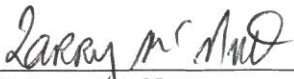
Complete.


PART 4 PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE(S)

Title of Award: Higher Diploma in Business in Finance and Technology (FinTech)
 Area Of Specialisation: Finance / Technology
 Learning Mode Offered: Fulltime and/or Part-time
 Date Effective: September 2017

Semester 1	Module Title	Subject status	ECTS		Weekly Contact hours				Allocation of marks (%)		
			Level	Number	Lecture	Tutorial	Lab/Studio/ Practical	Online Learning	Coursework	Final Exam	Total
1	The Financial Services Industry	M	8	10	4	1			30	70	100
1	Debt	M	8	10	4	1			30	70	100
1	Project Management	M	8	10	5				100	-	100
2	Equity	M	8	10	4	1			30	70	100
2	Financial Systems Analysis	M	8	5	1	2			100	-	100
2	Software Engineering for FinTech	M	8	10	2	1	2		30	70	100
2	Work Based Learning	M	8	5	39 hours per week				100	-	100

Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:


 Dr Larry Mc Nutt
 Chairman to Panel
 (Registrar, IT Blanchardstown, (Chair))
 Date 11/7/17


 Billy Bennett
 (Registrar, Letterkenny IT)
 Date 11/7/17

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