Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Report of the Panel of Assessors

PART 1   GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT:

DATE OF VISITATION: 6 June 2018

PROGRAMMES EVALUATED:

Masters of Arts/ Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Governance, Compliance and Data Protection in Financial Services Level 9 (60/90 ECTS)

MEMBERS OF PANEL OF ASSESSORS:

Ann Campbell Former President and Registrar, Dundalk IT, (Chair)

Martin Nolan Former Head of Department, IT Tallaght

Ita Kavanagh, Programme Leader and lecturer, IT Limerick

Michael Pogue, Senior Lecturer - Financial Services Business Development, Ulster University

Charlie O Donnell

Secretary to Panel:

 Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin

INSTITUTE STAFF

Paul Hannigan, President

Billy Bennett, Registrar

Michael Margey, Head of School of Business

Dr Siobhán Cullen

Paul McDevitt

Dr Anne Burke

Dr Isobel Cunningham

Dr Sharon McLaughlin

Joanne Enright

Martin Davies

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. Clarify the maximum time allowable for delivery by part-time mode, and provide assurances that the programme can be run over this period. Confirm institute policy on allowing students to complete programmes

The Institute commits to ensuring that learners may complete the programme on a part-time basis over two years, as stated on website and prospectus. Learners may extend the period of study by agreement with the Institute although this will be subject to demand. This is now explicitly stated within the Entry Requirements at p.38.

2. Consider the provision of bridging studies, where necessary, prior to the programme

The programme team have given consideration to the inclusion of a ½ day boot camp during programme induction on a pilot basis- this is now referred to at p.32 within the Teaching & Learning strategy.

3. Include in the DP module compliance with the regulatory environment, e.g. the inclusion of reference to a privacy programme

The module has now been amended to reflect this change.

Tie industry speakers to assessment

The programme team have given consideration to linking both formative and summative assessment to guest speakers, as referred to now at p.32 within Teaching & Learning strategy.

4. Update reading lists

Reading lists have been reviewed by the Programme Team and some revisions made where relevant.

5. Rephrase Module Descriptions MLOs to be written to reflect Level 9

MLO's have been reviewed by programme team and some have been amended including Financial Services Industry page 40, Data Protection Practice p 43, Principles of Information Systems p 46, IT Security p 59.

6. Indicative content should be extended to demonstrate specific detail of the subject at Level 9

Additional content has been included, references to introductory topics have been revised in all modules and the programme team is satisfied that all syllabi now reflect the Level 9 learning requirements of the programme.

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

1. Document clearly the blended learning strategy, including detailed planning and assessment. Expand assessment strategy to avoid overassessment, and include integrated assessment and group assessment. Clarify constructive alignment between assessment and PLOs

The programme team has reviewed and amended the Teaching & Learning Strategy at p 32- 37 which now articulates more explicitly the blended learning strategy. There has been a comprehensive review of Assessment Strategy at P. 74 which is now more expansive and includes integrated group assessment in semester 2 between I.T Security and I.T Risk Management and Audit modules for which learners will now complete a 3,000 word group assignment.

The word-counts have been significantly reduced in numerous assignments across all modules to reduce the overall assessment load. The Assessment schedule with indicative dates will be reviewed by the Programme Team at the beginning of Semester 1. The programme team has thoroughly reviewed the assessment of each MLO to ensure there is no duplication.

A table demonstrating constructive alignment between Programme Learning Outcomes and Assessment is now included at pages 79-85.

2. Demonstrate equivalence between WBL and Dissertation in terms of MLOs, indicative content and assessment. A WBL brief must be articulated to ensure all work is conducted at Level 9. A minimum WBL period of 3 months should be explicit.

The Teaching & Learning strategy at pages 32-37 has now been amended in order to articulate a Work Based Learning strategy which focuses on demonstrating equivalence. The Work Based Learning module has been re-named Work Based Learning Project and the content has been reviewed and amended to include greater detail within the indicative aims and content. This now demonstrates clearly the academic rigour involved in the work based learning project, assessment of which involves an extended piece of academic writing produced during the 12 week placement as well as critical reflection. The assignment brief for this project is now included as appendix E to demonstrate the level of rigour required and this, coupled with the reflective piece, means that the learner is expected to produce 12,000 words academic writing in addition to the 12 week work placement. This amounts to a considerable academic commitment which is at least equivalent to the dissertation module. An exemplar of a completed Work- Based Learning Guidelines document is now included and Appendix 1

demonstrates Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies which are commensurate with Level 9 learning whilst Appendix 6 shows Organisation/ LYIT agreement.

PART 4 PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE(S)

3.2   Programme Schedule

Title of Award: Masters in Arts in Governance, Compliance and Data Protection   in Financial Services
Area of Specialisation: Regulation, Governance, Compliance, Data Protection and IT
Learning Mode Offered: Full-time/Part-Time
Date Effective: September 2018
Stage   Award

Directed Leaning Semester	Module Title	Subject status	ECTS		Total Contact hours				Allocation of marks (%)		
			Level	Number	Lectures (F2F/Online)	Tutorial	Lab/Studio/ Practical	Directed Learning	Coursework	Final Exam	Total
SEMESTER 9											
9	Financial Services Industry	M	9	10	4			2	30	70	100
9	Data Protection Practice	M	9	5	2			1	30	70	100
9	Principles of Information Systems	M	9	5	2			1	100		100
9	Governance Ethics & Regulation	M	9	5	2			1	100		100
9	Research Methods	M	9	5	2			1	100		100
SEMESTER 10											
10	Financial Services Regulation	M	9	10	4			2	30	70	100
10	IT Security Compliance & Privacy	M	9	10	4			2	100		100
10	IT Risk Management & Audit	M	9	10	4			2	100		100
10	Work Based Learning	E	9	30	Meetings				100		100
10	Dissertation	E	9	30	Meetings				100		100

Programme Schedule

Title of Award: PG Diploma in Governance, Compliance and Data Protection in Financial Services

Area of Specialisation: Regulation, Governance, Compliance, Data Protection

and IT Learning Mode Offered: Full-time/Part-Time

Date Effective: September 2018

Stage   Award

Semester	Module Title	Subject status	ECTS Level	ECTS Number	Lectures (F2F/Online)	Tutorial	Lab/Studio/Practical	Directed Learning	Coursework	Final Exam	Total
SEMESTER 9											
9	Financial Services Industry	M	9	10	4			2	30	70	100
9	Data Protection Practice	M	9	5	2			1	30	70	100
9	Principles of Information Systems	M	9	5	2			1	100	-	100
9	Governance Ethics & Regulation	M	9	5	2			1	100	-	100
9	Research Methods	M	9	5	2			1	100	-	100
SEMESTER 10											
10	Financial Services Regulation	M	9	10	4			2	30	70	100
10	IT Security, Compliance & Privacy	M	9	10	4			2	100	-	100
10	IT Risk Management & Audit	M	9	10	4			2	100		100
10	Work Placement	E	9	5	Meetings				100	-	100

Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:

Ann Mc Carr

Ann Campbell

Chair to Panel

(Former President, Dundalk IT)

Date _15. 7. 2018_

Billy Bennett

(Registrar, Letterkenny IT)

Date _17/7/18._

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