School/Department: Computing  
Date: 3 April 2019  

Title of the Programme: MSc in Computer Science Education Research (90 ECTS); Changes to Higher Diploma in Computing for Educators  

Chairperson: Mr Terry Twomey VP Academic Affairs & Registrar, LIT  
Members of the Panel: Celia O’Hagan, Mike McTear, Ailish Mc Kiernan and Louise Crotty.  
Secretary: Dr George Onofrei  

LYIT Staff: Gertie Taggart; Thomas Dowling; Connolly James; McCann Michael; Feeney Mairead; Douglas Mandy; McGarvey John; McKelvey Nigel; Griffin Maria; ORourke Vicky.  

Criteria for the Validation of a New Programme  

1. The Programme Aims and Objectives are clear and consistent with the Award sought.  

2. The Programme concept, implementation strategy are well informed and soundly based.  

3. The Programme’s Access, Transfer and Progression arrangements are satisfactory.  

4. The Programme’s written curriculum is well structured and fit for purpose.  

5. There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff.  

6. There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned.  

7. The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme learners.  

8. There are sound Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies.  

9. Learners enrolled on the Programme will be well informed, guided and cared for.  

10. The Programme will be well managed.  

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
(For the attention of the Academic Council)

Commendations:

1. The panel commends the Programme Board for their vision to reach out to the education community to promote computer science education.

2. The panel commend the team on the readability and quality of documentation.

3. The panel were impressed by the level of preparation and engagement from the Programme Team; and that the programme had been well thought through.

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

1. The programme team needs to be cognisant of the diversity of participants from primary, secondary and further education.

2. For modules:
   a. Computational Teaching and Problem Solving – would benefit from inclusion of educational theory in relation to meta-cognition, critical thinking skills, and whole-brain teaching and learning. Review learning outcomes in terms of Bloom’s taxonomy to clarify learning objectives.

      Indicative content section 1 title updated to: Decomposition and Educational Theory

      Indicative content updated to include: Meta-cognition, critical thinking skills and whole-brain teaching and learning.

      Learning outcome 4 updated: Evaluate and critically appraise decomposition techniques and relevant educational theories.

   b. Computer Ethics and Law in Computing – this module is suited to addressing inclusive education. Consider including the “inclusive education as term” in both the module title and learning outcomes (i.e. Digital Inclusivity”). Also, refine the word ethics to “professional” ethics and linking it more clearly to computing law. In reference to the coursework, review assessment – possibly replacing lesson plan with research informed poster presentation.

      Indicative Content 2 updated to explicitly refer to: Digital Inclusivity

      Indicative content 3 title updated to: Professional Ethics

      Point 4 of indicative content 4 updated to: Ethical Guidelines for Computer Professionals with legal cognisance.

      Assessment: "Lesson Plan" replaced with: "Research informed Poster Presentation".

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c. Teaching and Learning for Comp. Science – consider reflecting more contemporary educational theories in relation to the module content (Sally Brown, Phil Race, Jeff Petty, Weng Ger). This module should consider action research, e-portfolio, reflective learning as alternative assessments. Indicative Content 1 title updated to: Pedagogy and Educational Theorists

The following added as a new element to indicative content 1: Modern Day Theorists such as Sally Brown, Phil Race, Jeff Petty, Weng Ger.

Assessment Element 1 'Type' updated to: "e-portfolio or action research outline or reflective journal" and 'Description' updated to: "A formal presentation of an innovative teaching strategy."

d. Research dissertation – include in the module descriptor the strengths of the research process such as proposal form, workshop and the study advisor. To include other types of educational research and review the language of the indicative content to reflect the research of educational practices

This is an existing module and therefore cannot be edited too heavily, however the following amendments were included:

Module Descriptor now includes the following line: "The Dissertation includes the completion of a proposal form, workshops and the availability of a studies advisor."

Indicative content 4 updated to include the following: "Justification of methods appropriate to the field of study". This facilitates the inclusion of multiple research approaches/types.

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For the *HDip in Computing for Educators* – front cover/page – correct the number of credits from 90 to 6

This will be updated

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:

n/a

**PART 4 PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE(S)** please attach final schedule to bottom of the report.

**Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 1 – Full-Time**

Name Of Provider: Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Title Of Award: Certificate in Computer Science Education

MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research

Area Of Specialisation: Computer Science Education

Learning Mode Offered: Full-time

Stage: Award

Semester: 1

Date Effective: September 2019

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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title of examination subject</th>
<th>Subject status</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
<th>Total Hours Effort</th>
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<td>M</td>
<td>9</td>
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**Total ECTS credits required for stage:** 30

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 2 & 3 – Full-Time

Name Of Provider: Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Title Of Award: MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research
Area Of Specialisation: Computer Science Education Research
Learning Mode Offered: Full-time
Stage: Award
Semester: 2
Date Effective: September 2019

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Total ECTS credits required for stage: 60

Special Regulations:

Students must complete 30 credits worth of modules from semesters 1.
The Dissertation topic must be consistent with the overall Programme Learning Outcomes.

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 1 – Part-Time

Name Of Provider: Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Title Of Award: Certificate in Computer Science Education
MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research
Area Of Specialisation: Computer Science Education
Learning Mode Offered: Part-time, ACCS
Stage: Award
Semester: 1
Date Effective: September 2019

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<th>Semester</th>
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<td>9</td>
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Total ECTS credits required for stage: 10

Special Regulations: None

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 2 – Part-Time

Name Of Provider: Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Title Of Award: Certificate in Computer Science Education

Area Of Specialisation: MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research

Learning Mode Offered: Computer Science Education

Stage: Part-time, ACCS

Semester: Award

Date Effective: September 2019

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Total ECTS credits required for stage: 10

Special Regulations: None

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 2 – Part-Time

Name Of Provider: Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Title Of Award:
- Certificate in Computer Science Education
- MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research

Area Of Specialisation: Computer Science Education

Learning Mode Offered: Part-time, ACCS

Stage: Award

Semester: 3

Date Effective: September 2019

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<tr>
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Total ECTS credits required for stage: 10

Special Regulations: None

Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors.
**Proposed Programme Schedule – Year 1 Semester 2 & 3 – Part-Time**

**Name Of Provider:** Letterkenny Institute of Technology  
**Title Of Award:** MSc in Computing in Computer Science Education Research  
**Area Of Specialisation:** Computer Science Education Research  
**Learning Mode Offered:** Part-time, ACCS  
**Stage:** Award  
**Semester:** 4  
**Date Effective:** September 2019

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<td>9</td>
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</table>

**Total ECTS credits required for stage:** 60

**Special Regulations:**

Students must complete 30 credits worth of modules from semesters 1 to 3.

The Dissertation topic must be consistent with the overall Programme Learning Outcomes.

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Note: It is Institute policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors
Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:

Terry Twomey

Chairman to Panel

(VP, Academic Affairs and Registrar, Limerick Institute of Technology)

Date 20/5/2019

Billy Bennett

(VP for Academic Affairs and Registrar, Letterkenny IT)

Date 20/5/19

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