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Dámh an Ghnó agus Fáilteachais
Faculty of Science and Health

Report of Peer Review Panel

Programmatic Review

of the

Faculty of Science and Health
Department of Nursing and Healthcare

External Validation Visit, 15th May 2023

Final Report

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the Programmatic Review Panel for the Department of Nursing and Healthcare, Faculty of Science and Healthcare, and the findings and conclusions of the External Validation Panel conducted on 15th May 2023. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations. A Programmatic Review Panel external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.0   GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1   Higher Education Provider

Provider	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Science and Healthcare
Department	Nursing and Healthcare
Date of Visit	15th May 2023

2.2   External Re-Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Dr Michele Glacken	VP Academic Affairs & Registrar, ATU Sligo
Professor Karen McCutcheon	School of Nursing, Queens University Belfast
Professor George Kernohan	Professor of Health Research, Ulster University
Dr Myles Hackett	Head of Department of Nursing Midwifery and Early Years, Dundalk Institute of Technology

Secretary to Panel: Sarah O'Toole, TUS.

2.3   TUS Staff

Name	Role
Dr Don Faller	Dean of Faculty of Science and Health
Dr Des Cawley	Head of Department of Nursing and Healthcare
Dr Enda Fallon	Head of Department of Computer and Software Engineering

3.0   FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1   Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends reapproval of the following programmes in the *Department of Nursing and Healthcare* subject to the conditions and recommendations as specified in Sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

List of programmes presented for review:

Master of Science in Digital Health - 90 credits
- o   Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Health - 60 credits
- o   Post Graduate Certificate in Digital Health - 30 credits

Post Graduate Certificate in General Practice Nursing (30 credits)

3.2   Conditions

No conditions apply.

3.3   Recommendations

Master of Science in Digital Health
- o   **Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Health**
- o   **Post Graduate Certificate in Digital Health**

1. Review the entry requirements for the Post Graduate Certificate in Digital Health and Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Health and the progression criteria.

2. Reconsider the requirement for Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) accreditation.

3. Review and edit the Programme Documentation details under the section Collaborative or Transnational Provision and award standards.

4. Consider the quantum of required onsite attendance to make the programme more attractive to prospective participants from the island of Ireland.

5. Ensure where applicable, that the learning outcomes are phrased in a manner commensurate with a level 9 programme.

6. Reflect on the number of group projects and the supports available to students in respect of group projects.

7. Consider the inclusion of other research designs in the module *Generating Evidence for the Healthcare Setting* to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the programme whilst remaining focussed on the programme topic of digital health.

8. Whilst, the overall assessment regime fully addresses the desired learning outcomes, it should be monitored to ensure that assessment agenda doesn't become the main/only driver of learning. The panel notes that a number of assessments are task-oriented laboratory outcomes and might be combined to deliver efficiencies.

9. Check appropriateness of the noted *interactive nature of social life* (MSc, p37) and confirm that 'Delivering effective nursing care..' is completely within the scope of the programme.

10. The panel note the need for ethical considerations to 'thread' through these programmes to support appropriate use of personal data for purposes beyond direct clinical care.

11. The panel note that software and statistical tools are to be enacted to deliver solutions to management of clinical information systems with a focus upon development of solutions rather than high levels of technical achievement.

12. The use of a specific framework to guide the programme was commended. In some iterations the framework shows further layers beyond each of the five domains. It may be useful to include these (at programme induction for example).

Post Graduate Certificate in General Practice Nursing

3.4   Conditions

The programme team need to reconsider the competency framework which includes the proposed content of the competency workbooks, the model of supervision, the role of the university in the supervision process and the mechanisms and supports to deal with

students not achieving competency. It is suggested that the competency attained should be confined to a defined set of skills only (avoiding registration competencies).

3.5 Recommendations

1. Review the entry requirement in the programme documentation so that it is explicit that the applicant must be working in General Practice for the duration of the programme and for sufficient number of hours to successfully complete the programme.
2. Consider the proposed time for the completion of the competency workbooks given the realities of practice.
3. A mapping exercise is conducted to ensure there is alignment between the module descriptors, proposed module learning outcomes, indicative content and competency workbooks.

3.6 Commendations and Observations

1. The panel commends the team for developing an excellent and innovative programme that is needed for the sector. The strong emphasis on the development of interdisciplinary skills is particularly noteworthy and strongly commended.

2. The panel notes the limited opportunity for progression beyond the course completion and suggest this is given consideration. The above diploma may provide one pathway for those who achieve successful completion of this certificate.

3. The core principle to meet the needs of national primary care strategy was noted. This provides a valuable guide but may not necessarily define the course philosophy or theoretical framework and suggest this is given consideration.

4. The panel commends the positive and collegiate engagement of the programme team during the validation process.

5. Given the novelty of the programmes the team should consider their appropriateness for research evaluation.

Michèle Glacken

Signature of Chairperson

Date: 17/05/2023