



**Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Luimnigh
Limerick Institute of Technology**

**Dámh an Ghnó agus na nDaonnachtaí
Faculty of Business & Humanities**

**An Roinn Spóirt, Fóillíochta agus Turasóireachta
Department of Sport, Leisure & Tourism**

Report of Peer Review Panel

Programmatic Review

of the

Department of Sport, Leisure & Tourism

External Validation Visit, 13th May, 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the Programmatic Review Panel for the Department of Sport, Leisure & Tourism and the findings and conclusions of the External Validation Panel conducted on 13th May 2021. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with Section 3 of the LIT document '*Academic Council Regulations and Procedures for Taught Programmes (ACRP): Academic Year 2020/2021*'. (The ACRP document is available on the LIT website.) 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

Institute	Limerick Institute of Technology
Faculties:	Faculty of Business & Humanities
Departments:	Department of Sport, Leisure & Tourism
Date of Visit:	13 th May 2021

2.2 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Affiliation:</u>
Mr. Tony Quinlan	Retired Registrar, GMIT (Chairperson)
Ms. Rachel McCauley	Limerick Sports Partnership
Mr. Ross Corbet	GMIT
Mr. Michael Uwatse	Student Representative
Ms. Rebecca Blake	Student Representative
Mr. Cyril Laffan	So Hotels,
Ms. Brianain Erraught	DKIT
Ms. Ciara Ryan	Student Representative
Ms. Sandra Longe	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Student Representative

2.3 Institute Staff

President	Prof. Vincent Cunnane
VP Academic Affairs & Registrar	Ms. Marian Duggan
Dean of Faculty	Mr. Donnacha McNamara
Head of Department	Ms. Elaine Barry

Academic Staff

Ms. Caroline Shanley
Mr. Joe Mulcahy
Ms. Serena Keane
Ms. Brid Crotty
Mr. Michael Dillane
Mr. Martin Neville
Ms. Orla Fox Colleran
Ms. Judith Ryan
Mr. Dermot Maleady
Ms. Marion Geary
Mr. Seoirse Bulfin
Mr. Eamon Nyhan
Ms. Brid Crotty,
Ms. Niamh Whelan,
Ms. June O'Byrne Prior,
Mr. Oliver Kirwan,
Mr. Keith McNicholas,
Ms. Karen O'Neill,
Ms. Gretanne O'Beirne,
Ms. Agnes Bouchier Hayes,
Mr. Jim O'Meara,
Dr. Catriona Murphy,
Ms. Sara Jane Kickham,
Ms. Eithne Gavigan,
Dr. Sinead O'Leary,
Mr. Michael Conway,
Mr. Kenneth Switzer
Mr. Kelvin Harold j
Mr. Michael Dillane,

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 Sports, Leisure and Tourism subject to the recommendations as specified in Sections 3.3.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies with Sports Management (Level 8 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies with Sports Management (Level 8 Add On).

Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies with Sports Management (Level 7 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies with Sports Management (Level 7 Add On).

Higher Certificate in Arts in Business Studies with Sports Management.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies with Beauty and Spa Management (Level 8 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Studies with Beauty & Spa Management (Level 8 Add On).

Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies with Beauty & Spa Management (Level 7 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies with Beauty and Spa Management (Level 7 Add On).

Higher Certificate in Arts in Business Studies with Beauty and Spa Management.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Entrepreneurship (Level 8 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Entrepreneurship (Level 8 Add-on).

Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts (Level 7 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts (Level 7 Add-on).

Higher Certificate in Arts in Culinary Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Hospitality Supervision (Level 7 Ab Initio).

Bachelor of Arts in Hospitality Supervision (Level 7 Add On).

Higher Certificate in Arts in Hospitality Studies.

3.2 Conditions

No conditions apply.

3.3 Recommendations

General

- 3.3.1 The panel appreciated the use of integrated projects and assessment across modules and recommends that this cross modular approach to assessment should be further developed.
- 3.3.2 The panel notes the use of Continuous Assessment as the primary mode of assessment across the programme suite presented. The panel recommends that the programme boards conduct a global review of assessment to consider further diversifying the assessment modes and categorise further components as Practical or Project within the Programme Schedules. Review the balance of these modes of assessment with Final Exams at each programme stage.
- 3.3.3 Review the independent learning hours throughout the programme schedules across all programmes. There are no independent learning hours specified across a range of modules. Review the ratio of Independent Learning to Full Time Hours in the context of ECTS Credits and the consistency of specification of independent learning hours (i.e. weekly or per semester).
- 3.3.4 The panel recommends developing, at an Institute level, a Practitioner Guide for conducting and assessing Group/Teamwork as a resource for Staff.
- 3.3.5 Add detail to the Study Abroad option of the Stage 3 module *Work Placement/Study Abroad*. This 30 Credit module only details work placement and provides no details/context on the Study Abroad. Consider developing a separate module definition form for this and including as an elective.
- 3.3.6 Consider further embedding the development of soft skills including written and oral communication and team skills throughout the programmes. This should be included in the formal curriculum and be part of the assessment strategies as the programmes develop.
- 3.3.7 Consider offering Level 6 CAO Entry points where this is supported by student demand.

Programme Suite: Business Studies with Sports Management

- 3.3.8 Include further detail in the syllabus document of what constitutes the breakdown of the of the 100 % CA specified in the Stage 1 module *Learning Skills and Information Technology*.

- 3.3.9 Review the assessment strategy of the Stage 1 modules *Sports and Club Accounts* and *Principles of Financial Accounting* to include some element of CA in addition to the FE.
- 3.3.10 Correct a discrepancy in the module definition form for the Stage 3 module *Marketing Communications for Sports* which currently indicates 100% CA.
- 3.3.11 Review the workload associated the 100% CA of the Stage 4 module *People Management Concepts and Practice*.
- 3.3.12 Review the assessment strategy of the Stage 4 module *Financial Management*, currently assessed by 100% FE, and consider adding some CA element. This could be a further written exam if necessary.
- 3.3.13 Provide further detail of the module Assessment Strategies in the following Stage 2 modules: *Leadership Psychology* and *Sports Experience*.
- 3.3.14 Correct the semester sequencing of the Stage 4 modules *Financial Analysis* (move to Sem 8) and *Financial Management* (move to Sem 7).
- 3.3.15 Correct a mismatch in the assessment breakdown between the programme schedule and module definition form for the Stage 4 module *Exercise Special Populations*.
- 3.3.16 Review the adequacy of the facilities/equipment that support the sports elements in Stage 2 of the programmes and invest in further equipment as appropriate.
- 3.3.17 Add further learning content on statistical analysis software such as SPSS. This should build from early stages of the programme and feed into the Final Year Project.

Programme Suite: Business Studies with Beauty & Spa Management

- 3.3.18 Correct a mismatch in the assessment breakdown between the programme schedule and module definition form for the Stage 1 module *Financial Accounting*.

Programme Suite: Culinary Entrepreneurship/Culinary Arts

- 3.3.19 Update the assessment strategy of the Stage 2 module *Business Accounting & Costing* to include the continuous assessment elements as indicated. Currently, the programme schedule and module definition form indicate 100% FE.

3.3.20 Review the credits to learning hours ratio for the Stage 2 module *Workplace Learning*. The current allocation of 400 hours to 5 credits is not consistent with ECTS ratios.

3.3.21 Consider how further learning content on *law* could be added or strengthened within the existing modules across the programme or consider a stand-alone Law module.

Programme Suite: Hospitality Supervision/Studies

3.3.22 [Common with Culinary Entrepreneurship] *Update the assessment strategy of the Stage 2 module Business Accounting & Costing to include the continuous assessment elements indicated. Currently the programme schedule and module definition form indicate 100% FE.*

3.4 Commendations and Observations

3.4.1 The panel notes the exceptional circumstances relating to the Covid-19 pandemic in which the programmatic review has been undertaken and notes the efforts of the Department in this respect.

3.4.2 The panel commends the various programme teams within the department on the evident teamwork, consultation and peer support within each.

3.4.3 The panel compliments the programme teams on the extensive programme documentation developed to a high standard.

3.4.4 The panel commends the inclusion of work placement and work-based learning as an integral part of all programmes during the programmatic review.

3.4.5 The panel commends the programme team for their enthusiastic and positive engagement during the course of the revalidation visit.

3.4.6 The panel commend the programme team on the principle of embedded awards and their inclusion in the programmes.



Signature of Chairperson

Date: 08/09/2022