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**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**
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**Dámh na hEolaíochta agus na Sláinte
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, 28th November 2022

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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 28th November 2022. 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.

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.2 Higher Education Provider

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Provider | Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest |
| Faculty | Science and Healthcare |
| Department | Nursing and Healthcare |
| Date of Visit | 28 th November 2022 |

2.3 External Re-Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

| Name | Affiliation |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mr. Damien Courtney (Chair) | Former Head of Faculty of Business and Humanities CIT |
| Dr Catherine McCabe | Associate Professor, School of Nursing & Midwifery, TCD |
| Dr Gerardina Harnett | Head of Department of Nursing and Health Care Sciences, MTU |
| Dr Christina Larkin | Head of Department Nursing, ATU |
| Mr Iain Jack | Pharmacy Department, University of Ulster |

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Brendan Murphy, TUS.

2.4 TUS Staff

| Name | Role |
|--|--|
| Dr. Don Faller | Dean of Faculty of Science and Healthcare |
| Dr. Des Cawley | Head of Department of Nursing and Healthcare |
| Olivia Corcoran | Programme Leader |
| Laura Dempsey | Programme Leader |
| Denise Doolan | Programme Leader |
| Lisa Kerr | Programme Leader |
| Diane Patterson | Programme Leader |
| Department Staff: Jim Maguire; John Larkin; Laura Dempsey; Mary Mc Donnell-Naughton; Denise McDonnell; Anne Cooney; Tommy Healy; Marva Fitzpatrick; Ciara Kelly; Olivia Corcoran; Tonya Phillips; Sinead Bracken; Lisa Kerr; Denise Doolan; Laurence Leonard; Alison Fagan; Emma Moran; Seana Nic Dhonnacha; Marva Fitzpatrick; Diane Patterson; Gary Stack; Claire Stack; Eileen Lane; Kellie O'Shaughnessy Eilish Duffy Sinead Beattie | |

2.5 Employers/Industry & Alumni Representatives

| Representative | Affiliation |
|----------------|-------------|
| Mary Gilligan | HSE |
| Mary Ormsby | HSE |

2.6 Current Student Representatives

| |
|---|
| Mary Tiernan; Ellen Devine; Brandon Dennison; Cathal Claffey ; Mae Fitzpatrick; Sarah Pearl; Abby Mullally; Shauna Cullen; Aisling Kelleher; Sofiat Ojubanaire; Shina Bradley; Louise Haugh; Jane Raffery; Thomas Carroll; Kate McDonagh; Katie Carroll Orla Downes; Justin Pendioday; Sherifat Ukachukwu. |
|---|

3.1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.2 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 recommendations as specified in Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in General Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Health Studies

Higher Certificate in Science in Health Studies

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Mental Health Studies

Higher Certificate in Science in Mental Health Studies

Master of Science in Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare

Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare (30 ECTS
Minor Award)

Certificate in Nursing in Emergency Nursing (20 ECTS SPA)

Higher Certificate in Science in Science in Pharmacy Technician, Level 6

Bachelor of Science in Science in Pharmacy Technician, add-on, Level 7

3.3 Conditions

No conditions apply.

3.4 Recommendations

General

1. Ensure that the programme suite across the department is adequately and sufficiently resourced (including facilities and staffing). This is particularly important in the context of rapid growth and future expansion.

2. Further emphasise the learning supports available as an integral part of the programme offerings. Reference to the wider student experience including extracurricular activities would also be beneficial in the context of graduate attributes.
3. Provide further detail on the learning supports available for students at risk of failing clinical placements.
4. Explore how further learning on *Sustainability/Climate Change* could be embedded throughout the programme suite.

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in General Nursing Programme Suite
Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing Programme Suite:

1. Consider diversifying the assessment strategy in modules with 100% Final Exam to include additional assessment modes within these modules. This may complement the development of academic writing skills (e.g. in Stage 1 *Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues* Module).
2. Add reference to 'demographics' in the indicative syllabus in the Stage 2 Module *Health Studies*.
3. Make more explicit the learning related to Rights Based Care in the module *Challenging Legal and Ethical Issues* in the Mental Health Nursing programme.
4. Review the resources list for the module *Holistic Care for Patients with Nutritional and Gastrointestinal Disorders* to include further references for the nutrition/gastrointestinal aspects of the module.
5. Make more explicit in the Teaching, Learning and Assessment strategies the learning associated with reflective practice throughout the *Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing* Programme.
6. Make more explicit the learning associated with 'Models of Nursing Care' in relevant modules as appropriate.
7. Embed learning content in core modules to reflect community care contexts in addition to acute care.

Certificate in Nursing in Emergency Nursing

1. Conduct a review of assessment of clinical competencies and consider introducing an OSCE as an assessment to further enhance outcomes.

Bachelor of Science in Science in Pharmacy Technician Programme Suite:

1. Review instances of multiple assessment of learning outcomes throughout the programme suite to rationalise and eliminate inconsistencies.
2. Provide further detail on how equity of experience on *Work Placement* is supported including details of contingencies for handling difficult placements.
3. Make explicit the learning content relating to *Patient Diversity* in the Module *Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Care 1 & 2*.

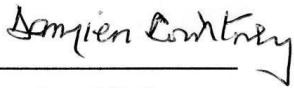
Master of Science in Leadership and Quality Healthcare Programme Suite:

1. Make more explicit the learning content relating to the theme of Nursing Leadership and the international context throughout the programme.
2. Include reading content relating to EU and WHO to the module resources lists.

3.5 Commendations and Observations

1. The panel particularly notes and commends the excellent programme documentation and notes it is comprehensive and very well presented. The organisation and accessibility of the documentation was very welcome.
2. The panel commends the ambition of the department and its plans to expand to meet demands.
3. The panel commends the students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, who ably represented the department and commended the applicability and relevance of the learning content to practise.
4. The panel commends the self-evaluation undertaken and the associated SWOT analysis.
5. The panel is impressed with the extensive work and the informed changes introduced by the programme teams during programmatic review.

6. The panel commends the commitment of the team to developing progression pathways and exit awards. The reference to the proposed development of Level 8 Add-on in Pharmacy Technician is welcome in that context.
7. The panel commends the commitment to Science including theory and practice in the Pharmacy Technician programme.
8. The panel commends the programme teams for the active participation and engagement with the panel and noted that it was very impressive and appreciated.



Signature of Chairperson

Date: 20/4/2023