


EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BEng in Engineering (Common Entry to Manufacturing/Agricultural/Biomedical/Energy/Mechanical Engineering - Level 7) BEng (Hons) in Engineering (Common Entry to Manufacturing/Agricultural/Biomedical/Energy/Mechanical Engineering - Level 8)					
2.	NFQ Level(s):	7 and 8					
3.	Duration:	1 year (leading to progression to year 2 of the programmes specified).					
4.	ISCED Code:	071					
5.	School / Centre:	School of Engineering					
6.	Department:	Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering					
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme:		Yes:	x	No:	
		Differential Validation:		Yes:		No:	x
8.	Date of Review:	8 th May 2017					
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	x	Part-time		Blended	
10.	Panel Members:	Dr Joe McGarry, Retired IoTI, Chair Dr Philip Cardiff, UCD Ms Fiona Cranley, IT Tallaght Mr Donal Collins, R&D Manager, McHale Engineering Ms Carmel Brennan, GMIT, Secretary					
11.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Gerard MacMichael Dr Carine Gachon Mr Padraig Audley Dr Paul O'Dowd Mr Gabriel Costello Dr Aurora Dimache Dr Laurentiu Dimache Mr Gerard O'Donnell Dr Oliver Mulryan Mr Sean Howe Mr William Gerarghty					

		Mr James McGivern Dr Kate Goggins Dr Denis O'Mahony
12.	Programme Rationale:	<p>A study completed by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning in Higher Education in 2015 shows that the main reason for dropping out of first year is a wrong course choice. This is reflected in feedback from exiting students in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering in GMIT.</p> <p>The objective of the proposed programme is to give students more flexibility by deferring their programme decision to the end of first year while giving them the tools and information to make a more informed choice. This programme is part of a suite of six programmes designed to increase student intake and retention in engineering. The proposed course is a one-year programme designed to allow progression into any of the five programmes that are planned to be offered from September 2018 in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering.</p>
13.	Access, Transfer & Progression:	<p>Entry shall be in accordance with GMIT code of Practice No 4 Access, Transfer and Progression. Applicants will have to meet the standard entry requirements for a level 6/7 programme at any given time.</p> <p>Students registered for Mathematics 1 and Engineering Sciences who pass all their modules are eligible to progress to year 2 of the Mechanical, Energy, Biomedical, Agricultural or Manufacturing Engineering programmes.</p> <p>Students registered for Mathematics Fundamentals and/or Engineering Science Fundamentals are eligible to progress to year 2 of Mechanical, Energy, Biomedical, Agricultural or Manufacturing Engineering if they pass all their modules and obtain 70% or higher in the Fundamental modules or the Manufacturing Engineering Programme irrespective of grades in the Fundamental modules.</p> <p>Students in other programmes in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering may transfer into the Manufacturing Engineering programmes up to the start of year 2.</p>
14.	Programme Structure:	During induction week students will be introduced to the different programmes and disciplines open to them, and the different routes available will also be clearly explained.

		<p>Students will also undertake the Engineering in Business module where the different branches of Engineering will be described in detail, as well as potential job opportunities highlighted. Finally, they will be offered a choice of discipline specific electives exposing them to potential programme specialisations.</p> <p>Following successful completion of year 1 students may progress to year 2 of the specified programmes, having met the stated requirements for progression.</p>
15.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	<p>Active learning will be a key feature of this programme. Active learning is a mode of instruction, which focuses the responsibility of learning on the learner, the key features of which include: less “chalk and talk”, and more student involvement. Student involvement is accomplished by involving the student in “doing things” and participating in the manner that is best suited to their individual learning styles.</p> <p>Where possible, traditional laboratories and tutorials will be replaced with problem based learning, project based learning, and experience based learning teaching methods.</p> <p>In designing the programmes, the programme board considered the balance between continuous assessment and terminal examinations. They also ensure that a range of assessment methodologies are utilised as appropriate to assess the module and programme learning outcomes, and to develop transferable skills.</p>
16.	Resource Implications:	<p>The proposed programme will be common with the other first year programmes so it does not require any additional resources. However, additional resources will be necessary if the overall student intake is to increase.</p>
17.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	<p>Given its purpose to provide for progression to a range of programmes within the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, all modules are common with other programmes within the Department.</p>

18.	Findings and Recommendations:	General:	
		The panel welcomed the introduction of an entry mechanism providing for enhanced student flexibility and choice in relation to programme pathways, and approved the programme with the following recommendations:	
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):	
		None.	
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the flexibility that this entry route offers is clearly articulated to potential and registered students, to ensure accurate expectations and clear knowledge of the requirements for specific pathways. 2. Consider conducting research with second level students as to how best to communicate the benefits and mechanism of this entry route. 	
19.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	x
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
			
		Chair	Secretary