Quality Framework Policy

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

1 Introduction

1.1   Academic quality assurance and enhancement is fundamental to fulfilling the mandate and mission of GMIT. It underpins stakeholder confidence and improves the learning experience of our students.

1.2   The Quality Framework [1] of GMIT comprises the approved interrelated policies of the Institute to give effect to academic quality assurance and enhancement.

1.3   The Quality Framework promotes and supports a culture of quality in which all stakeholders have a role to play.

2 Principles

2.1   GMIT has primary responsibility for its own quality and is committed to the principle of continuous quality improvement.

2.2   Collegiality and collaboration are essential to the success of quality assurance and enhancement.

2.3   GMIT seeks to ensure and enhance quality in an organic and evolutionary way through the Quality Framework.

2.4   Our goal is to create a fair, transparent, and accessible framework so that practice at the Institute reflects policy.

2.5   The Quality Framework applies to all academic activities of the Institute.

2.6   The development of a Quality Framework requires a long-term view.

3 Regulatory framework

3.1   The Institute is subject to legislation that has a bearing on quality. The Institutes of Technology Act 2006 [2] and the Regional Technical Colleges Act 1992 [3] specify the establishment of the Governing Body and the Academic Council along with their remits.

3.2   The Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 [4] established Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) as an independent statutory body

responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training services in Ireland. As per the act, QQI provide policies on quality to which GMIT must have regard.

3.3   QQI aligns its standards to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) [5] developed by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education [6], an umbrella organisation which represents quality assurance organisations from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) member states.

4 Structure

4.1   GMIT provides various codes of practice, policies, and other supplemental documentation, as guides to quality.

4.2   GMIT will continue to align these codes and policies to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) [5].

4.3   The ESG document lists the following ten standards for internal quality assurance which the Institute will endeavour to follow.

   a)   Policy for quality assurance
   b)   Design and approval of programmes
   c)   Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
   d)   Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
   e)   Teaching staff
   f)   Learning resources and student support
   g)   Information management
   h)   Public information
   i)   On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes
   j)   Cyclical external quality assurance

5 Process

5.1   Staff, students, and other stakeholders regularly make decisions, underpinned by the Quality Framework, to assure and enhance quality. They influence and enhance the Quality Framework through participation in committees, working groups and engagement in self and peer review.

5.2   Proposals to change elements of the Quality Framework are considered by the Academic Council. Such proposals can be made in writing to the secretary of the Academic Council. Staff and students may also develop proposals through participation in the Academic Council, its committees, and working groups, as set out in the Quality Framework.

6 References

[1] Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, "Quality Framework," [Online]. Available: http://www.gmit.ie/general/quality-assurance-framework. [Accessed 01 06 2018].

[2] Government of Ireland, "Institute of Technology Act 2006," [Online]. Available: http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/25/enacted/en/html.

[3] Government of Ireland, "Regional Technical Colleges Act 1992," 1992. [Online]. Available: http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1992/act/16/enacted/en/html.

[4] Government of Ireland, "Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012," electronic Irish Statute Book, 2012. [Online]. Available: http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2012/act/28/enacted/en/html. [Accessed 10 01 2018].

[5] European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)," 2015. [Online]. Available: http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf. [Accessed 10 01 2018].

[6] European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, "European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education," [Online]. Available: http://www.enqa.eu/. [Accessed 10 01 2018].