

VALIDATION REPORT

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	BSc (Hons) in Medical Science Higher Certificate in Medical Science (The purpose of the validation was to also seek approval for a NFQ Level 7 B.Sc. in Medical Science (exit award only).
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	Level 7 180 ECTS
3.	Duration:	3 years
4.	ISCED Code:	0914 - Medical diag & treatment tech
5.	School / Centre:	School of Science and Computing
6.	Department:	Department of Analytical, Biopharmaceutical & Medical Sciences
7.	Type of Review:	Differential Validation
8.	Date of Review:	23 rd May 2022
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time
10.	Panel Members:	Dr Michael Hall, Head of School of Health and Social Sciences, MTU, Kerry (Chair) Dr Fiona O Halloran, Lecturer and Principal Investigator in the NutRI Research Group, Department of Biological Sciences, MTU Cork Dr PJ Naughton, Senior Lecturer in Medical Microbiology, Ulster University Ms. Hayley Foy-Stones, Medical Scientist, Haematology Department, St. James' Hospital, Dublin Ms Carmel Brennan, Assistant Registrar (Quality), (Secretary)
11.	Proposing Staff:	Dr Des Foley, Dr Eugene McCarthy, Dr Eleanor Rainsford, Ms Brigid Hooban, Dr Debbie Corcoran, Dr Mary McGrath, Dr Joan O'Keeffe, Dr Sharon Duffy, Dr Brian Moran, Dr. Terri Muldoon, Ms. Helen Cregg, Dr Declan Maher, Dr Judith Wurmel, Dr. Fiona Kenny, Dr Niall Maloney, Dr Shelia Flaherty Ms Elaine McGrath

		Dr Eimear Quirke Dr Orla Slattery Dr Trish O'Connell
12.	Rationale for Changes:	<p>The BSc (Hons) in Medical Science is a 4-year programme, which includes a mandatory clinical placement in year 3. Over the past few years some learners for a variety of reasons wish to exit with a level 7 award.</p> <p>The availability of a level 7 exit award in Medical Science also follows the recommendation of an external panel following differential validation of the programme in December 2020.</p>
13.	Overview of Changes:	Approval was sought for a BSc in Medical Science. This equates to the first three years of the level 8 programme, and has its own Programme Learning Outcomes, entry requirements, APS, rationale, employment opportunities etc.
14.	Resource Implications:	None.
15.	Findings and Recommendations:	<p>General:</p> <p>The panel were satisfied that there was a rationale for the programme and that graduates of the level 7 programme would be employable in laboratories. The panel approves the validation of the NFQ Level 7 BSc in Medical Science (exit award) with the commendations listed below and subject to the following condition(s) and recommendation(s):</p> <p>Commendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of clear and comprehensive documentation and the positive engagement of the Programme Board with the panel. 2. The students the panel met with are good ambassadors for the programme. 3. The Programme Board are evidently student centric as exemplified by the introduction of level seven exit award. 4. There is a clear focus on sustainability by the School who are working to achieve Green Lab status. 5. Lecturing staff are proactive in embracing teaching and learning innovation e.g., E-portfolio award, use of recorded lectures.

		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and revise programme learning outcomes for the level 7 award ensuring that it is clear that students will be operating in a different context to graduates of the level 8 programme. 	
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider an alternative title for the Level 7 award to differentiate it from the Level 8 award given that graduates will not be professionally accredited e.g. BSc in Medical Science Studies. 2. Remove the reasons quoted in the document for students wanting to leave with a level 7 exit award simply indicating that the programme facilitates students who wish to exit at the end of stage 3. 3. Rather than preventing re-entry for students who leave with a level 7 award, specify the time limit within which students will be permitted to return to stage 4 of the programme. 	
16.	FAO: Academic Council:	Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary