

## EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	<b>Title of Programme:</b>	Bachelor of Business (Honours) leading to: Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Accounting					
2.	<b>School / Centre:</b>	Mayo					
3.	<b>Duration:</b>	4 years					
4.	<b>NFQ Level:</b>	Level 8					
5.	<b>Type of Review:</b>	<b>New Programme:</b>	Yes:		No:		
		<b>Differential Validation:</b>	Yes:	✓	No:		
6.	<b>Date of Review:</b>	11-01-2016					
7.	<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	Full-time	✓	Part-time		Blended	
8.	<b>Panel Members:</b>	John Murphy (chair) Deirdre Lusby, AC John Scahill, AC Helen O'Brien-Gately, DIT, External Michael Hannon, Registrar/Secretary					
9.	<b>Proposing Staff:</b>	Hugh McBride Michael Shovelin Celene Dunphy Caroline Clarke Michael Gill Niamh Hearn Janine McGinn Deirdre Garvey					
10	<b>Programme Rationale:</b>	<p>The underlying rationale for the BBus (Hons) in Accounting is to increase the visibility of the Campus offering in business on the CAO system and thereby enhance its attractiveness of the BBus (Hons) to students. It is part of the Campus response to addressing the challenge of declining student intake numbers in business, by offering a programme that will prove more attractive to potential students and will enable the Campus to compete with other providers in the region, who all already have a presence in the CAO system at Level 8. The campus also wish to reduce its reliance on the mature student cohort.</p> <p>The current proposal is for a Business degree with a specialism in Accounting to allow an alternative pathway at the end of year 1 to students who have successfully completed 60 credits to progress/transfer on to a BBus (Hons) in Accounting.</p> <p>The BBus (Hons) in Accounting is currently only available as an award option for students entering 4<sup>th</sup> year.</p>					

11.	<b>Potential Demand for Entry:</b>	The BBus (Hons) in Accounting will not be available as an entry option on the CAO. However, it will have visibility on the CAO as a pathway option available to students eligible to progress to 2 <sup>nd</sup> year from the BBus (Hons).
12.	<b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b>	Conducted as part of the recent Programmatic Review
13.	<b>Graduate Demand:</b>	Graduates interested in pursuing accounting, taxation and other professional qualifications are primarily selected from the ranks of those graduates with a level 8 award. Increasingly such students are selected for employment contracts on the basis that they qualify for entry to level 9 programmes.
14.	<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	Successful completion of 60 credits from 1 <sup>st</sup> year on the: BBus (Hons)
15.	<b>Programme Structure:</b>	As per the programme document
16.	<b>Module syllabi:</b>	N/A
17.	<b>LTA:</b>	<p><b>Teaching and Learning</b></p> <p>Students are exposed to a variety of teaching and learning strategies and styles in the programme. The majority of teaching takes the form of structured lectures. However, a range of other teaching methods are also used across the programme. These serve to stimulate different forms of learning. These include experiential learning, case study analysis, role plays, quizzes, problem solving, critical reviews, and practical exercises. The 'smaller' class size allows for a high degree of classroom discussion and interaction between lecturers and students and among the students themselves. Lecturers make extensive use of case studies and seek to incorporate current research and topical media issues into their classroom approach. Where possible, use is made of guest lecturers and field trips.</p> <p><b>Assessment Strategies</b></p> <p>Assessment will be in accordance with GMIT's Academic Code of Practice No. 3 'Student Assessment: Marks and Standards'.</p> <p>All modules contribute in an integrated manner to the achievement of the programme intended learning outcomes. Assessment in each module will be on the basis of a continuous assessment element and/or a final examination. The recommended marks allocation is indicated in the Approved</p>

		<p>Programme Schedule. All designated continuous assessment is necessarily summative. However, it may also be applied for a variety of related reasons including, inter alia, diagnostic, corrective, ipsative, motivational, risk-distributive and formative.</p> <p>The form of continuous assessment will be decided annually by the module lecturer, consistent with the requirement that it be appropriate and in accordance with the specification in the module syllabus. Continuous assessment may include, inter alia, academic essays, individual and group case-study, assignments, presentations, problem-based learning assignments, book and academic article reviews, various types of project work and mid-session examinations.</p>
18.	ATP:	<p><b>Transfer</b></p> <p>A particular feature of all programmes delivered on the Mayo campus is the degree of sharing of modules between programmes. This is important not only as it provides students with cross-disciplinary elective choice but also for enhancing the viability of individual programmes. Accordingly, in semesters 1 to 4, students registered on the Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Accounting are taught in common with students on the Bachelor of Business (Honours) programme. All of the modules taught in these semesters are common to both programmes with the exception of Financial Accounting 1 &amp; 2, which are mandatory for Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Accounting students. Financial Accounting is an elective choice for business students at year 2. This provides maximum flexibility for our students as it means, for example, that there is no barrier to an accounting student transferring into year 3 of the Bachelor of Business (Honours) programme. It is also possible for a business student to transfer to year three accounting provided they have taken Financial 1 &amp; 2 as electives. This approach is consistent with the thinking and direction inherent in the Transitions perspective.</p> <p><b>Progression</b></p> <p>Students who successfully complete the Level 8 Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Accounting may progress to study for a Level 9 award at other third level institutions. A number of graduates will also continue on to complete their professional qualifications in the areas of accounting, taxation and other disciplines.</p>
19.	Findings and Recommendations:	<p><b>Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> A more innovative programme should be developed that</p>

		<p>would give a USP to the campus such as professional practice that would attract professional recognition.</p> <p>2. Graphic on p.6 needs to be amended to indicate that choice is made at the end of stage 1, not on entry.</p>	
		<p><b>Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):</b></p>	
		<p>1. Documentation must be corrected as per guidance from panel, specifically in relation to:</p> <p>(a) Entry requirements</p> <p>(b) P.4 para 4. is not correctly aligned to what appears on p.10</p> <p>(c) HETAC referenced instead of QQI</p> <p>2. Complete Programme Document for this programme must be submitted along with the response to this report. The response must indicate:</p> <p>(a) how the Programme Board intends to satisfy the conditions set out in the Report;</p> <p>(b) (i) what consideration was given to the recommendations,</p> <p>(ii) which recommendations were accepted and which rejected,</p> <p>(iii) the rationale for non-acceptance of those rejected.</p>	
20.	Resource Implications:	None	
21.	Synergies with existing programmes:	Refer to No. 18 above	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	✓
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary