

EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme:	BA (Hons) in History & Geography					
2.	School / Centre:	Mayo					
3.	Duration:	4 years					
4.	NFQ Level:	8					
5.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:		No:		
		Differential Validation:	Yes:	✓	No:		
6.	Date of Review:	12-01-2016					
7.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	✓	Part-time		Blended	
8.	Panel Members:	John Murphy (chair) Deirdre Lusby, AC John Scahill, AC Dr Maura Farrell, NUIG, External Member Paul Naessens, NUIG, External Member Michael Hannon, Registrar / Secretary					
9.	Proposing Staff:	Dr Deirdre Garvey Yvonne McDermott Michael Gill Fiona White Niamh Hearn Margaret O'Riordan Fergal O'Dowd					
10	Programme Rationale:	<p>The underlying rationale for this programme is to increase the visibility of the Campus offerings at Level 8 on the CAO system and thereby enhance its attractiveness to students. It is part of the Campus response to addressing the challenge of declining student numbers and its over-reliance on mature students.</p> <p>The core philosophy underlying the design of these programmes is to offer a broad-based arts education that opens up opportunities for students, prepares them for the demands of a professional career, facilitates access, transfer, progression and choice and that is viable.</p> <p>At present, our programmes have no presence or visibility on the CAO system in the Level 8 space. Only the Level 7 are offered to prospective students. This limits our overall visibility due to the greater appeal of Level 8 offerings.</p>					

11.	Potential Demand for Entry:	<p>Analysis of CAO statistics shows the continuing popularity of courses in the arts and social sciences, attracting the highest number of total preferences and first preferences of any category at Level 8 in 2015.</p> <p>In recent years the BA in Heritage Studies attracted decreasing numbers of Leaving Certificate students as the programme became increasingly associated with mature students. The poor response in terms of CAO preferences in 2015 to the title BA in Culture and Environment (with Tourism) and feedback from secondary schools promotion of the programme suggests that recognition for this title amongst school leavers is poor. Given the recognition of Geography and History as established third-level disciplines, the proposed name change will help to re-establish demand for the programme amongst school leavers.</p>
12.	Stakeholder Engagement:	Support letters from External Examiners. Engagement conducted for the recent Programmatic Review
13.	Graduate Demand:	<p>The transferable skills developed whilst studying history and geography means that graduates have a high rate of employment in a diverse range of careers. These skills include the ability to think and work independently, the acquisition of critical and interpretive skills, skills in ICT and group work, the ability to communicate effectively and to develop and sustain an argument.</p> <p>A qualification in Geography provides the opportunity to work in a range of professions, including planning, consulting, conservation, in government agencies, for NGOs, business, education, and as researchers. In particular the Geographers spatial thinking skills and interdisciplinary training allows for the analysis of problems broadly yet systematically. It involves exposure to research in both human and physical fields requiring a range of methods. The application of research and theory to 'real world' contexts is central. Understanding the spatial consequences of policy decisions, economic relations, and/or environmental systems at multiple scales serves as an excellent preparation for many careers and post-graduate paths.</p> <p>The study of history is key to exploring the past and understanding the present. History graduates are sought after by employers for their knowledge and transferable skills in analysis, writing and communication, in addition to project management, research and problem solving. The study of history allows</p>

		students to explore the past through different time periods, civilisations and peoples.
14.	Entry Requirements:	As specified in the Institute's Quality Assurance Framework, specifically Code of Practice No. 4
15.	Programme Structure:	As per the programme document
16.	Module syllabi:	Refer to section 19 of this report.
17.	LTA:	As detailed in the programme document
18.	ATP:	As detailed in COP No. 4
19.	Findings and Recommendations:	Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Marketing Strategy for this programme and present to executive for support as this is the first time to market. 2. Consideration should be given to restructuring the work experience module, specifically it's positioning in the programme and the credit weighting. 3. Relevance of electives should be considered, specifically the inclusion of Enterprise / Innovation modules. 4. Modules titles need reconsideration, specifically with an emphasis of removing 1, 2, 3 in for example Archaeology. 5. In career opportunities include the MA in Rural Sustainability in NUIG.
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme LOs need to be more representative of History and Geography. 2. European History modules to be mandatory and literature modules to be electives. 3. The word 'Geography' should appear more in module titles. 4. L8 title for the add-on degree BA [Hons] in Heritage to change to BA [Hons] in History and Geography. 5. The L7 title: BA (Ord) in Culture and the Environment (with Tourism) to change to BA (Ord) in Culture and the Environment. 6. The changes specified for the BA (Hons) in H&G must be incorporated in the L7 BA (Ord) in Culture and the Environment and the add-on L8 in H&G. 7. Complete Programme Document for this programme must be submitted along with the response to this report. The

		<p>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> <p>8. Access and entry details must be corrected as per Institute policy.</p>	
20.	Resource Implications:	None	
21.	Synergies with existing programmes:	Some synergy with Business and Outdoor Education programmes.	
22.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	✓
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary