

VALIDATION REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme(s): (incl. Award Type and Specify Embedded Exit Awards)	Certificate in Network Cybersecurity Special Purpose Award					
2.	NFQ Level(s)/ No. ECTS:	7 30 ECTS					
3.	Duration:	1 Stage					
4.	ISCED Code:	0610					
5.	School / Centre:	Mayo Campus					
6.	Department:	Department of Business, Humanities and Technology					
7.	Type of Review:	New Programme, SPA					
8.	Date of Review:	11 June 2019					
9.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time		Part-time		Blended	X
10.	Work Based Learning	Work Placement		Work Based Project			
		No. ECTS		No. ECTS			
11.	Panel Members:	Mr Gerard MacMichael, GMIT (Chair) Ms Deirdre O'Donovan, GMIT Mr Paul Forry, IT Manager, Portwest Mr Gerald Hughes, Operations Manager, Arkphire Cloud Services Ms Carmel Brennan, GMIT (Secretary)					
12.	Proposing Staff:	Mr Michael Gill Dr Deirdre Garvey Mr Seamus Dowling Mr Pearce McDonnell Mr Mark Frain					
13.	Programme Rationale:	This programme was designed in response to a number of reports specifying the growing issue of cybersecurity and the need for staff skilled in this area. The Galway Executive Skillnet Research Study (Walker, 2019, p. 18) made a specific recommendation to include Cyber Security as part of the flexible delivery options improving local access to continuing professional development.					

		<p>The View from the Stakeholders in “Digital Transformation: Assessing the Impact of Digitalisation on Ireland’s Workforce” identifies Security/Cyber Defence as a sector impacted by technological advancement.</p> <p>On a wider scale, the European Commission states that “securing network and information systems in the European Union is essential to keep the online economy running and to ensure prosperity” (https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en).</p>
14.	Potential Demand for Entry:	It is envisaged that there will be an initial intake of 24 students.
15.	Stakeholder Engagement:	Consultation was undertaken with a range of local companies in February, and this was followed by consultation with the Regional Skills Manager in Mayo. Both confirmed the need for the programme, and findings from these consultation process influenced the programme design and content.
16.	Graduate Demand:	A review of job opportunities shows demands for roles with this expertise. It is also envisaged that graduates of this programme will have additional expertise to contribute to their current roles within their own companies.
17.	Entry Requirements, Access, Transfer & Progression:	<p>Minimum Entry Requirements The minimum entry requirement is a level 6 Higher Certificate and applicants must have a working knowledge of IT as evidenced by a level 6 standard or equivalent cognate area or relevant work experience. (Note recommendation relation to clarification of above wording).</p> <p>English Language Requirements Minimum score of 5.5 (with a minimum of 5.0 in each component) in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) ore equivalent. Further details in Admissions policy</p> <p>Recognition of Prior Learning Recognition of Prior Learning can be used in accordance with GMIT’s policy.</p> <p>Application Route Application is direct to the Institute (or Springboard if funded)</p>

		<p>Selection Applicants will be ranked in order of merit.</p>
18.	Programme Structure:	The programme consists of two 10 ECTS and two 5 ECTS modules, with the latter of these specifically targeted at employment preparation for those currently unemployed.
19.	Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategies:	<p>This programme will be delivered in a blended manner, with block delivery of the practical elements of the programme. The blended part of the programme will include live and recorded webinars and forum discussions among other techniques. Social interaction will be encouraged and facilitated in the real and virtual classroom as an aid to learning.</p> <p>The assessment strategy reflects the applied nature of the programme with strong emphasis on continuous assessment and projects.</p>
20.	Resource Implications:	This programme can be delivered using existing staff resources. No additional resources are required. This programme will be self-financing.
21.	Synergies with Existing Programmes:	None.
22.	Findings and Recommendations:	General:
		The programme was approved subject to the following recommendations (13):
		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):
		None
		Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use QQI rather than HETAC throughout the document. 2. Provide full reference details of all reports referred to in the rationale for the programme. 3. Correct the number of students on the Mayo Campus in the introductory part of the AQA2 document. 4. Review the volume of Programme Learning Outcomes given the number of credits attached to the programme. Consideration should be given to combining learning outcomes where relevant. 5. Revise the wording of the entry requirements so that it is clear that the level 6 Higher Certificate needs to be in

		<p>a cognate area, and clarify the wording relating to progression.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ensure that the programme is described as level 7 in the degree profile. 7. Record relevant delivery hours as online so that the blended nature of programme is evident. 8. Consider whether the delivery of 'The Next Step – Transitioning to Work' module should be delivered on a year-long and/or block delivery basis. 9. Consider including additional content on authentication. 10. Remove the listing of practical exercises in the Network Routing and Switching module. 11. Consider including an interview as part of the assessment methodology of project work to ensure validity of assessment. 12. Consider how well the programme is mapped to CISCO CCNA and compTIA certification, and by doing so whether the programme could facilitate the learning of students who would like to undertake these additional accreditations. 13. The Institute needs to review the instructional design resources required for programme design and the technical resources and supports required for the delivery of blended/online programmes. Lecturers on online and blended programmes should not have to develop their own technical support solutions. 	
23.	FAO: Academic Council:		
		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	X
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary