



# GMIT Professional Practice Policy

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Version 2.0

Approved by Academic Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and Governing Body on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Document Location

Registrar's Office

## Revision History

<b>Date of this revision:</b> June 2019	<b>Date of next review:</b> 2022
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Version Number/ Revision Number	Revision Date	Summary of Changes	Changes marked
2.0	June 2019	Removal of literature review and extension of principles	

## Consultation History

Version Number/ Revision Number	Consultation Date	Names of Parties in Consultation	Summary of Changes
2.0	May 2019	Professional Practice Workgroup	Removal of literature review and extension of principles

## Approval

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title	Date
Academic Council		17 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Governing Body		29 <sup>th</sup> August 2019

Professional Practice provides a unique and valuable learning experience for students to enable them to gain the transferable generic skills that employers seek. Within the context of GMIT, Professional Practice is defined as Work Placement or Work Based Projects.

Work Placement is defined as an assessed module which involves students spending a period working in industry or the non-profit sector in an area related to their programme of study.

Work Based Projects are defined as projects completed within the Institute on behalf of industry or community organisations, or which are based on real-world problems which give students the opportunity to apply discipline knowledge and skills.

Benefits of Professional Practice include the integration of employability skills into the curriculum, providing students with the opportunity to apply disciplinary knowledge and skills and improving communication between GMIT and outside organisations.

The Department of Education and Skills' strategy statement for 2016-19 aims to increase by a quarter the number of students undertaking a work placement or work project as part of their third level qualification by 2021<sup>1</sup>. More recently, the Higher Education System Performance Framework (2018-2020) includes as a high-level target that all students will have the opportunity to undertake a work placement or work-based project as part of their course by 2025<sup>2</sup>. This is reflected in GMIT's Strategic Plan (2019-2023)<sup>3</sup> which aims to extend work placement or professional practice (or equivalent) to every programme in the Institute.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Education and Skills (2016) *Action Plan for Education 2016-2019*, Department of Education and Skills

<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Authority (2018) *Higher Education System Performance Framework 2018-2020*, HEA

<sup>3</sup> Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (2019) GMIT Strategic Plan 2019-2023 Available at <https://www.gmit.ie/sites/default/files/public/communications/docs/gmit-strategic-plan-2019-2023-print-a4-v2-2.pdf>

## Principles of GMIT's Professional Practice Policy

1. GMIT aims to offer Professional Practice opportunities to every student on at least one occasion over a four-year programme.
2. No one size fits all in relation to the design of Professional Practice. The Programme Board are best placed to design and contextualise Professional Practice.
3. Typically, Professional Practice will be a minimum of 10 ECTS.
4. Resource allocation should be related to the credit weighting of the professional practice module and the number of students involved. Resourcing should be sufficient to ensure best practice student and employer support, supervision and assessment.
5. All parties involved in professional practice – Students, Employers, Institute – understand and are committed to the stated aims of the module.
6. Professional Practice should involve discipline appropriate meaningful work that allows student adequate opportunity to achieve the learning outcomes of the module.
7. Professional Practice should be academic led with appropriate administrative support.
8. Students should be adequately prepared in advance of undertaking professional practice. This preparation should commence well in advance.
9. Students will be adequately supported by the Institute while undertaking professional practice.
10. Programme Boards will design a robust assessment strategy appropriate to the context of the programme and the ECTS weighting of the module.
11. Adequate support in the form of training and/or guidance should be provided to industry-based supervisors.
12. Placement modules may allow for alternative learning experiences, which contribute to the Programme Learning Outcomes, to cater for instances where students are unable to find or continue placements in either community-based or industry-based settings.
13. The Institute will provide supports in the form of guidance documents for Programme Boards in relation to the design and implementation of professional practice.