Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)

Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 9.30am
Boardroom, QQI Offices, 26-27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2

Note of the fourth meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held in QQI offices, 26/27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2 on **Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 9:30.**

PRESENT:		**In attendance:**
Chairperson:	Dr Padraig Walsh	Ms Deirdre Miller (Secretary)
		Ms Angela Lambkin
Committee:	Mr Walter Balfe	Ms Róisín Sweeney
	Ms Orla Lynch	Ms Colette Harrison (Item 4)
	Dr Bryan Maguire	Ms Ann Graves (Item 9)
	Ms Karena Maguire	
	Ms Trish O'Brien	
	Ms Mary Sheridan	
	Ms Andrina Wafer	

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5 February 2014**

    The minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 5 February 2014 were CONFIRMED and SIGNED.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
    Item 2
    HECA advised QQI in writing that they have their own protocol for all members adhering to IELTS entry requirement of 6.5 for Master Degree Programmes.

3. **NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD, TERMS OF REFERENCES AND NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE**

    3.1 Note of Meeting 5 February 2014
    The committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 5 February 2014 for publication on the QQI website.

    3.2 Report for the Board on the meeting of 5 February 2014
    The committee NOTED the report for the Board of the PAEC Meeting of 5 February 2014.

    3.3 Revised Terms of Reference for the PAEC
    The committee NOTED the revised Terms of Reference for the PAEC.

3.4 Nominations to the Committee

The committee APPROVED the nominations of two new members to the PAEC to replace Walter Balfe and Andrina Wafer. The new nominations are as follows:

- Ms Colette Harrison (6 month term – 3 meetings)
- Dr Rhona Dempsey (12 month term)

4.   PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS

4.1. Further Education and Training Programmes

4.1.1. Validation applications

The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed verbal report presented.   The Committee APPROVED the recommendations in respect of the validation of the programmes listed in the documentation subject to confirmation of arrangements for Protection of Enrolled Learners (PEL) in line with QQI's interim procedures and clarification on monitoring issues where applicable.

4.1.2. Detailed Summary Reports

The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed verbal report presented.

4.2. Higher Education and Training Programmes

4.2.1. Irish College of Humanities and Applied Science – Extension of Validation

The committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the extensions of validation for the following programmes to include an intake of students in September 2014:

- *MA in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Level 9 major award,75 ECTS*
- *MA in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Level 9 major award, 75 ECTS*
- *MA in Clinical Supervision in Professional Practice, Level 9 major award, 75 ECTS*
- *MA in Counselling and Pastoral Care, Level 9 major award, 75 ECTS*
- *MA in Leadership and Management in Professional Practice, Level 9 major award, 75 ECTS*
- *MA in Childhood and Adolescent Studies, Level 9 major award, 75 ECTS*

4.2.2. Dublin Business School – Extension of Validation

The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and APPROVED the extension of the validation of the following programme to include an intake of students in September 2014.

- *MA in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Level 9 major award, 120 ECTS*

4.3. Devolution of Responsibility for Validation sub-processes

No business

4.4. Validation of Research Degree Programmes
The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the verbal report presented on the updated position for providers with "approved" research programmes in higher education and for those currently seeking approval for research programmes (Appendix 1).

4.5. Springboard Approvals
No Business

4.6. Initial Validation (under legacy process)

4.6.1. Dublin Institute of Design
The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the verbal report presented.

The committee APPROVED the recommendation of the panel that the college submit a revised submission to QQI for consideration within six months of the notification of the validation outcome for the following programmes:
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design, Level 8, 180 ECTS
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design, NFQ Level 8, 180 ECTS

5. REVALIDATION
No business.

6. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION AND JOINT AWARDING
No business.

7. DELEGATED AUTHORITY
No business.

8. RECOGNITION
No business.

9. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE

9.1 The committee NOTED the detailed verbal report and the documentation circulated - FSG - Tracking of adjustments to published standards.

The Committee agreed the approach for the executive adjustments to awards standards and noted an automated report has been developed to track adjustments to published award standards. The adjustment report includes notes identifying changes, including routine changes.

The Committee further noted that following the deactivation of all old awards and as providers get programmes validated against CAS standards, it is envisaged that the routine requests will be curtailed somewhat and any changes to published standards will be on the basis of a request for review of a standard or a suite of standards.

9.2 The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as follows:
- FSG - Activity report
- FSG - Procedures Manual working draft

10. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

No business

11. PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – UPDATE

The committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed verbal report presented.

12. REFERRAL OF ITEMS TO THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The committee NOTED the detailed verbal report presented. The committee APPOVED the recommendations not to validate the FET programmes as listed in Appendix 2. The committee AGREED to refer these items to the Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee for confirmation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Eden College
The PAEC agreed to defer validation until the monitoring issues are addressed completely. A progress report will be expected from Eden College in May.

13.2 Publication of Reports
It was agreed after considerable discussion that the publication of reports for various audiences including learners, is a serious issue that requires further consideration. QQI will publish all reports on its new website.

13.3 Thank you to members
This was the final meeting for Andrina Wafer and Walter Balfe as they had completed their term on the Committee. The Chair thanked Andrina and Walter for the valuable contribution they had made to the Committee.

QQI Approved Research Programmes in Higher Education Institutions - For Information

Context

This paper provides information on the number of research applications currently with QQI under the 'research approval' option on the Research Policy and Criteria. The QQI policy approach on the extension of delegated authority to level 9 research awards is intended to have an impact on the 'approval' option While the work required to implement this policy approach is on-going, the current process for research approval continues i.e. applications are being received by QQI from HEIs requesting approval to register students on Masters and PhD programmes. Appendix A overleaf summarises the current numbers of research programmes per HEI, approved by QQI and yet to be awarded.

These providers have other research programmes ongoing which have either accredited status or are under delegated authority. The full list of research disciplines under each status in each HEI is shown in Appendix B.

This information is now stored on a database and is being reconciled with the HEI's to remove any students who may have dropped out without completing.

Points to Note

1. When the decision to delegate authority for Level 9 programmes is implemented, the status of programmes such as those represented on Appendix A needs to be factored in i.e. those programmes previously approved by HETAC and QQI need to be formally handed over to the HEI's as well as authority to validate and award future programmes

2. The future research validation arrangements, if any, of the two non-IoT providers who have current approval status need to be considered.

3. For those providers, listed below, which only have Approved status for research programmes, Appendix A depicts their full research provision.
   - Carlow College
   - Dundalk I.T.
   - IADT
   - ITB
   - IT Tralee
   - Letterkenny IT
   - National College of Ireland

Appendix A
Current Research Approvals per HEI - Award Pending

Provider	MA	MEng	MSc	MBus	PhD	Total
Athlone Institute of Technology						
	7	1	22	1	8	39
Carlow College						
	5	0	0	0	0	5
Cork Institute of Technology						
	18	0	1	10	16	45
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology						
	8	0	8	2	0	18
Dundalk Institute of Technology						
	13	0	26	1	24	64
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology						
	3	1	2	0	3	9
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown						
	2	3	6	0	6	17
Institute of Technology Carlow						
	9	3	11	2	0	25
Institute of Technology Sligo						
	4	0	1	0	3	8
Institute of Technology Tallaght						
	0	5	17	0	7	29
Institute of Technology Tralee						
	3	6	21	9	2	41
Letterkenny Institute of Technology						
	0	0	8	4	1	13
Limerick Institute of Technology						
	16	13	22	4	16	71
National College of Ireland						
	0	0	0	0	1	1
Waterford Institute of Technology						
	1	0	7	0	22	30
	89	32	152	33	109	415

Appendix B – Research Programme Validation in HEIs

Discipline / NFQ Approval Status per Provider

Institution	*Date of Decision*	*Research at Level 9*	*Research at Level 10*
Athlone Institute of Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*	• Nursing* • Business (Human Resources, Management, Marketing, Enterprise, Finance, Accounting)*	• Social Studies (Psychology, Sociology)*
Athlone Institute of Technology **(Accredited)**	October 20th 2008# November 2005 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated at Level 9 as specified hereunder.	• Software Engineering#	• Life & Physical Sciences in specific areas# • Polymer Engineering#
Athlone Institute of Technology **(Delegated Authority)**	17th September 2007 September 20th 2011##	In the specific fields of life and physical sciences, mechanical and polymer engineering and social care • Software Engineering#	• Polymer Engineering## • Toxicology## • Microbiology##
Carlow College **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*	• English* • History* • Philosophy* • Theology*	n/a

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Cork Institute of Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*	• Musicology* • Music Education* • Art & Design* • Social Studies* • Education and Learning* • Education Development* • Communications*	• Business & Management*
Cork Institute of Technology **(Accredited)**	August 2005 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder June 2013**	Computing**	Computing**
Cork Institute of Technology **(Delegated Authority)**	19 September 2005 – included Section 30 Review	School of Science; Computing; School of Engineering (Electronic, Computing, Mechanical, Manufacturing, Chemical & Process, Building & Civil).	School of Science and Electronic, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.
Dundalk Institute of Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* October 2008 [#] 31st March 2009 [+] 29 March 2010^ ** Approval extended to September 2014	• Humanities (Social Care, Cultural Studies/History)* • Entrepreneurship* • Smooth Muscle Studies# ** • Freshwater Studies# ** • Social Networks, Environments and Technologies for Wellness & Ageing-in-place# ** • Creative Media^ • Music^	• Smooth Muscle Studies[#] ** • Freshwater Studies[#] ** • Social Networks, Environments and Technologies for Wellness & Ageing-in-place[#] ** • Informatics [+] ** • Music^

Research Programme Validation – PAEC April 2014

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*	• Business* • Humanities (Public Cultures/Entrepreneurship, Applied Psychology, Creative Arts and Media)* • Creative Arts (Art, Art History, Film, Television)* • Creative Technologies (Computer & Information Sciences)*	n/a
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 31st March 2009 #	• Humanities & Creative Arts (Heritage Studies/Tourism, History of Arts, Religious Studies)* • Information Technology*	• Humanities & Creative Arts (Heritage Studies)*
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology **(Accredited)**	July 2004 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder	n/a	n/a
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology **(Delegated Authority)**	19 June 2005 19 September 2005	Aquatic Science & Mechanical Engineering	Aquatic Science & Mechanical Engineering
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 31st March 2009#	• Business (Business & Administration, Marketing & Advertising, Accounting & Taxation, Management & Administration, Travel, Tourism & Leisure)* • Humanities (Early Childhood Teaching, Social Work & Counselling, Health & Welfare)*	• Informatics/Computing# • Electronic & Mechanical Engineering# • Mechatronics# • Learning and Technology#

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Institute of Technology, Carlow **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 18 October 2010^	- Sports and Health Science (Men's Health, Rehabilitative Sciences)* - Social Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Media & Communications)* - Economics and Business* - Humanities (Arts)* - Industrial Design^	- Engineering (Built Environment, Electronic, Mechanical, Optical)* - Computing and Information Sciences*
Institute of Technology, Carlow **(Accredited)**	July 2007 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder	n/a	n/a
Institute of Technology, Carlow **(Delegated Authority)**	25 February 2009	In the specific fields of Biotechnology & Molecular Environmental Science	In the specific fields of Biotechnology & Molecular Environmental Science
Institute of Technology, Sligo **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*		- Social Science (Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Social and Economic Geography)* - Health Care* - Education (Computer and Information Sciences)* - Geography & Tourism* - Business (Economics and Business)* - Civil & Construction Engineering*
Institute of Technology, Sligo **(Accredited)**	March 2005 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder	n/a	n/a

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Institute of Technology, Sligo **(Delegated Authority)**	6 February 2006	Environment, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering	Environment, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Institute of Technology, Tallaght **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* March 2008# February 2013^	- Social Studies* - Humanities (Cultural Studies, Linguistics)* - Business#	- Humanities (Literature)* - Media Studies* - Adult Mathematical Education^ - Computing^ - Applied Physics^ - Bioengineering^
Institute of Technology, Tallaght **(Accredited)**	2007 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder	n/a	n/a
Institute of Technology, Tallaght **(Delegated Authority)**	25 March 2009	Engineering Science (including Computing)	Biology Chemistry
Institute of Technology, Tralee **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)*	- Computing and Mathematics* - Health Studies & Sports Science* - Nursing* - Social Studies/Care* - Business, Tourism and Entrepreneurship* - Engineering*	- Chemical & Life Sciences* - Mathematics* - Educational Sciences* - Language & Literature* - Arts*

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Letterkenny Institute of Technology **(Approved)** **Limerick Institute of Technology** **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 2005 (GC)* 2007° (Tipperary Institute)	• Aquatic Science* • Computing* • Business* • Economics and Business* • Engineering and Technology (Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical, Civil, Built Environment)* • Social Sciences (Social Care)* •	• Aquatic Science and Chemical Science* • Chemical Sciences, Earth & Related Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences * • Engineering and Technology (Information Engineering, Environmental Engineering)* • Computer & Information Science*
Limerick Institute of Technology **(Accredited)**	2005 June 2013**	• Renewable Energy Control Systems • Art & Design**	• Art & Design **
National College of Ireland **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 21 January 2008#	• Learning & Teaching*	• Technology-enhanced Learning#

Institution	Date of Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Waterford Institute of Technology **(Approved)**	2005 (GC)* 04 July 2011˚	n/a	- Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering* - Construction Engineering* - Business* - Social Science (Law, Psychology, Sociology, Social Policy, Social Care Practice, Education)* - Health & Sports Science* - Music* - Nursing˚
Waterford Institute of Technology **(Accredited)**	January 2005 - Accreditation of fields subsequently delegated as specified hereunder	n/a	n/a
Waterford Institute of Technology **(Delegated Authority)**	19 September 2005	All fields within the School of Science, Humanities, Business, Mechanical & Electronic Engineering	All fields within the School of Science

2005 (GC)* - This relates to the *Grandparenting Clause* under which areas where research had been conducted in institutes prior to the establishment of HETAC's Policy on Research Accreditation, were deemed to be 'approved' following an evaluation process.

APPENDIX 2

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">Explanatory Memorandum
Programme and Awards Oversight Committee

The table below list programmes for which Validation was refused by the Programme and Awards Executive Committee since its establishment in October 2013. The Programme and Awards Oversight Committee is requested to confirm the decision of the Programme and Awards Executive Committee.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Programmes for which Validation was refused – 9 October 2013</td></tr>
<tr><td>Provider Name</td><td>Programme Code</td><td>Programme Name</td><td>Leading to Award</td><td>Credits</td><td>PAEC Recommendation</td></tr>
<tr><td>New Approach</td><td>PG15891</td><td>Healthcare Support</td><td>Level 5 Certificate Healthcare Support</td><td>120 FE credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
<tr><td>Muintereas</td><td>PG16055</td><td>Early Childhood Care and Education</td><td>Level 6 Certificate Early Childhood Care and Education</td><td>120 FE credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
<tr><td>Irish Wheelchair Association Training Dept</td><td>PG15775</td><td>Community Health Services</td><td>Level 5 Certificate Community Health Services</td><td>120 FE Credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
<tr><td>Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology</td><td>PG16444</td><td>Foundation Certificate (Pathway to Higher Education)</td><td>Level 5 Certificate 5M3114 General Studies</td><td>90 FE Credits or 120 FE Credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Programmes for which Validation was refused – 2 April 2014</td></tr>
<tr><td>Provider Name</td><td>Programme Code</td><td>Programme Name</td><td>Leading to Award</td><td>Credits</td><td>PAEC Recommendation</td></tr>
<tr><td>St. Josephs Foundation</td><td>PG17976</td><td>Skills for Independent Living Fetac Level 3</td><td>CCL 3N0895 Breakfast Cookery
CCL3N0921 Managing Personal Finances
CCL 3N0596 Personal Care and Presentation</td><td>30 credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>PG19358</td><td>Life Long Learning</td><td>CCL Communications
CCL 3N0881 Computer Literacy
CCL 3N0929 Mathematics
CCL 3N0565 Personal Effectiveness</td><td>40 credits</td><td>Recommend not to validate</td></tr>
</table>

Research Programme Validation – PAEC April 2014