




CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

PART 1

Provider	INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BLANCHARDSTOWN
School	N/A
Department	N/A
Research centre/network	Refer Table appended
Approved Location	Main Campus
Nature of Approval	Continuing Approval of research degree programmes at Levels 9 and Levels 9 and 10
Discipline areas approved at master's level (NFQ level 9)	Refer Table appended
Discipline areas approved at doctoral level (NFQ level 10)	Refer Table appended
Programme Code	N/A
Date of Approval	July 2012
Date(s) of Review	11 Oct 2011, 12 Oct 2011

Signed: _____


Bryan Maguire
Director of Academic Affairs



PART 2

COUNCIL'S CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

1. Providers will comply with the conditions in Section 25(5) of the act and will be required to report annually on the status of each of their registered programmes and collect, maintain and produce upon request the information and material required by the Council for the purpose of programme accreditation, monitoring and evaluating quality, and review.
2. The Provider will establish procedures for the assessment of learners, which are fair and consistent and for the purpose of compliance with standards determined by the Council.
3. The Provider will implement procedures for access, transfer and progression determined by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland.
4. The Provider will make any necessary revisions to its QA procedures and implement quality assurance procedures agreed/to be agreed with the Council for the purpose of further improving and maintaining the quality of the programme and services related to the programme.
5. The Provider will make no significant change in the relevant programmes without the prior approval of the Council, save in the case of changes arising from the implementation of findings of the provider's quality assurance procedures as agreed with the Council.
6. The Provider will notify the Council of any change in circumstances affecting the provision of the programmes of a nature that would be likely to cause the Council to consider reviewing the validation or accreditation.
7. The Provider will ensure that appropriate human and physical resources are available for the provision of the programmes.
8. The Provider will implement the programmes and assessment structure in accordance with Taught and Research Programme Accreditation Policy, Criteria and Processes (Appendix D).
9. The Provider will provide to the Council such information as the Council may from time to time require for the purposes of the performance of the functions of the Council, including information in respect of completion rates.
10. The provider will provide information to learners in accordance with sections 45 and 46 of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO DISCIPLINE-AREA RESEARCH APPROVAL

Providers with research approval in a specified discipline-area at a specified NFQ level are subject to close monitoring by HETAC in this respect and are required to meet the following conditions:

- Notify prospective research students, if not approved at doctoral level in the discipline-area, that they will probably need to change institution to transfer to doctoral level. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that such transfer arrangements are in place.
- Obtain independent expert opinion on each prospective student's proposed research project and the agreement of HETAC before registering that student (or transferring him/her from the master's register to the doctoral register) (see Appendix 2).
- Provide student registration data to HETAC to facilitate monitoring and the making of awards.
- Notify HETAC when candidates withdraw from a research degree programme.
- Invite HETAC to nominate the independent chairperson (see Section 3.3) for the assessment of candidates for research degrees.
- Self-evaluate approved discipline-areas at least once every five years (or when requested by HETAC) and report to HETAC using the Template for the Self-evaluation of Research Degree Programmes (Section 7).
- Implement any recommendations made by HETAC following initial approval or on consideration of any subsequent self-evaluation reports.

Research Status of all HETAC providers who offer research programmes at either Level 9, or Levels 9 and 10

July 2012

Record of Approved Research in HETAC providers at July 2012 (Stage 1)

Record of Accredited Research in HETAC providers at July 2012 (Stage 2)

Record of Delegated Authority in areas of Research at July 2012

Institution	Date of HETAC Decision	Research at Level 9	Research at Level 10
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (Approved)	2005 (GC)* 31 st March 2009 [#]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business (Business & Administration, Marketing & Advertising, Accounting & Taxation, Management & Administration, Travel, Tourism & Leisure)* Humanities (Early Childhood Teaching, Social Work & Counselling, Health & Welfare)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informatics/Computing[#] Electronic & Mechanical Engineering[#] Mechatronics[#] Learning and Technology[#]
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (Accredited)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (Delegated Authority)	n/a	n/a	n/a

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.