

Validation Report



BN032

**Higher Certificate in Arts
in Social Studies¹**

¹ See panel recommendation

Introduction

In 2006 the Institute was awarded delegated authority enabling the development, validation, implementation and continuous improvement of its existing taught higher education and training programmes up to and including level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

The purpose of this document is to report on the findings of the peer review panel established to validate this proposed programme against the criteria for the validation of programmes as stipulated in the Institute policy document 2MP01^I.

Programme overview

This proposed exit award is intended to facilitate students who have successfully completed years one and two of the degree in Applied Social Studies^{II} and who wish to exit their programme of study with an award.

Programme detail

Programme title	Higher Certificate in Arts in Social Studies
Award title	Higher Certificate in Arts
Award type	Major
NFQ^{III} level	6
ECTS^{IV} credits	120
Programme code	BN032

^I 2MP01 Design, validation and accreditation of new academic programmes

^{II} BN107 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care **OR** BN011 Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Studies in Social Care

^{III} National Framework of Qualifications

^{IV} European Credit Transfer (and Accumulation) System

Panel composition

Chair	Dr. Brendan Ryder Dundalk Institute of Technology
Academic experts	Ms. Allison Kenneally Carlow Institute of Technology Ms. Kay Fitzgerald Institute of Technology Tralee
In attendance	Mr. Richard Gallery Registrar, IT Blanchardstown Mr. Michael Keane Quality Assurance Officer, IT Blanchardstown
Date of Panel Meeting	Tuesday 17th June 2014

Consultation

Management consulted during the panel meeting:

Mr. Pat O'Connor	Head of School of Business and Humanities
Dr. Karen Feery	Head of Department of Humanities

Academic staff consulted during the panel meeting:

Dr. Ruth Harris	Ms. Deirdre McGrath	Ms. Georgina Lawlor
Ms. Denise Lyons	Mr. Fergus Comerford	

Findings of the panel

In evaluating the appropriateness, quality and proposed operation of this programme the following criteria has been considered and is hereby reported upon:

Programme title and award title

Following discussion, the panel was satisfied that the title of the proposed programme is clear, accurate and fit for the purpose of informing prospective learners and other stakeholders and consistent with QQI award titles. However, the panel recommended that the title of this exit award be reconsidered to read as follows 'Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Social Studies'.

Standards of knowledge, skill and competence

Through discussion with the programme design team and having reviewed the submission document the panel was of the opinion that learners would be capable of attaining the standards of knowledge, skill or competence relevant for this award.

Transfer and progression

The panel confirmed that the programme incorporates the established procedures for transfer and progression.

Learner employment potential

The panel also recommended that learners be provided with a listing of potential employment opportunities and information relating to social care registration.

Protection of learners

Section 43 of the Act¹ does not apply.

Quality assurance

The panel was informed of how the submission had been developed and approved internally whilst complying with the Institute's quality assurance policies and procedures. The panel concurred that said policies and procedures had been applied to the development of the proposed programme.

¹Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999

Decision of the panel

The panel recommended the validation of the proposed programme namely:

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Award title	Higher Certificate in Arts
Award type	Major
NFQ level	6
ECTS credits	120
Programme code	BN032
Banner code	BN_HAPSS_C

Panel conditions

This validation is subject to the following conditions:

- Map module learning outcomes to the programme learning outcomes with reference being made to the QQI award standards as appropriate.
- Clearly articulate the following:
 - Potential employment opportunities for graduates
 - Issues relating to social care registration

Panel recommendation

- Reconsider the programme title. Proposed wording as follows 'Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Social Studies'.

Commendation

The panel commended the programme design team for their engagement and enthusiasm during the panel meeting and congratulated them for their responsiveness to providing an exit award for their learners.

Panel signatures

Chairperson

Dr. Brendan Ryder



Date: 15/09/2014

Secretary

Mr. Richard Gallery

Date
