



Institute of Technology Sligo
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH

PROGRAMME VALIDATION REPORT

DATE OF EVALUATION 20th April 2016

PROGRAMME EVALUATED Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Fine Art Level 8 Ab initio

Unique Programme reference Number PRN: SG_AARTT_H08

Panel of Assessors

Mr. Tom Cullivan (chairperson)	Retired HETAC Secretary Knockavaddy Furbo Spiddal Co Galway Email: farwestern@eircom.net
Ms. Emer McGarry	The Model Acting Director The Mall Sligo Email: emermcgarry@themodel.ie
Mr. Mark McGarry	Lecturer in Painting Dublin School of Creative Arts DIT Grangegorman Dublin 7 Email: Mark.garry@dit.ie
Ms. Aine Nic Giolla Coda	Course Leader in Painting Limerick Institute of Technology Limerick School of Art and Design Clare Street Campus Dublin Road Limerick Email: aine.nicgioallcoda@lit.ie

Ms Annica Rasmak

Acting Education Development and Quality Manager,
Institute of Technology Sligo
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Declaration regarding any conflicts of interest:

The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting with School Management

Attendees:

Colin McLean (Registrar)

Lizzie Kinsella (Programme Coordinator)

Shane Fanning (Head of School)

Ronnie Hughes (Programme Coordinator)

John Kelleher (Head of Department)

The panel met with School Management and the registrar welcomed the panel. He explained IT Sligo had a history of Level 6 and Level 7 courses but it was important to include a Level 8 Ab-initio to increase our visibility on the CAO and to cater for a different cohort of applicants. It had been noticed that applicants would take up a Level 8 offer over a L7 and we were losing potential students due to this.

The Head of Department stated that the L7 and L8 Add-on courses had been through a Programmatic Review in 2012/13 and that there were no changes to the module offering or schedule for the new Ab-initio Programme. The new Level 8 course should appeal to the younger applicants and this has been identified through surveys carried out in the School.

The Programme Chair presented a Powerpoint presentation of 3rd and 4th year end of year work. The variety of work was commended but a question was asked about the place for Sculpture in the curricula. It was confirmed that they would always engage extern examiners with sculpture background.

The Panel Chair queried point 2.2.2 in Volume 1 of the documentation, where it states this course did not replicate any other offering in the CUA. The panel felt it need to be expanded on and the statement needed more justification. The Programme Chair explained the rational behind the statement but agreed that it could be further expanded on.

A Panel member asked if it would come a point when the 3+1 offering would be abandoned and a L8 Ab-initio with an exit award at Level 7 would be the only course offered. Staff agreed that this could become possible in the future as a survey done showed 70% of students preferred a L8 offering. It was acknowledged that International and Mature students tend to prefer the L7 option.

It was queried if it is a burden for the students to have a show both in 3rd and 4th year. Staff explained the importance of the learning experience for the students in preparing for a show and how to present their work.

The Panel were interested in the Work in Context module and believed it was a very important module as it gave students an opportunity for critical evaluation, presentation and reflection.

The Programme Chair said assessment was done through various methods including self and group evaluation. They have also explored new assessment strategies used in the UK. The panel suggested it would be useful to include this module in Year 2.

It was mentioned that project/exhibition space locally would be beneficial for the Arts Department as it would enhance the students' interaction with artists. It was mentioned that there is a possibility of exhibition space in the new auditorium being built. The panel commended the Lateral exhibition in Strandhill market as an interesting way to interaction with a different audience.

Meeting with the programme development team

Attendees:

Ronnie Hughes	Mark Pepper
Lizzie Kinsella	Tommy Weir
Elizabeth McCaffrey	Jacinta Feeney
Hilary Gilligan	John Graham
Louis McManus	

The Panel Chair welcomed the additional staff and introductions were made.

The Panel queried the semester 7 and 8 modules, especially the fact that the bulk of the marks were given in semester 8. There was a concern students could lose out if they had a strong semester 7 and a weak semester 8. The Programme board replied that considerable thought and review had taken place before this structure was put in place. Semesterisation had initially forced them to have a 50/50 marking scheme which was tried for two years when it became clear this was not in the best interest of the student and it was discussed at length at Programmatic Review. Year 4 should prepare students of how an artist prepares in their field of practice. It gives the student freedom to experiment and explore their practice. The students are assessed holistically to be fair to students and they have reviews both at midterm and at the end of Semester 1. It was acknowledged by the panel and programme team that this is the trend in Creative courses across colleges.

The panel was interested to know if any application based work online was featured on the course. This is not yet a common media on the course however some new resources has recently become available (Mac lab) which should encourage further work in this area, as well as a greater collaboration with other creative courses in the Institute through elective choices.

The Work in Context module was commended and it was felt this gives the student a good understanding of practical and administrative skills such as developing business letters and proposals as well as communication and presentation skills. The importance of group work was highlighted and the exposure to working with others is an important part of the module. The programme team pointed out that students did carry out thematic research projects together and that the studio based teaching work within a group setting.

The Panel discussed students understanding of Learning Outcomes with the Programme team. The learning outcomes are explained to the students at the start of the course as well as being revisited throughout the year to keep students aware of how they are meeting the learning

outcomes. All students are given a handbook detailing the subjects, weighting, schedules and expectations.

The level of support for Staff Development was queried by the Panel. The Programme team felt they were supported in further education and it was facilitated in their timetable. National and international trips were sponsored by the Institute every year as there is limited access to international artwork in the region. There is also a dynamic visiting lecturer programme which all students attend.

Summary of Findings

The Panel recommends to Academic Council that it approve the Programme. It commends the Institute on the Work in Context Module, the Staff Development and Visiting Lecture Programmes.

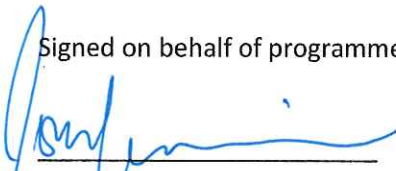
Panel Conditions

There were no conditions.

Panel Recommendations

1. Amplify paragraph 2.2.2 (Volume 1) in the light of our discussion.
2. Given the varying profile of entrants of the Programme, every available facility including the canteen, to be used and developed as a point of integration.

Signed on behalf of programme validation Panel



Mr Tom Cullivan
Chairperson

Date:



Ms Annica Rasmark
Recording Secretary

Date: 20/4/2016