



Institute of Technology Sligo
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH

PROGRAMME VALIDATION REPORT

Date of Evaluation: April 5th 2019

Programmes Evaluated: Certificate in *The Archaeology of Ireland – International*
(Special Purpose Award-18ECTS) NFQ Level 7
Certificate in *The Archaeology of Ireland* (Special Purpose Award-15ECTS) NFQ Level 7

Unique Programme

Reference Number PRN:

Panel of Assessors:

Ms Breda Mc Taggart
(Chairperson)

Chair of Planning & Coordination committee

Mr Niall Mc Evoy

Head of Innovation Centre, Inst. of Technology, Sligo

Mr John Cronin

John Cronin & Associates, Archaeologists, Ballincolling, Co.
Cork

Dr Michele Glacken

Assistant Registrar
Institute of Technology Sligo

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Meeting with Programme Team

Attendees:

- Prof Frances Lucy (Head of Department of Environment Science)
- Dr Shirley Markley (Programme Lead)
- Mr Chris Read
- Dr Marion Dowd
- Mr Sam Moore

The programme team articulated both the national and international demand for the programme and the attributes of the programme that make it attractive, such as the mode of delivery, the option of exiting with a standalone module or a 15/18ECTS SPA, the Irish archaeology focus of the programme, and the programmes capacity to meet the educational/ heritage/ cultural tourism market needs. The validation panel were satisfied with the proposed marketing strategies and the variety of groups that were going to be targeted from undergraduate students in North America to older persons/ retired groups. The team articulated very clearly the identified niche in the undergraduate North American market for such a programme. The panel advised the programme team to consider promoting the programme to non-Irish educated Archaeologists who wish to work in the field of Irish archaeology but have a knowledge deficit on the specifics of Irish Archaeology. This programme could serve as CPD for such persons. Various avenues for reaching this market were shared with the panel such as via the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (www.IAI.ie).

The team were asked to articulate to the panel the reason for two programmes with different ECTS distribution. The team justified the need for same. The undergraduate North American market require the programme attributed the higher ECTS load for comparability purposes. The Registrar of the Institute has confirmed to the Head of Department the acceptability of such an approach from the perspective of the QQI. The panel discussed with the team potential progression pathways for the programme and the RPL mechanism for potential exemptions.

The panel discussed with the team their experience of teaching on line and of running study abroad programmes as is required for the module titled Archaeology of Ireland Tour. The panel were satisfied the team were aware of the capabilities, knew of the college supports and were willing to access same to assist them in areas unfamiliar to them such as online delivery. The panel were satisfied that there were sufficient resources to support programme delivery. The panel queried the validity of the stated programme objectives. Each module was reviewed with the team with particular focus on the learning outcome descriptors, the indicative content and the current layout of the modules in the validation document.

Decision of the Validation Panel

**Certificate in *The Archaeology of Ireland* – International (Special Purpose Award-18ECTS)
NFQ Level 7**

Certificate in *The Archaeology of Ireland* (Special Purpose Award-15ECTS) NFQ Level 7

Commendation

The programme validation team commended the team for the development of a NFQ level 7 programme that will be attractive to numerous student cohorts both nationally and internationally.

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Recommendations

- Programme objectives need to be considered for their relevance.
- Learning outcome descriptors need to be reflective of NFQ level of the programme.
- Module's *indicative content* to be reviewed so they are sufficiently comprehensive to be an accurate reflection of the proposed learning of the module so future students can make an accurate appraisal of the programmes potential worth to them.
- The currency of reading lists to be reviewed.
- Curricular Vitae to be reviewed to ensure all content up to date.
- Consider strategies for marketing the programme to Archaeologists trained outside of Ireland.

Signed on behalf of programme validation Panel



Dr Breda Mc Taggart
Chairperson

Date: June 13th 2019



Dr Michele Glacken
Recording Secretary

Date: Juneth 2019