Date of Evaluation | 11th June 2021
---|---
Programmes Title(s) | Higher Certificate in Water and Wastewater Operations Level 6 120 credits  
Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations Minor award Level 6 60 ECTS  
Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations Minor award Level 6 60 ECTS
Award Title(s): | Higher Certificate in Science in Water and Wastewater Operations  
Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations  
Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations
Programme Code(s) | SG_SWATER_C06  
SG_SWAST_E06  
SG_SDRIN_E06
NFQ Level | 6
ECTS credits | 120, 60, 60 respectively

### Evaluation Panel Member:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; title</th>
<th>Job title &amp; place of work</th>
<th>Role on panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Breda McTaggart,</td>
<td>Chair of Planning and Coordination, Institute of Technology, Sligo</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janette Gillen</td>
<td>Innovation Centre Manager, Institute of Technology, Sligo</td>
<td>Panel Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Aodhmar Cadogan</td>
<td>Assistant Registrar, Institute of Technology Sligo.</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conor McCarthy.</td>
<td>Director, Jennings O’Donovan</td>
<td>Technical report received from External Specialist,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 groups
Institute Management: Trevor McSharry, Head of Department of Civil and Construction Engineering.

Programme development team. As below

Persons met by validation panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; title</th>
<th>Role in Institute</th>
<th>Rationale for presence at validation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trevor McSharry</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
<td>Institute Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Cronin</td>
<td>Lecturer, Department of Environmental Science</td>
<td>Programme Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem Gharbia</td>
<td>Lecturer, Department of Civil and Construction Engineer</td>
<td>Programme Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mel Casserly</td>
<td>Lecturer, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering</td>
<td>Programme Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In the context of this report, a condition indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the validation panel must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new (or revised) programme. Conditions are mandatory for Approval of the Programme(s). A recommendation indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the panel should be given serious consideration by the programme development team for implementation.

Background to proposed changes

The changes to the programme involve the integration of two 5 credit modules into one 10 credit module in two stages of the programme.

Currently in Semester 3 of the programme, Introduction to Drinking Water Treatment (WATR06014) and Drinking Water Treatment (WATR06006) are currently taught on a sandwich basis, i.e with WATR06014 being completed over the first 6 weeks of term, followed by WATR06006 for the second part of the term.

Similarly in Semester 5 of the programme, Introduction to Wastewater Treatment (WATR06003) and Secondary Biological Wastewater Treatment (ENVR06079) are currently taught on a sandwich basis, i.e. with WATR06003 being completed over the first 6 weeks of term, followed by ENVR06079 for the second part of the term.

During the development of the programme, it was envisaged that some students would apply for an exemption for the Introduction to Drinking Water Treatment module, and the Introduction to Wastewater Treatment module, as they may have undertaken a similar programme offered by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) at level 5. To date, no student has applied for the exemption, and given the fact that most of the early participants on the programme have completed the LASNTG level 5, it seems unlikely that there will be demand for this exemption in the future.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Validation criteria</th>
<th>Sufficient evidence / Insufficient evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rationale for the programme</strong></td>
<td>Sufficient evidence provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rationale for the programme e.g. School’s/Institute’s strengths/opportunities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Programme Aims and Objectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Related existing programmes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme structure</th>
<th>Sufficient evidence provided for the changes. The panel are satisfied that there is sufficient justification for the merging of the four 5ECTS modules into two 10ECTS modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Delivery type (semesterised or stage-based)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Proposed mode of delivery (i.e. in-class, on-line, blended, full time and/or part time)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Role of placement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None

**Recommendation 1:** Create a subversion of all three programmes (SG_SWATER_C06, SG_SDRIN_E06 and SG_SWAST_E06) incorporating the two/one/one new modules and removing the four/two/two previous modules respectively. Note: This needs to be approved by the school before the changes can be implemented in banner prior to the opening of the registration window in August 2021.

**Resources (over the full duration of the programme)** | Sufficient evidence provided. No change to resources as a result of the proposed changes |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clarification of any staffing requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Location of the delivery
- Specific requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports
- Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements
- Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners)

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

### Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria
- Student admission requirements
- Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ
- Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning)
- Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

### Curriculum
- A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules
- The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes
- Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme
- Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme
- Student workload
- Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects.

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** Check and ensure the accuracy of the student contact hours in the two new modules WATR06016 and WATR6017.

### Assessment

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

- Sufficient evidence provided.
- New modules were reviewed along with the technical report from the external specialist.
- Sufficient evidence provided.
- The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used
- The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination)
- Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments.

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

### Staffing
- Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme  
- Technical and administrative support  
- Staff development  
- Industrial/commercial profile of staff  
- Research and publications

Sufficient evidence provided. No change to the staffing requirements.

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None

### Programme Administration and Quality Assurance
- Procedure for managing programme  
- Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements  
- Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students  
- EU and international aspects if appropriate  
- Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions.

Sufficient evidence provided.

**Commendation:** None  
**Condition:** None  
**Recommendation:** None
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall decision of the panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the changes to the following programme:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Certificate in Science in Water and Wastewater Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chairperson:  
___________________________________________  Date: ___________________________

Secretary: Dr Aodhmar Cadogan  
[Signature]

__________________________________________  Date: ___________________________
Programme Schedule

Cannot be appended until new programme are build in AMM as per recommendation 1 above.