Response to the Validation Panel Recommendations and Observations

Item No	Panel Recommendations	Action
1	Due to the specialist nature of the programme, it is important that the programme team are given the authority to approve all successful applicants for the programme and that the entry procedure for the programme is applied consistently for all applicants. The School should inform the International Office of the specific requirements for the programme and the International Office should request approval of all applicants from the programme team.	School Executive to inform International office that the programme committee are to approve all offers forthwith.
2	Students on the programme would benefit from the provision of further support on Academic Writing, Strategies for Academic Reading, Statistical Analysis, Competency Identification (e-Portfolio). The students reported to the panel their preference is that this additional support be provided on-line, as such the School should engage with the relevant TU Dublin support services e.g. Maths Labs, Academic Writing Centre and Careers Service to develop these supports that would be benefit to students on this and on other programmes. This could be incorporated into an extended induction programme.	School Executive to write to Academic Writing Centre and all relevant City Campus Support Services .
3	The programme team could consider requiring full-time students to attend the College on more than the 2 attendance days, this may encourage students to balance their work /life / study more appropriately.	The programme will consider the logistics and repercussions of this recommendation at its next meeting. Minutes will be sent to the School Executive for action.
4	The panel strongly recommends that the programme committee allocate part of the dissertation marks for this element of the assessment. The panel also recommends the programme committee explore how oral presentations can be incorporated into the curriculum and suggest that the oral presentation of these initial proposals could be considered.	5% of the total dissertation mark has been applied to the formative assessment and changes made to dissertation module descriptors.

4	The panel strongly recommends that the programme committee allocate part of the dissertation marks for this element of the assessment. The panel also recommends the programme committee explore how oral presentations can be incorporated into the curriculum and suggest that the oral presentation of these initial proposals could be considered. The programme team could consider the use of supervisory teams for groups of students.	The last day of the first semester has now been timetabled for oral presentations on dissertation proposals.
5	The programme team could consider the use of supervisory teams for groups of students.	These are already in use where appropriate
6	The programme team should consider how they could build on the existing model of different writing styles required in the programme to enable students to tailor their writing for industry reports / presentations and academic papers and how one supports the other.	Writing styles will now be an item during induction and lecturers will clarify which writing style they require
7	The School should make the workload allocation model for the supervision of postgraduate taught students more transparent so staff have a better understanding of the model in operation. TU Dublin should review the resource allocation model for supervision of taught MSc dissertations.	School Executive to action
8	The School should engage with the International Office to ensure that students on this MSc programme are invited to participate in the International Induction week and orientation events provided by the International Office.	School Executive to action
9	Remove reference in the Student Handbook to students being able to apply to transfer to another programme prior to 31st October.	Done
10	Remove the word legally in the Student Handbook / Programme Document so that the phrase used is that students are competent.	Done

11	Provide further information to students on recruitment on the process for employer's payment of fees and work with the admissions / registrations / fees and incomes office to put in place a process that students whose fees are being paid by employers can be facilitated to have access to the VLE and library services whilst waiting on payments. The panel notes that Brightspace Access can be provided to students who are eligible to register.	School Executive to raise with Registrations Office
12	The panel noted that Students complimented the staff on the level of feedback received. Consider further providing more details on the grading rubrics and approx. word count for each assignments and guidance on the time that should be spent on assignments.	All module co-ordinators will be asked to present and explain their relevant rubrics as part of assessment submission requirements.
13	The panel was informed of the different ways in which student feedback is captured for the programme, this should be reflected in the programme self study and Q5s.	A specific inclusion on student feedback will be provided for all subsequent Q5 returns.
14	The School should engage with the relevant City Campus support services to ensure the accuracy of data retained on student record systems and on the promotional material.	The School Executive to contact the registrations office for the names of all students registered on the programme prior to commencement in the second week of September. This listing will be cross checked using the programme chair's data
15	The School should update their promotional material to reflect the new programme offerings.	The School Executive to action
16	TU Dublin needs to reconsider the model for "Support" Teaching to facilitate staff who teach across Schools.	The School Executive to raise the matter at all appropriate fora
17	The programme team should consider how to most efficiently manage and organise the streams on the programme. The programme team should provide more guidance on when the different optional streams can be offered, e.g. subject to	The programme documentation has been amended with the following information. A minimum of ten students is required to run either

		minimum numbers, so that students who are recruited to the programme are clear on the availability of the different streams.	streams on the programme. Any students who wish to transfer between streams need to notify the programme chair at the end of semester 1 if they are full time or at the end of year 1 semester 1 if they are part time. This request will be turned down if the resulting number on any stream becomes less than ten.
	18	The panel strongly recommends that the School consider how to expand the programme team and consider expertise within this and other schools to support the programme	The School Executive to action in conjunction with the programme committee.

Panel Observations

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1	The panel was informed of potential future plans and would support the School to develop a new programme in International Environmental Health and a new Construction safety team.	Noted with gratitude by the School Executive and programme committee
2	For the next review, further consider the desired graduate attributes of the programme and how they can be embedded in the learning outcomes.	Noted and will be actioned by the School Executive and programme committee for the forthcoming professional body review of the programme in 2020
3	The Panel also recommends that the Programme Team use empirical data to support their self study analysis.	Noted and will be actioned by the School Executive and programme committee for all forthcoming review and self study initiatives