Dual Degree Review Panel

European Double Degree in Information Technology (EDDIT)

School of Computer Science with Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OAMK), Oulu, Finland

Wednesday, 5th May 2021

Programme Amendment

A panel was convened by Academic Board to review the European Double Degree in Information Technology (EDDIT). The programme had previously been validated as a joint progamme involving Dublin Institute of Technology (later TU Dublin); Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Oulu, Finland and University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt, Hessen, Deutschland. The University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt is no longer a part of the partnership, so the current review is considering the partnership between TU Dublin and Oulu University of Applied Sciences as a bilateral partnership under the same title: EDDIT. The dual degree between TU Dublin and Oulu University of Applied Sciences has been running since 2016, with a total of 21 students involved over this period of time. Nine of those students have come from Oulu University of Applied Sciences who have completed the requirements for the dual degree and been awarded a Level 7 degree from TU Dublin and a Level 8 equivalent degree from Oulu University of Applied Sciences. The remaining 12 students have been TU Dublin students who completed the requirements for the TU Dublin BSc (Honours) Computer Science and the Oulu University of Applied Sciences BEng Information Technology. The dual degree involves students spending the third year of their degree in the partner institution. In order to be eligible for the BEng Information Technology from Oulu University of Applied Sciences, the final year project that is undertaken by TU Dublin students in TU Dublin must also satisfy the requirements of Oulu University of Applied Sciences.

The requirements and procedures for joint / dual / multiple award programmes are set out in the [Handbook for Quality Enhancement](), Chapter 13: Collaborative Provision.

Panel Meeting

The membership of the panel was as follows:

1. Dr Ciarán O'Leary, Head of Learning Development, Chairperson
2. Dr Gráinne Hargadan, School of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
3. Prof John Kearney, School of Biological and Health Sciences
4. Ms Nicole O'Neill, Quality Assurance

The agenda for the meeting of the panel, which took place online on Wednesday, 5th May 2021, from 12:00noon to 2:00pm was as follows:

- 12:00noon: Introductions and Presentation by School and Partner
- 12:10pm: Private Meeting of Panel
- 12:30pm: Meeting with Student
- 12:45pm: Meeting with School and Partner
- 1:30pm: Private Meeting of Panel

- 1:50pm: Report to School and Partner

During this meeting, the panel met with the following TU Dublin staff involved in the programme management, design and delivery.

- Dr Brian Keegan, Assistant Head of School of Computer Science
- Dr Michael Collins, School of Computer Science
- Mr William O'Mahony, School of Computer Science
- Dr Svetlana Hensmann, Programme Chairperson
- Ms Patricia O'Byrne, Year Tutor

In addition, the panel met with the following representatives of Oulu University of Applied Sciences.

- Ms Anne Keskitalo, Senior Lecturer, Oulu University of Applied Sciences
- Ms Susanna Kujanpaa, Head of Degree Programmes, Oulu University of Applied Sciences
- Dr Eero Nousiainen, Head of Education, Oulu University of Applied Sciences

The panel also met with the following graduate of the programme:

- Mr Mark Barrett, Graduate of EDDIT Programme

The panel had been provided with the following documentation in advance of the meeting:

1. Review of Programme: This document set out the approach that had been taken to the review, and the feedback that had been received from students
2. Programme Documentation: This document provided a description of the design of the dual degree and the relationship to be BSc (Honours) Computer Science in TU Dublin and the BEng Information Technology in Oulu University of Applied Sciences.
3. Agreement: This is the draft agreement for the continuation of the partnership and dual degree between TU Dublin and Oulu University of Applied Sciences for the next five years.

Outcome

The panel commends the School of Computer Science and its partner, Oulu University of Applied Sciences, on the success of the dual degree programme over the period since 2016. The panel also recognises how TU Dublin and Oulu University of Applied Sciences have adapted the partnership for this programme from one which originally involved three partners to the current proposal involving two partners. The panel recognises the relevance of this partnerships, as described by the School, when considering the strategic intent of TU Dublin to build international brand recognition, drive collaboration with international partners, and for 15% of the student population to be international students by 2023 (and 20% by 2030).

The panel, having reviewed all documentation and having met with representatives of the School of Computer Sciences and Oulu University of Applied Sciences supports in principle the continuation of this dual degree programme. The panel requests some updates and additions to the documentation for review in advance of the panel making its recommendation to Academic Board. The actions required are set out in the next section.

Actions Required by School

1. The documentation should clearly demonstrate the design of the dual degree programme. This will require, in some places, correction of the number of ECTS credits undertaken in each partner and the level of the qualifications that will be obtained following completion of the programme. The panel also recommends that a diagram is added to the documentation that presents this information clearly for the reader.
2. The documentation requires a section that deals specifically with the final year project for TU Dublin students who are participating in the dual degree, and the involvement of Oulu University of Applied Sciences in the supervision and assessment of that element of the programme.
3. The documentation requires a section that deals with the calculation of the award grade and classification of the degree that will be awarded by the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.
4. The documentation should be updated to specifically demonstrate how the review took place. While the panel received some of the feedback submitted by students, and also received feedback from the student representation who met with the panel, it was not clear how the feedback that had been collected over the five years of the programme, and the feedback collected specifically for this review, was analysed and mapped to an action plan.
5. The selection process for students wishing to participate in the dual degree programme should be clearly set out in the documentation.
6. The student handbooks provided to students participating in the programme should clearly set out the major differences in teaching, learning and assessment in both partners. This will help students prepare for any differences in emphasis between, for example, the use of project work and the use of final examinations as part of the assessment strategies.
7. The module selection process in each partner should be clearly described, and information should be provided on how the students are guided and supported in selecting their modules during their year abroad.

Response from School

Actions Required

1. The documentation should clearly demonstrate the design of the dual degree programme. This will require, in some places, correction of the number of ECTS credits undertaken in each partner and the level of the qualifications that will be obtained following completion of the programme. The panel also recommends that a diagram is added to the documentation that presents this information clearly for the reader.

See section 5.1 (Programme Validation_DD_Dublin_Oamk.pdf)

2. The documentation requires a section that deals specifically with the final year project for TU Dublin students who are participating in the dual degree, and the involvement of Oulu University of Applied Sciences in the supervision and assessment of that element of the programme.

See section 5.2 (Programme Validation_DD_Dublin_Oamk.pdf)

3. The documentation requires a section that deals with the calculation of the award grade and classification of the degree that will be awarded by the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.

OAMK does not classify its Bachelor award.

See section 5.1 (Programme Validation_DD_Dublin_Oamk.pdf)

4. The documentation should be updated to specifically demonstrate how the review took place. While the panel received some of the feedback submitted by students, and also received feedback from the student representation who met with the panel, it was not clear how the feedback that had been collected over the five years of the programme, and the feedback collected specifically for this review, was analysed and mapped to an action plan.

Refer to document: Review to date.pdf

(Note: I have included the equivalent .docx file in case the links to all student surveys are not accessible in the pdf)

5. The selection process for students wishing to participate in the dual degree programme should be clearly set out in the documentation.

See section 5.5 (Programme Validation_DD_Dublin_Oamk.pdf)

6. The student handbooks provided to students participating in the programme should clearly set out the major differences in teaching, learning and assessment in both partners. This will help students prepare for any differences in emphasis between, for example, the use of project work and the use of final examinations as part of the assessment strategies.

Refer to document: Student Handbook and Pre-departure pack.pdf

Specific reference to OAMK is in the last chapter "OAMK Student Information"

7. The module selection process in each partner should be clearly described, and information should be provided on how the students are guided and supported in selecting their modules during their year abroad.

See section 6.2 (Programme Validation_DD_Dublin_Oamk.pdf)