

# Programme Amendment Panel

*Higher Diploma in Medical Science*

*School of Biological and Health Sciences*

School Response

16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

The School once again thanks the Panel for their very constructive and helpful discussion on the programme amendment presented. The School also acknowledges the work and support of Dr Ciaran O’Leary, Head of Learning Development and Nicole O’Neill, Quality Assurance Officer. The availability of a part time version of the programme will meet a national need for upskilling of scientists currently employed in hospital laboratories who wish to pursue a career as a Medical Scientist.

## **Actions Required by School**

1. The School should revisit the wording regarding the requirement for accreditation of the hospital laboratories, taking into consideration the advice of the panel in relation to the number of accredited laboratories per hospital, and the requirement for final sign off by a registered medical scientist.

**School Response: The School has amended the wording as follows:**

**Entry to the programme requires applicants to hold a minimum of a 2.2 in a Level 8 degree in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Physiology, Immunology or other cognate discipline. Applicants must be in current employment in a hospital laboratory working to an ISO15189 standard or equivalent.**

2. The School should make explicit in the documentation the requirement for confidentiality and anonymising of patient data, and make it clear that the student has substantial responsibilities in this regard.

**School Response: This has now been made explicit in the student handbook. Students will sign up to a Code of Conduct which includes the requirement for confidentiality, in line with the CORU Code of Professional Conduct for Medical Scientists. Additionally, confidentiality and GDPR will be included in the updated case study guidelines provided to students.**

3. The School should update the documentation to revise or remove the wording regarding international students, considering the part-time admission route.

**School Response: This information has been removed from the Programme Information and Handbook (Section 1.8 removed).**

4. The School should make a number of minor and editorial corrections to the documentation, details of which have been provided by the panel.

**School Response: Amendments made.**