



Technological University Dublin

Tallaght Campus

EXTERNAL PANEL VALIDATION REPORT

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sports Science and Health –
Exercise Professional (XP), Level 8**

Bachelor of Science (Ord) in Sports Studies, Level 7

School of: Science and Computing

Department of: Science

Panel Meeting date:	26 th March 2019	
Decision: <i>tick one only</i>	Recommended	
	Recommended subject to modification	√
	Not recommended	

Proposed Commencement Date:	September 2020
Period of Validation:	5 years

EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL REPORT

PART 1:

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

School	Science and Computing
Department	Science
Date of panel visit	26 th March 2019
Programme evaluated	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sports Science and Health – Exercise Professional (XP), one year add-on, Level 8 Bachelor of Science (Ord) in Sports Studies, Level 7
Programme approved title	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sports Science and Health – Exercise Professional (XP) Bachelor of Science (Ord) in Sports Studies
Delivery Mode(s)	Full-time, Part-time, Blended, On-line
Panel	Chair: Dr Don Faller, Head of School of Science, Athlone Institute of Technology Paula Rankin, Head of Department, Institute of Technology Carlow Niamh Buffini Martin Kennedy Secretary: Sinéad O'Neill, Academic Quality Manager

1.2 INSTITUTE STAFF

Name	Grade / Responsibility
Tom Stone	Principal
Ken Carroll	Registrar
John Behan	Head of Department
Kieran Collins	Programme Leader

Joe Warne	Programme Leader
Niall Buckley	Programme Leader
Shane Malone	Programme Leader
Davree Downey	Lecturer
Stephen McIvor	Lecturer
Simon Devenney	Lecturer
Brian Keenan	Lecturer
Aimée Mulroy	Lecturer
Bernadette Lee	Lecturer
Elizabeth Downes	Lecturer
Nigel Donnelly	Lecturer

PART II COMMENDATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & CONDITIONS

The External Review panel recommends the validation of the programmes:

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sports Science and Health – Exercise Professional (XP), one year add-on, Level 8

Bachelor of Science (Ord) in Sports Studies, Level 7

for the purpose of the award of:

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sports Science and Health – Exercise Professional (XP)

Bachelor of Science (Ord) in Sports Studies

Subject to the conditions and recommendations set out below:

2.1 Commendations:

1. The Panel commends the team on meeting the market and industry need for graduates in the area and on their team-work and collaboration.
2. The Panel commends the team on the professional skills content of the Programme.

2.2 Conditions:

The evaluation panel requires that the Programme Development Team should take note of the following conditions and that a satisfactory response to those conditions shall be received before the validation is considered by Academic Council of the Institute

1. Review the learning outcomes to ensure they are aligned with the relevant NFQ **levels** for both Programmes.

2. Map the Programme Learning Outcomes to Module Learning Outcomes for both Programmes.
3. Review modules to align student hours with ECT norms,
4. Review assessments to ensure they are appropriate for the learning outcomes and are weighted appropriately.
5. With regard to work-load descriptions clarify whether practical or tutorial is intended.
6. Review workload allocations, assessment breakdowns and independent learning described in the documentation to ensure they are consistent with those provided in the book of modules.
7. Remove references to 'TUD' and replace with Technological University Dublin or TU Dublin.
8. Update outdated references, for example, HETAC, ESG guidelines 2007.
9. Remove references to Masters Programme.
10. Ensure that there is a Work Placement Policy for the Programme which incorporates standards for securing placements, workplace supervision, management and assessment.
11. Ensure entry requirements, incl. RPL policy and progression routes for both programmes for all applicant types are explicitly stated, in particular, where there is a GPA requirement, ranking and/or interview process.

2.3 Recommendations:

Recommendations are suggestions made by the Programme Evaluation Panel in the spirit of improving the proposed programme. While these are not binding, the reasons for not incorporating a recommendation have to be clearly stated by the Programme Development Team in its response to the Evaluation Report.

Recommendations:

1. Establish an Industry Advisory Board within the first year of Programme.
2. Review the title of Sports Science and Health Exercise Professional (XP) to differentiate it from current Sports Science and Health Programme.
3. Put in place a Programme coordinator before the Programme begins.

4. Exploit every opportunity to align with a professional body, e.g. UKSCA.
5. Include results of the consultation process.

Responses to Conditions and Recommendations

All modification requests have been made with the exception of already approved common modules. In this instance modification was not possible.

2.2 Conditions:

The evaluation panel requires that the Programme Development Team should take note of the following conditions and that a satisfactory response to those conditions shall be received before the validation is considered by Academic Council of the Institute

1. Review the learning outcomes to ensure they are aligned with the relevant NFQ **levels** for both Programmes.

Done

2. Map the Programme Learning Outcomes to Module Learning Outcomes for both Programmes.

Done - Learning outcome matrix included

3. Review modules to align student hours with ECT norms,

Done

4. Review assessments to ensure they are appropriate for the learning outcomes and are weighted appropriately.

Done

5. With regard to work-load descriptions clarify whether practical or tutorial is intended.

Done

6. Review workload allocations, assessment breakdowns and independent learning described in the documentation to ensure they are consistent with those provided in the book of modules.

Done

7. Remove references to 'TUD' and replace with Technological University Dublin or TU Dublin.

Done

8. Update outdated references, for example, HETAC, ESG guidelines 2007.

Done

9. Remove references to Masters Programme.

Done

10. Ensure that there is a Work Placement Policy for the Programme which incorporates standards for securing placements, workplace supervision, management and assessment.

Done - The departments work placement policy adopted

11. Ensure entry requirements, incl. RPL policy and progression routes for both programmes for all applicant types are explicitly stated, in particular, where there is a GPA requirement, ranking and/or interview process.

Done

2.3 Recommendations:

Recommendations are suggestions made by the Programme Evaluation Panel in the spirit of improving the proposed programme. While these are not binding, the reasons for not incorporating a recommendation have to be clearly stated by the Programme Development Team in its response to the Evaluation Report.

Recommendations:

1. Establish an Industry Advisory Board within the first year of Programme.

Persons identified and agreed to partake

2. Review the title of Sports Science and Health Exercise Professional (XP) to differentiate it from current Sports Science and Health Programme.

Retain existing title due to honours graduate requirement

3. Put in place a Programme coordinator before the Programme begins.

Paul Hudson and Shane Malone

4. Exploit every opportunity to align with a professional body, e.g. UKSCA.

In development

5. Include results of the consultation process.

Done

PART III FINDINGS OF THE VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The panel was welcomed to the Institute by the Head of Department of Science. The programme documentation was provided to the panel members prior to the meeting. The panel used the external review template as per the Quality Assurance Manual to assist in their deliberations. The panel met in advance of the meeting to discuss the submission document and plan for the meeting with management and staff of the department.

3.2 MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The Panel met with the Principal, Registrar and Head of Department and was given an overview of recent developments in relation to the University and capital projects. The Panel welcomed the news that a Sports Science, Health and Recreation building with teaching and laboratory space is planned for September 2020.

3.3 Programme Title and Award Title.

The panel was satisfied that the title of the Sports Studies programme is clear, accurate and fit for the purpose of informing prospective learners and other stakeholders. The panel made a recommendation to review the title of Sports Science and Health Exercise Professional (XP) to differentiate it from current Sports Science and Health Programme.

3.4 Justification for the Programme

The justification for the proposed programme(s) was discussed and the panel was satisfied that there was a market for graduates of the proposed programmes. It was noted by the Panel that employment rates for graduates on the current level 8 offering are good, however, there is a perceived need for alternative programmes for those learners who would prefer a programme where there is more emphasis on administration and governance and an additional pathway for learners wishing to pursue a career as practitioners in strength, conditioning and exercise medicine.

3.5 Conformance with Institute's Mission and Strategy

The panel was satisfied that the proposed programme conformed to the Institute's mission of providing learners with flexible higher education opportunities which are of the highest quality.

3.6 Access, Transfer and Progression Arrangements

In relation to access, transfer and progression arrangements it is a condition that these should be documented in more detail. It was noted by the Panel that transfer from Sports Studies to Sports Science and Health may not be permitted

3.7 Programme Structure and Design

The programme structure and design were well documented and the panel was satisfied with the information supplied. It is a condition that work placement policy, procedures and guidelines are developed for the Sports Studies Programme.

3.8 Programme Learning Outcomes and Award Standards.

See condition 1 and 2 above.

3.9 Teaching and Learning Strategy

The proposed approaches to teaching and learning were indicated and justified. It was noted by the Panel that there would be an emphasis on tutorials.

3.10 Learner Assessment

The learner assessment methods were very clearly documented. Repeat opportunities for those missing continuous assessment was discussed. The panel recommended that this be documented for learners to ensure they were aware of the repeat opportunities available to them.

3.11 Quality Assurance

The procedures in developing the programme were outlined to the panel as per the Institute's quality assurance procedures. The panel was satisfied with the procedures that were applied to the development of the proposed programme and that the quality assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure its provision, monitoring and review.

3.12 Information Provision

The panel was satisfied with the proposed information that would be available to learners and potential learners.

3.13 Library and Physical Facilities / Resources

The panel was satisfied that the staffing and physical resources were available to deliver the proposed programme.

3.14 Academic Staff and Qualifications



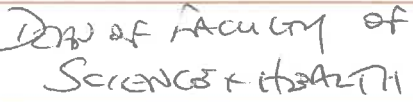
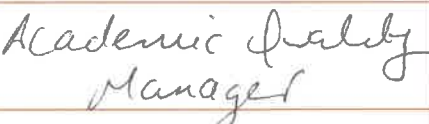
Comment: The panel recommends that a Programme coordinator for both Programmes is put in place before the Programmes begin and noted that three additional staff members are being sought.

PART IV: PROGRAMME SCHEDULES

Amended Programme Schedules for each stage of each programme to incorporate the conditions and recommendations set out in under points 2.2 and 2.3, and all Programme Abstracts, must be submitted with the Response to this Panel Evaluation Report.

Part V: Approval

Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:

Signature: 	Signature: 
Print name: DON FULLER	Print name: SINÉAD O'NEILL
Chairperson to Panel	Secretary to Panel
Title: 	Title: 
Date: 10/6/2019	Date: 10/6/19