

Technological University Dublin – Tallaght Campus

VALIDATION REPORT FOR

**Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial
Intelligence NFQ LEVEL 8
Minor Award (35 ECTS)**

School of: Science & Computing

Department of: Computing

Decision:		
Panel Meeting date:	02 May 2019	
Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence	Recommended	Yes
	Recommended subject to modification	
	Not recommended	

Stephen Howell

EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL REPORT

PART 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

School	Science & Computing
Department	Computing
Date of panel meeting	02 May 2019
Programmes evaluated	Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence <i>Level 8 – 35 ECTS</i>
Panel	1. Dr. Chris Meudec (Chair) 2. Mr. Stephen Howell
	Secretary: K Carroll

INSTITUTE STAFF

Name	Grade / Responsibility
Dr Barry Feeney	Head of Dept. Computing
Keith Quille	Lecturer in Computing
Sean McHugh	Lecturer in Computing
Gary Clynch	Lecturer in Computing
David White	Lecturer in Computing
Pearse McCarthy	Lecturer in Computing
Mary Hendrick	Lecturer in Computing

PART II RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT

2.1 Recommendations:

The External Review panel recommends the validation of the programmes:

Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence
Level 8 – 35 ECTS

for the purpose of the award of:

Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence

Proposed Start Date: September 2019

Mode of Delivery: Part-Time / Blended

Subject to the recommendations set out below:

General recommendations:

- 1) Public information used to promote the programme to include explicit statements on entry criteria and any pre-requisites for the programme.

Response: *as part of developing promotional material for the programme, the department will work to ensure that public information contains explicit statements on entry criteria and any pre-requisites for the programme.*

- 2) Public information to be developed for the general promotion of the programme to be developed to manage and inform student expectations with regard to potential transfer and progression avenues, and the reasonable workload associated with the programme.

Response: *The department will work to ensure that public information contains explicit statements to set the correct expectations for participants*

with regard to potential transfer and progression avenues, and the workload associated with the programme.

- 3) All modules reading lists to be revisited to update titles and editions. Consider also including a statement that reading lists will be supplemented with current papers and reviews from peer-reviewed sources to reflect current and emerging thinking in the subject area.

Response: *Agreed & nearing completion.*

Programme specific recommendations:

- 1) Public information used to promote this programme to include explicit statements on entry criteria and a pre-requisite for numerate and analytical skills.

Response: *Agreed and inherent to all material developed.*

- 2) The Course Schedule for the programme to be amended to show the correct final approved programme title.

Response: *Agreed & due for completion by MIS.*

- 3) Rewrite of the programme and module learning outcomes is required using more concise language. This will also require revisiting the mapping of MLO's to PLO's to ensure consistency.

Response: *Agreed & done.*

- 4) In the module learning outcomes, ethical issues are not explicitly mentioned but do appear in module content. The learning outcomes requires amendment to reflect this topical content.

Response: *Agreed.*

There are no conditions.

PART III FINDINGS OF THE VALIDATION PANEL

INTRODUCTION

Comment:

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.

During the visit, the panel were provided with the opportunity to engage with relevant staff, explore the rationale for, and the design of the proposed programme, and to review the overall strategy for the programme.

The proposed programme is a Minor Award derived from the parent programme TA_KACOD_B _Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computing with Data Analytics.

The Head of Department provided a brief overview of the Department activities and strategy, including the current strategic focus on widening access and participation. He commended the contribution of Department staff for their effort in bringing this programme forward.

This initiative is demand driven, supported by Springboard and Skillnet funding, and fits with the strategic aim of TU Dublin to engage with and support business and community.

The Department and the staff are commended for their vision and strategic drive to address market needs, providing for a widening access into higher education, and promoting participation in lifelong learning.

MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Programme Title and Award Title.

Comment: The panel was satisfied that the title of the programme is clear, accurate and fit for the purpose of informing prospective learners and other stakeholders.

Justification for the Programme

Comment: The justification for the proposed programme was discussed and the panel was satisfied that there was a market for graduates of the proposed programme. This programme is to be offered in the first instance under the Skillnet initiative and is funded for 2019/20.

Conformance with Schools Mission and Strategy

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

Access, Transfer and Progression Arrangements

Comment: The panel were satisfied with the arrangements stated for access and progression but recommended that access criteria include clear statements on pre-requisite knowledge and skill detail.

Pathways for transfer and progression of students were clearly addressed.

Programme Structure and Design

Comment: The programme structure and design were well documented and the panel was satisfied with the information supplied. The proposed modules combine to form a coherent body of learning reflective of the programme title and the award level.

Programme Learning Outcomes and Award Standards.

Comment: The panel was satisfied that the learning outcomes of the programme were compliant with the Award Standard for the *Diploma in Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence – Minor Award (Level 8)*.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Comment: The proposed approaches to teaching and learning were indicated and justified. The panel noted the diverse approaches adopted in the approach to teaching and learning, the inclusion of universal design principles, and the deployment of a variety of assessment tools. The use of blended online and face-2-face tuition was well described.

Learner Assessment

Comment: The learner assessment methods were very clearly documented. Repeat opportunities for those missing continuous assessment are provided for.

Quality Assurance

Comment: 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, ongoing monitoring and review. Student representation in programme boards is provided for.

Information Provision

Comment: The panel was satisfied with the proposed information that would be available to learners and potential learners. The public information is recommended to include clear direction on entry requirements, to manage and inform student expectations with regard to potential transfer and progression avenues, and the reasonable workload associated with the programme

Library and Physical Facilities / Resources

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

Learner Support Services

Comment: The programme team provide an accessible support to students both in person and online.

Academic Staff and Qualifications

Comment: The panel was satisfied that the lecturing and support staff is available within the Institute to deliver the content of this programme.

PART III: PROGRAMME SCHEDULES

The Banner schedules will be inserted here