



## Report of the Panel of Assessors

**Faculty/Department:** Business – Law, Public Service and Education

**Date:** May 16

### **Title of the Programme:**

- *BA (Hons) in Communication with English Level 8 - 180 ECTS Credits*
- *Cert in Fundamentals of English*

**Chairperson: Dr Yvonne Kavanagh (SETU)**

### **Members of the Panel:**

- Eveleen O'Brien, Griffith Institute of Language Manager, Griffith College
- Dr Kristin Brogan, MTU - Kerry Campus
- Brigid English, Teacher, Loreto Letterkenny
- Andrew McCollum, Research Masters Student
- Ray Sheerin, INED & Consultant, formerly MD of Chemistry

**Secretary:** Dr Simon Stephens

**LYIT Staff:** Siobhan Cullen, Dr Sharon McLaughlin, Florence Blake, Aine Friel, Marie Kelly, Michelle Morris-Donaldson and Karen Quinn.

### **Criteria for the Approval of a New Programme**

1. The Programme Aims and Objectives are clear and consistent with the Award sought.
2. The Programme concept, implementation strategy are well informed and soundly based.
3. The Programme's Access, Transfer and Progression arrangements are satisfactory.
4. The Programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit for purpose.
5. There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff.
6. There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned.
7. The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme learners.
8. There are sound Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies.
9. Learners enrolled on the Programme will be well informed, guided and cared for.

For the attention of Academic Council

**The Panel approve both programmes.**

The Panel of Assessors advises the Academic Council that the ATU and the Faculty/Department should take cognisance of following:

**Commendations**

The panel commend ATU Donegal and the programme team for:

1. An innovative proposal that meets clear regional and industry needs.
2. The excellent blend of modules that reflects the inter disciplinary nature of the programme.
3. The creation of a cross-departmental programme team.
4. The inclusion of the curriculum requirements for registration with the Teaching Council to teach English as a Leaving Cert Subject.
5. Their constructive engagement with the panel during the review.

**Recommendations**

1. Review the delivery mix between Tutorials and Lectures. Clearly articulate the overall Programme and individual module delivery modes.
2. Consider including TEFL accreditation.
3. Include the IELTS (or equivalent) in the Entry Requirements for the programme.
4. Review and verify the entry requirements for the programme to reflect the English subject requirement at Leaving Certificate level or equivalent.
5. Update the reading lists.
6. Consider addressing the requirements for the new Leaving Cert subject: Drama, Film and Theatre Studies.
7. Promote integrated assessment methodologies, to decrease the student workload.
8. The panel were impressed with the range and breadth of engagement opportunities available to students and would recommend that these are articulated within the programme documentation.
9. Module Specific Changes
  - a. Review the Assessment breakdown for the Intercultural Communication module (p. 61)

- b. Consider the inclusion of problem based learning approaches where appropriate.

**Conditions**

N/A

**Cert in Fundamentals of English**

**Commendations**

The panel commend ATU Donegal and the programme team for:

1. An innovative programme that recognises the current needs of the community.
2. Provision of accredited learning, in this area, for this cohort.
3. Their constructive engagement with the panel during the review.

**Recommendations**

1. Consider conducting a needs analysis for each cohort.
2. Review the entry level requirements for the programme.
3. Review the reading/materials list.

**Conditions**

N/A

Response to Panel

The programme team is grateful for the panel's considered response and commendations. The recommendations have been carefully considered by the programme team and Head of Department and would respond to each recommendation as follows:

1. Review the delivery mix between Tutorials and Lectures. Clearly articulate the overall Programme and individual module delivery modes.

The programme team has now included additional tutorials within the more discursive module syllabi;

2. Consider including TEFL accreditation.

This is currently being reviewed by the programme team and is not without its complexities in terms of cost to learners and registration but efforts are being made to include this pathway if possible;

3. Include the IELTS (or equivalent) in the Entry Requirements for the programme

The IELTS 5.5 has now been specified within the Entry Requirements;

4. Review and verify the entry requirements for the programme to reflect the English subject requirement at Leaving Certificate level or equivalent.

The Entry Requirements have now been amended as per below:

Applicants should have 6 Leaving Certificate Subjects with a minimum of Grade H5 in at least 2 higher level papers **to include English**, together with Grade O6/H7 in four other subjects

Or

Have obtained a relevant QQI FET/FETAC Level 5 award

For entry purposes RPL will be considered in accordance with the quality assurance procedures on LYIT. Mature applicants aged 23 years or over in the January of the year of application may apply for this programme. Mature applicants do not require to be holders of a Leaving Certificate.

Any applicant applying based on non-EU awards / qualifications must apply directly to the International Office at LYIT **and will require a minimum of 5.5 IELTS**

5. Update the reading lists

This has been done across all modules

6. Consider addressing the requirements for the new Leaving Cert subject: Drama, Film and Theatre Studies.

Enquiries are currently being made with Teaching Council and any necessary adjustments will be made to facilitate the requirements for graduates of the programme to teach this new module to be introduced in 2024;

7. Promote integrated assessment methodologies, to decrease the student workload.

This has been considered by the programme team who will endeavour to integrate assessments which will be reflected within the programme schedule;

8. The panel were impressed with the range and breadth of engagement opportunities available to students and would recommend that these are articulated within the programme documentation.

An additional paragraph will be added to the programme document articulating the strong links with industry which will impact the capstone project;

9. Module Specific Changes

Review the Assessment breakdown for the Intercultural Communication module (p. 61) This has been done;

Consider the inclusion of problem-based learning approaches where appropriate.

Note: It is ATU policy to publish the Final Reports of the Panel of Assessors

This will be considered by the programme team and already forms part of the Departmental experiential learning ethos;

### **Cert in Fundamentals of English**

The Programme Team is grateful for the commendations and would respond to the recommendations as follows:

#### **Recommendations**

- 1 Consider conducting a needs analysis for each cohort.

This will indeed be undertaken

- 2 Review the entry level requirements for the programme.

The entry requirements have been amended and now read as follows:

5 O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate, to include Mathematics (F2/O6/H7) and either Irish or English (O6/H7) OR QQIFET Level 5, or equivalent qualification. Candidates who do not meet the above entry requirements may be admitted to the programme on the grounds of mature years (over 23 by 1<sup>st</sup> January in the proposed year of entry).

RPL will be considered in accordance with the Quality Assurance of LYIT.

OR

Any applicant applying based on non-EU awards/qualifications must apply directly to the International Office at LYIT. In order to be considered for entry international applicants must present an IELTS qualification of 5.5 minimum.

This programme is designed to support the refugee community and consideration will be given to waiving the above entry requirements on a case-by-case basis.

4. Review the reading/materials list.

This has been done.



PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE(S) please attach final schedule to bottom of the report.

Semester	Module Title	Subject Status	ECTS		Allocation of Marks %					Allocation of Marks %		
			Level	Number	Lecture	Tutorial	Lab/Studio/ Practical	Independent Learning	Total	Coursework	Final Exam	Total
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>												
1	Critical Thinking Skills	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	60	40	100
1	<i>Introduction to Sociology</i>	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	30	70	100
1	Introduction to English Literature and Writing Skills	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100
1	Foundation in Communications Studies	M	6	10	5	1	-	11	17	100	-	100
1	<i>Communications &amp; Creative Process</i>	M	6	5	2	2	-	5	9	100	-	100

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Semester	Module Title	Subject Status	ECTS		Total Contact Hours					Allocation of Marks %			
			Level	Number	Lecture	Tutorial	Lab/ Studio/ Practical	Independent Learning	Total	Coursework	Final Exam	Total	
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>													
2	The Novel	M	6	10	5	1	-	11	17	100	-	100	
2	<i>Introduction to TEFL</i>	M	6	5	2	-	1	5	8	100	-	100	
2	<i>Intercultural Communications</i>	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100	
2	<i>Introduction to Criminal Justice</i>	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100	
2	Communications Analysis	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100	
<b>SEMESTER 3</b>													
3	Shakespeare and the Renaissance	M	8	10	5	-	-	12	17	60	40	100	
3	Introduction to Creative Writing	M	8	10	3	2	-	12	17	100	-	100	
3	Content Design & Development	M	8	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100	
3	Digital Citizenship	M	8	5	1	-	2	5	8	100	-	100	

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Semester	Module Title	Subject Status	ECTS		Total Contact Hours					Allocation of Marks %			
			Level	Number	Lecture	Tutorial	Lab/ Studio/ Practical	Independent Learning	Level	Number	Lecture	Total	
<b>SEMESTER 4</b>													
4	Romanticism	M	8	5	3	-	-	5	8	60	40	100	
4	<i>TEFL Techniques and Assessment</i>	M	6	5	3	-	-	5	8	100	-	100	
4	<i>Media &amp; Communications Law</i>	M	8	10	5	-	-	12	17	100	-	100	
4	20 <sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary Irish Writing	M	8	10	5	-	-	12	17	70	30	100	
<b>SEMESTER 5</b>													
5	<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>	M	8	10	3	-	2	12	17	100	-	100	
5	Research Methods	M	7	5	2	-	1	5	8	100	-	100	
5	Film Studies	M	8	5	2	-	1	5	8	100	-	100	
5	Irish Drama and Theatre	M	7	10	3	2	-	12	17	70	30	100	
<b>SEMESTER 6</b>													
6	Capstone Project: Applied Communications/ Creativity	M	8	20	Meetings					100	-	100	
6	Emerging Technologies and Influences	M	8	10	5	-	-	12	17	100	-	100	

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Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
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Dhún na nGall, Campas Leitir Ceanainn

Donegal Letterkenny

**Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:**

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Dr Yvonne Kavanagh (SETU)

Chair to Panel

(Assistant Registrar, SETU)

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Dr Billy Bennett

(VP for Academic Affairs and Registrar, ATU Donegal)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_