

Atlantic Technological University

Sligo College

PROGRAMME VALIDATION PANEL REPORT FORM

Date of Evaluation	24th May 2022
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Programmes Title(s)	Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Food Systems Master of Science in Food Regulatory Affairs Postgraduate Diploma in Food regulatory Affairs
Award Title(s):	Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Food Systems Master of Science in Food Regulatory Affairs Postgraduate Diploma in Food regulatory Affairs
Programme Code(s)	SG_SSUST_M09 TBD SG_SREGU_M09 TBD
NFQ Level	All programmes at level 9
ECTS credits	90ECTS for two Master of Science programmes 60ECTS for two Postgraduate Diplomas

Evaluation Panel Member:

Name & title	Job title & place of work	Role on panel
Mr Stephen McManus,	Former Registrar Dundalk Institute of Technology	Chairperson
Vivienne Crowley,	Quality Manager, Glanbia	External member
Dr. Amalia Scannell,	(IFT CFS) Asst Prof in Food Science, UCD School of Agriculture & Food Science	Academic member
Ronan Courtney,	Senior Lecturer in Environmental Biology, Department of Biological Sciences and Bernal Institute, UL.	Academic member
Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant Registrar, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo	Recording Secretary

Declaration Regarding Any Conflicts of Interest: The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting groups

Institute Management: Dr Jerry Bird, Head of Faculty of Science. Prof Frances Lucy, Head of Department of Environmental Sciences.

Programme development team.

As below

Persons met by validation panel

Name	Role in Institute	Rationale for presence at validation.
Prof Frances Lucy	Head of Department of Environmental Science	
Declan Feeney	lecturer	Programme development team
Fiona Britton	lecturer	Programme development team
Steve Tonry	Lecturer	Programme development team
Maria Dermiki	Lecturer	Programme development team
Paul Sullivan	lecturer	Programme development team
Mike Burke	Lecturer	Programme Development Team

Note: In the context of this report, a condition indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the validation panel must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new (or revised) programme. Conditions are mandatory for Approval of the Programme(s). A recommendation indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the panel should be given serious consideration by the programme development team for implementation.

Validation criteria	Sufficient evidence / Insufficient evidence
<p>Rationale for the programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region • Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates • Rationale for the programme e.g. School's/Institute's strengths/opportunities • Programme Aims and Objectives • Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes • Related existing programmes. 	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p> <p>The need for both programmes was clearly articulated</p>
<p>Commendation 1: Bringing forward these programmes that respond to the need for education around food sustainability systems and the growing amount of legislation and regulation at both National and European level. Particularly in the food regulatory affairs area is rapidly evolving and changing and there is a need for people in the industry to be trained in the various regulations but also to build their confidence to read legal documents and to apply them to their everyday job.</p> <p>Condition: None Recommendation: None</p>	
<p>Programme structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery type (online) • Proposed mode of delivery (on-line,) • Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme) • Role of placement 	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p>
<p>Commendation: None</p> <p>Condition 1: The Postgraduate Diploma award need to be built in the AMM system for both the Food Regulatory Affairs and the Sustainable Food systems programmes. The Learning outcomes for each programme need to be developed to reflect a progression from PG Diploma to Masters and the increased emphasis on Research and research skills outcomes from the dissertation.</p>	

Recommendation:	
Resources (over the full duration of the programme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme • Clarification of any staffing requirements • Location of the delivery • Specific requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports • Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements • Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners) 	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p> <p>IBEC and skill net funding the programme for next two years will cover staffing and student fees</p>
Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None	
Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student admission requirements • Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ • Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning) • Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes 	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p>
Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation 1: In the entry requirement for both master programmes, consider mentioning the currency of learning in the associated certificate would be assessed as part of the entry for PG Dip and Masters. Recommendation 2: Consider limiting applications to people coming from employment in the sector for the moment until the team can consider the adjustments that might be necessary to take direct graduates from undergraduate programmes without the industrial and practical experience. Condition: none	<p>Vast majority of students are in industry. The current certificates attracted senior people in industry and the programme team is not expecting to attract early graduates or only in a minor number</p>
Curriculum	Sufficient evidence provided

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules• The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes• Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme• Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme• Student workload• Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects.	
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>Condition 2: Review the Programme learning outcomes for both Programmes and consider revising to key programme learning outcomes to tailor them to the individual programmes. Review the competence role learning outcomes of leading multidisciplinary teams where is this evidenced. For the Sustainable Food System programme a key learning outcome will be to identify problems, understand them and solve them. Review the knowledge and skills competences to tailor them to the two programmes. For the Food Regulation Programme a key competence is how to present the conclusions of a scenario assessment to senior management, consider this for the competence role learning outcome and ways to build confidence in this competency.</p> <p>Condition 3: The Title of the programme SG_SSUST_M09 should be corrected to Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems in the AMM system.</p> <p>Condition 4: The Title of the Programme SG_SREGU_M09 should be corrected to Master of Science in Food Regulatory Affairs in the AMM system.</p> <p>Recommendation 3: (Sustainable Food systems): In the programme schedule the results for the module DISS09013 Dissertation will be considered in Autumn. This should be reflected in the programme structure of both programmes. Also the module indicated a Directed Learning of 2 hours direct contact with the student, this needs to be corrected. Correct the title Programme Director in the Student feedback Strategy Section Remove the special regulation under the approved Programme Schedule as this is not required.</p>	

<p>Recommendation 4: (Food Regulatory Affairs): to be corrected at the next available opportunity. In the Module Framework of Food Regulations REGU09013 the delivery mode hours should be changed from Distance Learning to online learning mode. In the module Food Processing Regulations REG09014 the tutorial hours in the online learning should be corrected to independent learning hours. Consider referring to the Moodle resources for more information under Literary resources and Journal Resources. In the module Claims and Labelling – Food to Market REGU09015 the delivery mode hours should be changed from Distance Learning to online learning mode In the module Supply Chain Integrity REGU09016 the tutorial hours in the online learning should be corrected to independent learning hours.</p>	
<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used • The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination) • Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments. 	Sufficient evidence provided
<p>Commendation: Focus on group work and cross disciplinary teams in assessment to allow student to learn from each other existing experience. Reflective log is used in the module Sustainability and Industrial systems Additional examples of group work in the Professional development modules was a very practical example of using the experience of the student own work place to feed back into assessment. Emphasis on continuous assessment welcomed.</p> <p>Condition: None Recommendation: None</p>	
<p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme • Technical and administrative support • Staff development • Industrial/commercial profile of staff 	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p> <p>Skillnet funded is in place for staff and students for 2 years. Minor contribution from student which may be paid by their employer</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and publications	
Commendation: N/A Condition: None Recommendation: None	
Programme Administration and Quality Assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procedure for managing programme• Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements• Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students• EU and international aspects if appropriate• Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions.	Sufficient evidence provided No additional requirements to current QA system.
Commendation: N/A Condition: None Recommendation: None	

Overall decision of the panel	
The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the following programme(s): Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems and Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Food Systems Master of Science in Food Regulatory Affairs and Postgraduate Diploma in Food Regulatory Affairs	

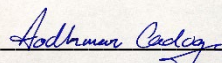
Chairperson:



_____ Date 08/06/22

Mr Stephen McManus

Secretary:



Dr Aodhmar Cadogan

Date: 08/06/2022

Programme Schedule (include table from AMM)

SG_SSUST_M09 Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems

Module Code	Module Title	Stage	Semester	M/E	OL Hours	Credits	FO %	CA %	EXAM %	PROJ %
ENVR09041	Introduction to Sustainability	Stage 5	Semester 1	Mandatory	4	10	0	100	0	0
ENVR09042	Systems Thinking	Stage 5	Semester 1	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
ENVR09038	Sustainable Production	Stage 5	Semester 2	Mandatory	4	10	0	100	0	0
ENVR09039	Sustainability across the supply chain	Stage 5	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
REGU09026	Sustainable Food Systems and Regulatory Interactions	Stage 6	Semester 3	Mandatory	4	10	0	40	0	60
RSCH09042	Research Methods in Food Regulatory Affairs and Sustainable Food Systems	Stage 6	Semester 3	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
ENVR09047	Sustainability and International Markets	Stage 6	Semester 4	Mandatory	4	10	0	100	0	0
REGU09028	Professional Development in Sustainable Food Systems	Stage 6	Semester 4	Mandatory	1	5	0	100	0	0
DISS09013	Dissertation in Food Regulatory Affairs and Sustainable Food Systems	Stage 6	Year Long	Mandatory	2*	30	0	100	0	0

Master of Science in Food Regulatory affairs

**SG_SREGU_
M09**

Module Code	Module Title	Stage	Semester	M/E	OL Hours	Credits	FO %	CA %	EXAM %	PROJ %
REGU09013	Framework of Food Regulations	Stage 1	Semester 1	Mandatory	4	10	0	100	0	0
REGU09014	Food Processing Regulations	Stage 1	Semester 1	Mandatory	7	5	0	100	0	0
REGU09015	Claims and Labelling - Food to Market	Stage 1	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
REGU09016	Supply Chain Integrity	Stage 1	Semester 2	Mandatory	7	5	0	100	0	0
REGU09017	Professional Development in Food Regulatory Affairs	Stage 1	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
RSCH09042	Research Methods in Food Regulatory Affairs and Sustainable Food Systems	Stage 2	Semester 3	Mandatory	2	5	0	100	0	0
REGU09025	Managing Trends and Divergence in Regulatory affairs	Stage 2	Semester 3	Mandatory	4	10	0	100	0	0
REGU09026	Sustainable Food Systems and Regulatory Interactions	Stage 2	Semester 4	Mandatory	4	10	0	40	0	60
REGU09027	Current and Future Issues Impacting Food Legislation	Stage 2	Semester 4	Mandatory	2	5	0	80	0	20
DISS09013	Dissertation in Food Regulatory Affairs and Sustainable Food Systems	Stage 2	Year Long	Mandatory	2*	30	0	100	0	0

- See recommendations above for further changes.