

## Differential Validation

(Major Programme Changes - Type A)

### Section A

### Report of the Review Panel

<b>Programme Reference Number:</b>	M027, M028
<b>Faculty/School(s):</b>	Business
<b>Department(s):</b>	Tourism & Sport

#### Details of Programme(s) Reviewed

<b>Programme Title:</b>	MSc in Sports Performance Practice MSc in Sports Performance Practice by Research BSc (Hons) in Athletic Therapy & Exercise Rehabilitation
<b>Programme Code:</b>	LY_RSPEF_M LY_RSPER_M LY_RSRHB_B
<b>Embedded Awards:</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Review:</b>	Monday May 27 <sup>th</sup>
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#### Review Panel

Panellist Role	Name	Organisation	Job Title
Chair	Breda McTaggart	ATU	
Industry Discipline	Sam Rice	FAI & St Pats	Head of Medicine CAT
Academic	Frank Devereux	SETU	Lecturer
Student Representative	N/A		
Academic Secretary	Simon Stephens	ATU	Assistant Registrar
Recording Secretary	N/A		

## Programme Board

The panel met the staff listed below during the review of the proposed modifications.

Ciara Mulrooney	Ken Van Someren
Aaron Kyles	Maria Faulkner
Paul Fisher	Karl Lacey
Ronan Doherty	
Neil Barrett	

## Rationale for Modifications

### MSc in Sports Performance Practice

The programmes were validated and commenced in 2020 with blended delivery schedules. The MSc Sports Performance Practice programme is now in its fourth year of delivery, with each consecutive year seeing an increase in the number of professional learners (i.e. those in part-time or full-time work). The MSc Sports Performance Practice by Research programme has not yet run.

While the MSc Sports Performance Practice programme attracts a high calibre of learner, it has failed to consistently recruit target numbers. Feedback from past, current and prospective students indicates that although the on-campus delivery is valued, it is often a barrier to full engagement in the programme and to recruitment, particularly for professional learners.

Over the last four years, the programme has attracted wide interest from prospective learners and is recognised by external examiners as being of high quality, contemporary and effective in developing professional skills and competencies for employment. The proposed change to fully online delivery maintains the existing features and strengths of the programme syllabus and reflects the growing demand from professional learners. In doing so, the programme will be marketed nationally and internationally to attract greater numbers of learners to ensure the sustainability of the programme and extend the reach and impact of ATU's postgraduate taught provision.

### BSc (Hons) in Athletic Therapy & Exercise Rehabilitation

There are several factors relating to the proposed changes and their inclusion:

1. Outlined changes ensure modules are mapped accordingly with Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland (ARTI) requirements, as the governing body of accreditation it is imperative to ensure the programme meets all requirements for student registration. These changes allow for a clear pathway from year 1 to year 4 via module introductions and subsequent complementary modules meeting core clinical skills. This is seen in Clinical Anatomy and Clinical Skills in Y1, Injury Diagnostics Y2, Rehabilitation Y3 and Placement and Sports & Exercise Medicine Y4. This alteration ensures core skills are completed at key stages allowing for a seamless progression across each year. The current course does not include rehabilitation modules. The addition of a capstone exam in Student Led Clinic in Y4 is a requirement of ARTI accreditation.
2. Further to the above, changes incorporate clear clinical and field-based placement hours of which a minimum of 500 hours is to be met. These can be seen in the alteration of modules to include Student Led Clinics which are used across ARTI Accredited athletic therapy courses. Subsequently

moving Soft Tissue Manual Therapy to semester 1 with the addition of Student Led Clinic enables access to sports teams/athletes within ATU (Atlantic Technological University) to ensure students meet the minimum clinical hours requirements. The three Student Led Clinic modules included increase responsibility and clinical reasoning skills in a supervised environment, this ensures students are prepared for placement and graduation settings.

3. Shared modules form a key element of the course; the addition of Sports Study Skills 1 expands this and enables ATER students to develop their key academic skills in semester one, this element has been noted as an area students required more assistance in. Further to this Sports and Exercise Physiology (pre-approved) will be shared between BSc ATER and BSc Sports & Exercise. 4.
4. The external report indicated that Musculoskeletal Assessment Y1 should focus on the subjective assessment, this is not reflected in the current MLOs which also do not fully match the module description, this module was altered to reflect these changes as Clinical Skills II and the objective testing moved to Y2 in Injury Diagnostics as a more appropriate time to introduce these skills. Further to this there were several overlapping MLOs across modules e.g. posture and gait assessment in three different modules, repetition of clinical assessments at various stages, these modules were amended to reduce any overlap and provide clear learning outcomes and progressions.
5. Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council Certification is a requirement of ARTI accreditation, while referenced in the current course it is completed at too late a stage and hinders students participation in clinical and field-based placement, in order to align with course requirements this has been moved to Y2 with refresher CFR skills taking place in Y4 – this change allows students to begin placement earlier to meet the minimum hours required and ensures students are prepared for ARTI accreditation in final year/post-graduation.

## Summary of Proposed Modifications

### MSc in Sports Performance Practice

Change from blended delivery (online and on-campus) to fully delivered online.

### BSc (Hons) in Athletic Therapy & Exercise Rehabilitation

- **Minor amendments to modules (2):** Sports & Exercise Nutrition; Biomechanics & Movement Analysis
- **Amends to ACS (2):** Soft Tissue Therapy; Psychology of Injury & Rehabilitation
- **Additions (4):** Sports Study Skills 1 (pre-approved shared); Rehabilitation (New), Clinical Rehabilitation (New); Student Led Clinic III (New); Sports & Exercise Physiology (pre-approved shared)
- **Modifications of pre-approved modules (9):** Clinical Anatomy & Physiology 1&2; Clinical Skills & Methods; Musculoskeletal Assessment; Injury Diagnostics; Neuromusculoskeletal Physical Therapy; Applied Clinical Practice; Applied Clinical Techniques; Pathology of Injury

#### Year 1:

1. **Clinical Skills & Methods** changed to Clinical Skills I, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
2. **Musculoskeletal Assessment** changed to Clinical Skills II, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
3. **Addition of Sports Study Skills 1:** pre-approved in BSc Sport & Exercise
4. **Clinical Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2** changed to Clinical Anatomy I & II and Introduction to Human Physiology, MLOs changed to reflect.

#### Year 2:

1. **Soft Tissue Therapy** moved to Sem 3 from Sem 4, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
2. **Exercise Physiology** changed to Sports & Exercise Physiology, pre-approved in BSc Sport & Exercise.
3. **Sports & Exercise Nutrition** minor MLO changes to reflect clinical and rehabilitation needs.
4. **Biomechanics & Movement Analysis** minor MLO changes to reflect clinical and rehabilitation needs.
5. **Injury Diagnostics** changed to Injury Diagnostics I, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
6. **Addition of Injury Diagnostics II** MLOs changed from Injury Diagnostics and Pathology of Injury to reflect.

**Year 3:**

1. **Neuromusculoskeletal Physical Therapy** changed to Therapeutic Modalities I, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
2. **Addition of Rehabilitation;** new syllabi
3. **Applied Clinical Practice** changed to Student Led Clinic I, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
4. **Addition of Psychology of Injury and Rehabilitation**, moved from Sem 8 to Sem 6, credits reduced, MLOs changed to reflect.
5. **Addition of Clinical Rehabilitation;** new syllabi
6. **Applied Clinical Techniques** changed to Therapeutic Modalities II and Student Led Clinic II, MLOs changed to reflect.
7. **Pathology of Injury** changed to Injury Diagnostics II and Sport & Exercise Medicine, MLOs changed to reflect.

**Year 4:**

1. **Addition of Student Led Clinic III;** new syllabi.
2. **Addition of Sports & Exercise Medicine,** MLOs changed from Pathology of Injury.

## Findings

### Overall Finding

Approved without changes	
Approved subject to recommendations	<b>YES</b>
Rejected	

### Reason for Overall Finding

Excellent documentation and in-panel presentation which provided a clear context and rationale for the proposed changes.

### Conditions

N/A

### Recommendations

1. Consider the necessity for the proposed number of one-to-one sessions. Consider an alternative of offering a weekly review/top-up workshop.
2. Review the Mentoring aspect of the clinics to **ensure** a staff to student ratio that adheres to the Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland (ARTI) requirements.
3. Review the language of MLOs 5 and 6 on *THRPTS601 Soft Tissue Therapy*.
4. Review the delivery model in consultation with the AMM team and ensure alignment with ATU guidelines.
5. Review the consistency of the number of MLOs at the next Programmatic review.

### Commendations

- The panel commends the quality of the documentation and in-panel presentation.

## Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the evaluation panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.



Dr Breda McTaggart  
Differential Validation Panel Chair

27.05.2014