

SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE EVALUATION 4

ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL

COURSE EVALUATED: Bachelor of Science (H) in Applied Computing (International)

Bachelor of Science (H) in Internet of Things (International) Bachelor of Science (H) in Software Systems Development

(International)

Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Electrical and Automation

Engineering (International)

Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Information Engineering

(International)

Master of Engineering in Electronic Information Systems

SCHOOL: School of Science and Computing

School of Engineering

DEPARTMENT: Department of Computing and Mathematics

Department of Engineering Technology

1. INTRODUCTION

The following is a review report to Academic Council from the panel of assessors on the proposal from the School of Science and Computing and the School of Engineering at South East Technological University to develop a suite of programmes for delivery in a Joint Institute with the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology – Bachelor of Science (H) in Applied Computing (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Science (H) in Internet of Things (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Science (H) in Software Systems Development (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Electrical and Automation Engineering (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Information Engineering (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Master of Engineering in Electronic Information Systems (Level 9; 90 Credits). In accordance with the regulations governing the evaluation of new programme proposals and collaborative provision, as set out in the South East Technological University *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures, Quality Assurance of Collaborative Programmes*, and the *Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of a Proposed Joint Institute*, the programme proposal was reviewed by a panel of assessors.

The panel of assessors who contributed to this report were:

- Prof. Eithne Guilfoyle, Former Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar), Dublin City University (Chair)
- Megan Brown, Student Engagement Specialist, Scotland
- Fiona Crozier, Independent Quality Assurance Consultant
- Joseph Kellegher, Head of Discipline Electrical Services Engineering, Technological University Dublin
- Prof Martin McKinney, Emeritus Professor of Computing, University of Ulster
- Brían McNamara, Head of Internationalisation, University of Brighton
- Dr Chris Meudec, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Mick O'Brien, Senior Director of Engineering, Kargo
- Dr Paul O'Leary, Head of Quality Promotion and Academic Policy Development, South East Technological University

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 11 May 2023. The review meeting was conducted virtually via Teams. In the course of the meeting, the panel of assessors met with the programme development team. The following members of the South East Technological University and the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology teams were present:

- Prof. Peter McLoughlin, Head of School of Science and Computing, SETU
- Dr Austin Coffey, Head of Department of Engineering Technology, SETU
- Dr Alan Davy, Head of Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Prof. Baowei Wang, Dean NUIST Waterford Institute
- Dr Yamin Wang, Vice Dean NUIST Waterford Institute
- Sinead Day, International Affairs Manager, SETU
- David Drohan, Lecturer, Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Amanda Freeman-Gater, Lecturer, Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Gefei Goa, Teaching Secretary, NUIST Waterford Institute
- Robert O'Connor, Lecturer, Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Fergal O'Hanlon, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, SETU
- Kieran O'Mahony, Lecturer, Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Siobhan Wall, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, SETU
- Frank Walsh, Lecturer, Department of Computing and Mathematics, SETU
- Jessica Xue, Deputy Director, International Office, NUIST

The assessors wish to thank the members of the development team for engaging generously and openly with the review process.

2. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS

2.1 General Remarks

The panel commends the Schools on their proposal to diversify and extend their international collaborative provision portfolio.

The panel recommends approval of a suite of programmes for delivery in a Joint Institute with the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology – Bachelor of Science

(H) in Applied Computing (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Science (H) in Internet of Things (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Science (H) in Software Systems Development (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Electrical and Automation Engineering (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Bachelor of Engineering (H) in Information Engineering (International) (Level 8; 240 credits); Master of Engineering in Electronic Information Systems (Level 9; 90 Credits) until the next School Review in the School of Science and Computing and the School of Engineering.

Approval is conditional on the submission of a revised programme document that takes account of the conditions and recommendations outlined below; and the submission of a summary document describing the responses and actions of the School to address the conditions and recommendations made by the review panel.

Areas for attention have been emboldened in the text for convenience of reference. Action is required on items marked 'Conditions' and such action is mandatory if the programme is to be approved; action is highly recommended on items marked 'Recommendations'.

2.2 Conditions

- To ensure that students on the programme are equipped with the necessary language skills to allow them to succeed, the panel agrees that a specified, evidence-based standard level of English should be required for entry to both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- There was some ambiguity on the purpose of the Programme Handbooks included with the proposal, specifically whether these intended as programme documents or student handbooks. The team should clarify whether the Programme Handbooks included in the appendices to the submission are intended as programme documents or student handbooks, and if the latter more student-focused information re Student Services et cetera should be included.
- In conversation with the panel, the team described the programmes as a double or dual degree. The terminology used to describe the nature of the programmes in the documentation is inconsistent and the programmes are erroneously described as a Joint

Award/Degree on occasion. The team should review the programme document and appendices to ensure that the terminology used to describe the programmes is a double or dual degree/award. The team should also undertake a comprehensive review of the documentation to eliminate other inconsistencies, including programme titles, inconsistency in assessment description between the module descriptors and assessment schedule, and inconsistency in staff resource requirements between the main document and the appendices.

- The programme proposal should be revised to clearly articulate the academic regulations (including any compensation, if relevant, and progression rules), and student code of conduct to which students on the programme must adhere, and the responsibility for addressing any infringements of same.
- There was an inconsistent approach to the documentation submitted for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. An updated version of the proposal should be submitted, using the SETU Waterford template, in which both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are presented in the same document, and a similar level of detail should be provided for the postgraduate programme, including resourcing, as was originally provided for the undergraduate programmes.
- The panel is reassured that the team are considering the need for student representation and support but systems and processes need to be in place for same prior to the first intake of students on the programme.

2.3 Recommendations

- To support quality assurance and disseminate good practice, the collaborating partners should consider establishing a forum which would allow staff from both institutions teaching on the programme to share good practice and to discuss the operation of the programme.
- The team should consider including a best practice comparison document in the appendices to the programme to contextualise and benchmark the programme entry requirements to similar collaborative programmes offered in China by other Irish, and English universities.

- Some reading lists appear dated; the reading lists given in the module descriptors should be reviewed to ensure that all include current publications and the most recent editions of same.
- While details on the SETU staff resources were included for the undergraduate programmes, only the gross hours were indicated and the calculations for same not included; it was difficult therefore to establish a precise workload per module/programme for SETU staff or its rationale; a detailed breakdown of the SETU staff requirements for all programmes should be provided and the calculations used to calculate requirements included.

	Eithne Julfoyle
Signed:	
	Prof. Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair)
Date:	31 May 2023
Approved by Academic Council:	