



SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE EVALUATION 2

ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL

COURSE EVALUATED: Certificate in Data Analytics
30 Credits, Level 8, Minor Award (*linked to* Higher Diploma
in Science in Data Analytics)

SCHOOL: Science and Computing

DEPARTMENT: Computing and Mathematics

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 at South East Technological University Waterford to develop a Certificate in Data Analytics (30 Credits, Level 8, Minor Award, *linked to Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics*). In accordance with the regulations governing the evaluation of new programme proposals, as set out in the South East Technological University Waterford *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, the programme proposal was reviewed by a panel of assessors.

The panel of assessors who contributed to this report were:

- Ciaran Lynch, Former Development Manager. Limerick Institute of Technology (Chair)
- Dr David Goulding, Head of School of Science and Informatics (Cork Campus), Munster Technological University
- Rob Leslie, Founder & CEO, Sedicii Innovations Limited, ArcLabs Research & Innovation Centre
- Dr Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- David Quigley, AVP Data, Analytics and AI, Sun Life, US
- Martin Walshe, Academic Council Representative, 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 24 March 2025. 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 member of the South East Technological University team was present:

- Dr Alan Davy, Head of Department of Computing and Mathematics

The assessors wish to thank the member 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 School on their industry engagement and on developing a programme to meet an identified sectoral need. The panel **recommends approval of the Certificate in Data Analytics (30 Credits, Level 8, Minor Award, linked to Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics)** until the next School Review in the School of Science and Computing. **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

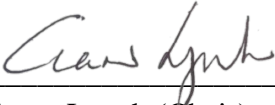
- There are no module learning outcomes mapped to programme learning outcome 7. **The mapping of module learning outcomes to programme learning outcomes should be reviewed to ensure that all programme learning outcomes will be achieved by the learner on successful completion of the programme.**

2.3 Recommendations

- Currently, specific software and programming languages are referenced in the module descriptors which removes the flexibility to adopt new software as industry norms change. **The module descriptors should avoid references to specific computer languages or software, where possible, to allow flexibility for learners to utilise the packages or languages most appropriate at the time.**
- **The team should consider how the use of Artificial Intelligence can be incorporated into the programme and also how best to design assessments to incorporate AI and mitigate against its inappropriate use.**

- The majority of the module descriptors were approved as part of the programme evaluation for the Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics in 2022. **The team should take this opportunity to ensure that all module descriptors are up-to-date, particularly that reading lists include the most recent editions, relevant current publications and online resources.**
- **Given the online nature of this programme, the team should indicate any support available to students in obtaining, installing and operating required software, and also indicate the minimum hardware requirements for participants on the programme.**
- **The document should be proofread to remove typographical errors.**
- **The team should articulate where the legal and ethical aspects of analytical and AI-readiness of data are covered in the module descriptors with sufficient weight given to ensuring students understand the critical importance of having the correct legal, compliance and risk controls in place prior to any data processing taking place.**
- **The proposed assessment schedule should be reconsidered to give a more optimum work balance for learners across the semester and should be kept under review when the programme is first delivered to ensure that the schedule is working in practice.**
- **The team should consider clarifying entry routes for non-standard learners, particularly learners applying through the Recognition of Prior Learning.** These cohorts of non-standard applicants were identified in the programme document but detail on some typical scenarios of applicants who would, or would not, be admitted to the programme would be a useful advisory for applicants.

Signed:



Ciaran Lynch (Chair)

Date:

08/05/2025
