



## **SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

### ***COURSE EVALUATION 2***

### **ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**COURSE EVALUATED:** Certificate in Forestry Operations  
(Minor Award, Level 7, 20 credits *linked to* Bachelor of Science in Forestry)

**FACULTY:** Science and Computing

**DEPARTMENT:** Land Sciences

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The following is a review report to Academic Council from the panel of assessors on the proposal from the Faculty of Science and Computing at South East Technological University to develop a Certificate in Forestry Operations (Minor Award, Level 7, 20 credits *linked to* Bachelor of Science in Forestry). In accordance with the regulations governing the evaluation of new programme proposals, as set out in the South East Technological University *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 Euan Bowditch, Researcher – Forestry and Social-Ecology, University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness
- Kay Maguire, Learning and Development Manager, Coillte Forest, Coillte, Mullingar
- Dr Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- Aubrey Storey, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Dr Brian Tobin, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin
- Robert Windle, Forestry Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Dublin

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 18 June 2025. The review meeting was conducted virtually via MS 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 team were present:

- Eleanor Kent, Head of Department of Land Sciences, South East Technological University
- Adriene Booth, Lecturer, Department of Land Sciences, South East Technological University
- Dr Maryam Fazlollahi Mohammadi, Lecturer, Department of Land Sciences, South East Technological University

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

## 2. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2.1 General Remarks

The panel commends the Faculty on their knowledge of, and engagement with, the sector and on proposing a programme to meet an identified skills need. The panel **recommends approval of the Certificate in Forestry Operations (Minor Award, Level 7, 20 credits linked to Bachelor of Science in Forestry)** until the next Review in the Faculty of Science and Computing. **Approval is conditional on the submission of a revised programme document that takes account of the recommendations outlined below; and the submission of a summary document describing the responses and actions of the Faculty to address the recommendations made by the review panel.**

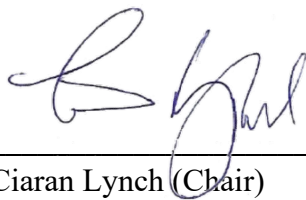
Areas for attention have been emboldened in the text for convenience of reference. Action is highly recommended on items marked ‘Recommendations’.

### 2.2 Recommendations

- In discussion with the panel, the team gave a detailed description of the planned delivery and assessment of the programme and of the support available to learners. **The team should include a discussion on the proposed delivery mode in the revised programme document and provide a sample delivery schedule for the programme, identifying the in-person fieldtrips, Question and Answer sessions, and online lectures and indicating whether the latter are synchronous or asynchronous. The team should review the module contact proposed in the delivery schedule, the programme schedules and the module descriptors to ensure that all are consistent. The detailed delivery and assessment schedule should be available to learners prior to commencing the programme so that they can see the time commitment required and plan accordingly. The necessity to attend the fieldwork trips, and the assessment of same, should be explicit in the document as should the remediation assignment(s) available in lieu of the fieldtrip(s) in exceptional circumstances.**

- **The team should review the proposed programme learning outcomes and ensure they are expressed in a language and format appropriate to learning outcomes; the outcomes should also reflect the nature of the programme and what is achievable by a learner on completion of the programme, given the four modules that will have been completed.**
- **Given that learners on this programme may be in employment and may find it challenging to complete the 20 credits in a single Academic Year, the Faculty should facilitate learners in completing the programme over two years, i.e. 10 credits per year.**
- **As part of the next review of Forestry modules in the Faculty of Science and Computing, the team should articulate in the relevant module descriptors where recreational use of the forest, silviculture, and business are covered on the programme.**
- **The Entry Requirements should be reviewed to include reference to the Recognition of Prior Learning pathway and to clarify that the Awarding Body for the Advanced Certificate in Forestry is currently Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), rather than Teagasc. To align better with the wording of the Entry Requirements, the non-forestry qualification entry pathway should be listed after the forestry qualification options.**

**Signed:**



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Ciaran Lynch (Chair)

**Date:**

09/07/2025

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