



**SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

***COURSE EVALUATION 2***

**ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**COURSE EVALUATED:** Certificate in Renewable Energy Systems  
(Special Purpose Award; Level 7; 40 Credits)

**FACULTY:** Engineering

**DEPARTMENT:** Engineering Technology

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The following is a review report to Academic Council from the panel of assessors on the proposal from the Faculty of Engineering at South East Technological University to develop a Certificate in Renewable Energy Systems (Special Purpose Award; Level 7; 40 Credits). 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 Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- Dr Michael O'Donovan, Lecturer, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Munster Technological University, Cork
- Dr Des O'Reilly, Head of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Atlantic Technological University, Galway
- Dr Corinne Power-O'Mahoney, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Declan Wynne, Managing Director Skanstec Engineering, Clonmel

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 10 December 2024. 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 team were present:

- Dr Mary Doyle-Kent, Head of Department of Engineering Technology, South East Technological University
- Dr Robin Stubbs, Head of Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, South East Technological University
- Stephen Gough, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, South East Technological University
- Mark Ruane, Renewable Energy Skill Manager, Wind Energy Ireland

- Siobhan Wall, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, South East Technological University
- Martin Walshe, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, South East Technological University
- David Williams, Lecturer, Department of Engineering Technology, 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 AND CONDITIONS**

### *2.1 General Remarks*

The panel commends the Faculty on developing an interesting and innovative programme to meet an identified training need in the sector. **The panel recommends approval of the Certificate in Renewable Energy Systems (Special Purpose Award; Level 7; 40 Credits) until the next Programmatic Review in the Faculty 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 successful review of the revised document by the panel; and the submission of a summary document describing the responses and actions of the Faculty 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*

- The generic subject area is not required in the title of Special Purpose Awards hence **the title of the programme should be amended to Certificate in Renewable Energy Systems**, rather than the proposed Certificate in Engineering in Renewable Energy Systems.

- There were a number of inconsistencies noted between the proposed programme schedules and the individual module descriptors. **The proposed programme schedules and module descriptors should be reviewed to ensure that the details are consistent, particularly in the areas of module titles, and contact hours and type. The incorrect module title – ‘Climate Change and Policy’ – included on page 17 of the document should be corrected.**
- **The new modules should be entered on the SETU module catalogue once access to same is restored.**
- **The entry requirements for the programme, as stated on page 34 of the proposal document, should be revised for clarity. The entry requirements should state that a full award at Level 6, or equivalent, is required and specify the accepted core and cognate disciplines of that award.**

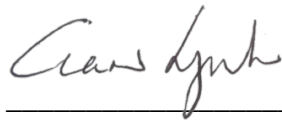
### 2.3 Recommendations

- **There should be greater detail provided in the document on lab delivery, particularly re the availability of the equipment necessary to deliver the practical elements of the programme. The Department should indicate the equipment currently available on campus, any equipment which will be acquired prior to the commencement of the programme, and how learners will be facilitated in accessing any additional equipment necessary for the lab elements of the programme which the University does not currently have onsite.**
- **In discussion with the panel the team described a more varied and innovative approach to programme delivery than was not captured in the document. The discussion on programme delivery in the document should be revised to include more detail on the different types of delivery proposed (asynchronous, onsite *et cetera*). This detail will allow a prospective learner to make an informed decision on the volume and nature of the engagement required for the programme before committing to same.**
- **The team propose to evaluate non-standard applicants on a case-by-case basis using Recognition of Prior Learning. The provision of sample case studies of the likely**

**backgrounds of the more commonly expected non-standard candidate scenarios could give an indication to prospective non-standard applicants of the types of experience which would allow them to undertake the programme.**

- **Greater clarity on the progression opportunities, discussed on page 35 of the document, would enhance, particularly re the number of exemptions possible if a learner progressed to specific named bachelor's degree(s).**

**Signed:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ciaran Lynch (Chair)

**Date:**

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17/12/2024