



SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE EVALUATION 3

ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL

COURSE EVALUATED: Master of Arts in Applied Spirituality

SCHOOL: Humanities

DEPARTMENT: Arts

INTRODUCTION

The following is a review report to Academic Council from the panel of assessors on the proposal from the School of Humanities at South East Technological University to change certain aspects of the Master of Arts in Applied Spirituality through the University's Course Evaluation Stage 3 (CE3) process. 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:

- Kevin Doolin, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Dr Kevin Griffin, Senior Lecturer in Tourism, School of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Technological University Dublin
- Dr Cheryl Hunt, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, School of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University of Exeter
- Dr Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- Rev. Nóirín Ní Riain, Interfaith Minister and Pilgrimage Leader, Limerick

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 14 June 2024. The review meeting was conducted virtually via Teams. The following members of the South East Technological University team were present:

- Dr Suzanne Denieffe, Head of School of Humanities, South East Technological University
- Philip Cremin, Lecturer, Department of Arts, South East Technological University
- Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Lecturer, Department of Arts, South East Technological University
- Dr Noelia Molina, Lecturer, Department of Arts, South East Technological University

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

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS

2.1 General Remarks

The panel commends the School on offering an interesting and innovative programme in the area of spirituality and proposing enhancements to same, based on learner and external examiner feedback. The panel **recommends approval of the changes proposed for the Master of Arts in Applied Spirituality** until the next School Review in the School of Humanities. **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

- Given that current modules are being retired from the programme and replacement modules proposed, **the School should map the module learning outcomes to the programme learning outcomes to ensure that learners who successfully complete all modules, will still achieve the programme learning outcomes in the revised programme.**
- In discussion with the panel, the team gave a detailed and comprehensive description of the innovative teaching, learning and assessment methodologies to be employed in the delivery of the ‘Research Training in Spirituality Methodologies & Contemplative Ethics’ and the ‘Research Project Dissertation’ modules. **The School should review the descriptors for both modules to better capture the intended teaching, learning and assessment methodologies, as described at the panel meeting, and to ensure that the contact hours included reflect the methodologies proposed.**
- The team confirmed that the topic Critical Reflection is included in the ‘Research Training in Spirituality Methodologies & Contemplative Ethics’ module. **The School should amend the module descriptor for ‘Research Training in Spirituality Methodologies &**

Contemplative Ethics’ to specifically reference Critical Reflection to make it explicit to learners and others that the topic is covered.

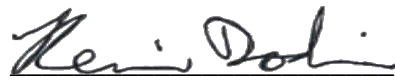
2.3 Recommendations

- The School should take this opportunity to review the reading lists in the revised modules to ensure that all include the most current relevant publications and give the latest editions of same.
- Given the current accessibility of artificial intelligence, the School should keep the assessment of modules on the programme under review to ensure that assessment design and controls militate against learners using artificial intelligence applications to complete assignments.
- In discussion with the panel, the team highlighted existing modules on the programme in which the topic of ritual is addressed. The School should consider making it more explicit in the individual module descriptors, or in the programme document, where ritual is currently covered. At the next opportunity to review the programme, the School should consider including the following in the programme: (1) scriptures for all interfaith traditions; (2) a module on ritual which would facilitate learners in creating personal rituals; and (3) Celtic spirituality.
- The following are recommendations on reading list inclusions for individual modules:

Module Title	Reading List Recommendation
‘Research Training in Spirituality Methodologies & Contemplative Ethics’	<p>Heron, J. <i>Sacred Science: Person-centred Inquiry into the Spiritual and Subtle</i>. PCCS Books. 1998.</p> <p>Moustakas, C. <i>Heuristic Research: Design, Methodology and Applications</i>. Sage. 1990. [A seminal text from which many later publications have been developed.]</p> <p>Romanyshyn, R., <i>The Wounded Researcher: Research with Soul in Mind</i>. Routledge. 2020. [Although this publication is referred to in the document, it</p>

Module Title	Reading List Recommendation
	would be helpful to include on the reading list.]

Signed:



Kevin Doolin (Academic Council Representative)

Date:

28-06-2024