



**SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

***COURSE EVALUATION 2***

**ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**COURSE EVALUATED:** Master of Pharmacy (Integrated)

**FACULTY:** Science and Computing

**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacy

## 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 Master of Pharmacy (Integrated) (Level 9; 300 Credits), an embedded Bachelor of Science (H) in Pharmacy (Level 8; 240 Credits), and a standalone 5-credit module ‘Pharmacy Professional Development’. 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:

- Prof. Eithne Guilfoyle, Former Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar), Dublin City University (Chair)
- Snowitta Anaston, Student Representative, Griffith College Dublin
- Prof. Christine Bond, Emeritus Professor of Primary Care (Pharmacy), Institute of Applied Health Science, University of Aberdeen
- Prof. Brendan Gilmore, Deputy Head of Queen’s School of Pharmacy, Queen’s University Belfast
- Dr Denis McDaid, Technical Director, Xeolas Pharmaceuticals, Co Dublin
- Dr Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- Dr Helen Murphy, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Blánaid O’Connell, Market Access Manager, Abbvie Pharmaceutical, Dublin

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 9 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:

- Prof. Peter McLoughlin, Head of Faculty of Science and Computing
- Prof. Michael Harrison, Head of Department of Sport and Exercise Science
- Dr Orla O’Donovan, Head of Department of Science

- Dr Claire Lennon, Pharmacy Programme Development Lead
- Tess Ames, Project Manager, Department of Science
- Sara Brown, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Nicola Cantwell, Lecturer, Department of Applied Sciences
- Dr Lee Coffey, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Wayne Cummins, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Gillian Curran, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics
- Dr Madhuri Dandamudi, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Ann Donegan, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Elaine Duggan, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Laurence Fitzhenry, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Pippa Haughton, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Ambrose Hayden, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Prof. Helen Hughes, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Nabla Kennedy, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Evelyn Landers, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Fiona Leonard, Lecturer, Department of Applied Sciences
- Dr Evan Matthews, Lecturer, Department of Sport and Exercise Science
- Dr Edel McNeela, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Rachel O'Dowd, Lecturer, Department of Management and Organisation
- Dr David O'Neill, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Niall O'Reilly, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Eleanor Owens, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Seán Roche, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Richie Ryan, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr David Scanlon, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Graece Tan, Lecturer, Department of Science
- Dr Bernadette Whelan, Lecturer, Department of Science

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

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS

### 2.1 General Remarks

The panel thanks the Faculty for the detailed documentation about the proposed Programme and for their responses to the points raised by the Panel during the meeting. The Panel commends the Faculty on their comprehensive and innovative programme proposal which demonstrates strong alignment with both academic standards and the needs of the pharmacy profession. The panel **recommends approval of the** Master of Pharmacy (Integrated) (Level 9; 300 Credits), an embedded Bachelor of Science (H) in Pharmacy (Level 8; 240 Credits), and a standalone 5-credit module ‘Pharmacy Professional Development’ until the next Programmatic Review in the Faculty 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 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

- **Strengthen the underpinning theoretical basis in Behavioural Sciences to inform professional practise. In particular, rebrand and restructure the module on ‘Health Economics’ to a title such as Applied Health Sciences, which should include Health Economics, but also Health Psychology, Sociology, Ethics and Social Responsibility.**
- **Clarify the status and titles of embedded and exit awards. A visual representation of these awards and their relationship to the Master of Pharmacy (Integrated) would be helpful.**
- There are a number of derogations to SETU academic regulations included in the programme proposal, particularly in the areas of progression, repeat attempts and time

allowed to complete the programme, compensation, failed components, mandatory attendance, pass mark and award classification, *et cetera*. Approval of such derogations is not within the remit of the current panel and the **Faculty should submit any proposed derogations to SETU Academic Council for consideration. The modules should be inputted onto the SETU module catalogue once access to same is available.**

### 2.3 *Recommendations*

- **As well as interprofessional learning with the other institutional disciplines of nursing and veterinary science, formalise the experiential interprofessional opportunities with the wider health care team as part of the core Programme, as described by the Programme team during the review meeting**
- **Extend the scope of the ‘Entrepreneurship and Managing a Successful Pharmacy Business’ module in year 5 to include leadership, continuous improvement culture, patient outcomes *et cetera* and to ensure skills are transferable across all sectors of pharmacy practice.**
- **Clarify entry routes for non-standard students, particularly for mature students and pharmacy technicians.** These cohorts of non-standard applicants were identified in the programme document but the exact requirements and nature of the entry routes available to them were not clear.
- **Review the placement of the modules ‘Pharmacy Practice Research Project’ and ‘Experiential Learning and PRE’ on the programme schedule to ensure that they are attached to the semester in which they will be assessed.** In particular, consider the scheduling of the PRE assessment, the availability of results from same, and if it is feasible to complete the award year of the programme at the September examination boards, as proposed. The faculty should engage with the Office of the Registrar on this.
- **Clarify relationship between APPEL and SETU regarding VLEs and assessments, in particular what Learning Outcomes are being assessed by each, and if two VLEs used by students or do one or other host assessments, learning materials *et cetera*.**

- **Consider how OSCEs, placements, Interprofessional learning, ELPs *et cetera* can be used to develop and assess Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs).**
- **Clarify how AI and machine learning can be employed going forward, not only in patient health, but also in pharmaceutical sciences (drug discovery, advanced manufacture, formulation science).**
- **Consider rebadging the ‘Oncology’ module as clinical applications and include the applications most prevalent and relevant to pharmacy, such as cardiovascular, respiratory, mental health as well as oncology.**
- **Reconsider or clarify the statement on page 72 of the proposal re exemptions available to mature or graduate students: ‘mature or graduate students may apply for exemptions from coursework and lectures through formal learning’. This statement is likely to attract commentary from the regulator (PSI); given that it is an integrated MPharm all learning outcomes will be required to be met and it would be unlikely that other programmes would meet those MPharm outcomes exactly.**
- **Clarify what pastoral care is available to MPharm students (tutor, advisor of studies, in-placement support *et cetera*) and, with respect to placement and off-site activities (ELPs *et cetera*) articulate to whom concerns can be raised by: (i) students; (ii) supervisors; and (iii) members of the public.**

**Signed:**

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Prof Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair)

**Date:**

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**Approved by  
Academic Council:**

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