

Appendix 8: Alignment of Mission



Alignment of Mission

The Faculty/Campus shall ensure that its programmes, including any joint awarding programmes, are consistent with its mission and the mission of South East Technological University Carlow.

Education and Training Requirements

The relevant Faculty/Campus/Department shall inform itself of the education and training requirements in its particular area of expertise, at regional and national levels and promote practices that meet these requirements. The avoidance of redundant or duplicate provision is paramount.

Unity

Note: A programme consisting of stand-alone non-interacting modules is unlikely to be accredited. There shall be an underlying unifying theme.

The programme shall consist of - associated modules. There shall be an underlying unifying theme and the modules shall be bonded by interactions which are either implicit or explicit. The programme design shall be consistent with QQI policy on Accumulation of Credits and Certification of Subject (ACCS). The Faculty/Campus/Department shall be able to demonstrate how the standard (of knowledge, skill and competence), determined for the named award to which the programme proposes to lead, evolves throughout the programme as a whole.

Standards

QQI has determined and South East Technological University Carlow has adopted, for each named award, the specific standard of knowledge, skill and competence that shall be acquired by the learner before that award can be made. The learning outcomes of all programmes, whether delivered by South East Technological University Carlow or provided on a joint award basis, shall be stated in such a way that compliance with standard is manifest. Validated Programmes are placed on the National Framework of Qualifications at the appropriate level. The Irish National Qualifications Framework is “a framework for the development, recognition and award of qualifications in the State, based on standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired by learners” (Section 7a of Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999) as amended; it is “the single, nationally and internationally accepted entity, through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way and which defines the relationship

between all education and training awards” Qualifications Authority of Ireland: www.nqai.ie). Even though this Act of 1999 has been repealed in full by the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012, Section 43(1) states: ‘*The framework of qualifications established and maintained by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland under section 7(a) of the Act of 1999 shall, notwithstanding the repeal of that section 6(1), continue in being under this Act*’”. No programme shall be validated unless South East Technological University Carlow and in the case of joint award programmes, the awarding partner is satisfied that a learner may attain the standards of knowledge, skill or competence required to achieve the proposed award.

Teaching and Learning

The proposed approach to teaching and learning shall be clearly indicated and justified. South East Technological University Carlow recognises that there is a rich diversity of teaching and learning modes. A central part of every validation evaluation shall be a careful assessment of the proposed approach to teaching and learning. South East Technological University Carlow shall accommodate learners to not only acquire discipline specific knowledge, skill and competence but also the range of generic attributes expressed in the standards. Such attributes may be inculcated by the learning environment in which the programme is being delivered rather than taught in any specific module but their inclusion shall be verifiable.

Learner Assessment

The learner assessment methods shall be fully elaborated and consistent with the national requirement for and South East Technological University Carlow’s Group Projects and Assessment – Fairness and Consistency - Academic Standards and Assessment Regulations <http://www.itcarlow.ie/resources/quality/quality-policies-procedures.htm> Assessment methods shall be capable, among other things, of demonstrating attainment of the standards of knowledge, skill or competence, adopted by South East Technological University Carlow, for the proposed award. The Faculty/Campus/Department shall take particular care to ensure that the learner assessment methods are fully elaborated. The assessment methods shall be capable of determining whether or not the learner has attained the standard outlined in the proposal.

Repeat Assessments

Subject to individual programme or module requirements (such as those stated as special regulations on the relevant APS), South East Technological University Carlow does not specify an upper limit on the number of attempts a learner may make in repeating a module examination or assessment.

Nonetheless, in order to ensure the relevance of the awards conferred by South East Technological University Carlow, programmes and modules are subject to ongoing periodic reviews which may result in modification of programme and/or module content.

Consequently, following periodic review, the module, in relation to which the learner is repeating an examination or assessment, may be modified to such an extent as to invalidate the pre-modified version of that module for the purpose of its contribution towards the achievement of any award associated with the programme of study being currently validated by South East Technological University Carlow.

In the event of a learner being required to repeat an examination or assessment relating to a module which has become obsolete or out of date and thereby no longer valid for current awarding purposes, the learner shall be offered, where possible, one of the following alternatives at the University's discretion:

- (a) entry onto an alternate module/s for which the learner must register, attend and achieve the learning outcomes set for the replacement module/s or
- (b) in the event of a programme of study leading to an award becoming obsolete a place offer on a cognate programme of study where available or
- (c) An exit award (major, minor or special purpose) or single subject certification, at an appropriate level on the NFQ, to accredit the learner achievement.

Entry Mechanisms

Standard entry requirements assessment procedures shall be fully described. Alternative entry routes shall be outlined and specifically detailed if required in the case of joint award programmes. Where special entry assessment mechanisms are deemed necessary, the mechanisms involved and the standard of achievement required shall be fully outlined. Any remedial provision that may be made available to equalize the knowledge, skill and competence of a particular learner cohort, prior to the start of the main body of a programme, shall be detailed.

Access, Transfer and Progression

Programmes submitted for validation shall incorporate the procedures for access, transfer and progression that have been established by the QQI.

Quality Assurance

The Faculty/Campus/Department shall be able to demonstrate how South East Technological University Carlow's approved quality assurance procedures have been applied to the development of the proposed programme and how they shall be implemented. In the case of joint award programmes, particular attention shall be addressed to the application of quality assurance procedures. It is a general condition of validation that a Faculty/Campus/Department shall implement South East Technological University Carlow's agreed quality assurance procedures to assure the quality of the programme prior to starting the programme. South East Technological University Carlow may require that the Faculty/Campus/Department establish additional quality assurance procedures in respect of a particular programme submitted for Validation.