



**Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest - Athlone Campus**

**Faculty of Engineering & Informatics**

**Department of Polymer, Mechanical and Design**

**Report of**

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_SMUSI\_K08**

**Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_SMUSI\_H08**

**Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_EMUSA\_7**

**Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_EMUSC\_7**

**Higher Certificate in Engineering in Music and Instrument Technology - AL\_EMUSC\_6**

**Monday, the 9th of May, 2022**

**Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams**

## **1. Introduction**

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the New Programme Proposal External Review Panel constituted to externally review the proposed programmes:

- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_SMUSI\_K08
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_SMUSI\_H08
- Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_EMUSA\_7
- Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering - AL\_EMUSC\_7
- Higher Certificate in Engineering in Music and Instrument Technology - AL\_EMUSC\_6

The Panel constitutes a number of experts from both academia and industry who will review the documentation pertaining to the proposed programmes and thereafter formulate their findings, conditions, recommendations and commendations.

## **2. General Information**

### **2.1 Higher Education Provider**

Institute:	TUS Midlands Midwest - Athlone Campus
Faculty:	Faculty of Engineering & Informatics
Department:	Department of Polymer, Mechanical and Design
Date of Visit:	Monday the 9 <sup>th</sup> of May, 2022
Format:	Virtual External Panel via MS Teams

## 2.2 Programmes Evaluated

Award title	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering
Code	AL_SMUSI_H08
NFQ Level	8
ECTS Credits	240
Award Class	Honours Degree Ab-initio
Award Type	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Delivery Mode	Full time
Duration	4 years
Proposed starting date	2023
Contact	Dr Marcus Rahilly, Michael O’Dowd, Duncan Moore, Dr Sean Lyons, Breda Lynch, Dr Shane Byrne
Contains Work placement	Yes - Work placement models 05,10
Exit Award	HC in Engineering in Music and Instrument Technology Stage 2 Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering Stage 3

Award title	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Music and Sound Engineering
Code	AL_SMUSI_K08
NFQ Level	8
ECTS Credits	60
Award Class	Honours Degree Add-on
Award Type	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Delivery Mode	Full time
Duration	1 year
Proposed starting date	2022
Contact	Dr Marcus Rahilly, Michael O’Dowd, Duncan Moore, Dr Sean Lyons, Breda Lynch, Dr Shane Byrne
Contains Work placement	Yes – Work placement models 05
Exit Award	

Award title	Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering
Code	AL_EMUSA_7
NFQ Level	7
ECTS Credits	60
Award Class	Ordinary Bachelor Degree Add-on
Award Type	Bachelor of Science
Delivery Mode	Full time
Duration	1 year
Proposed starting date	2022
Contact	Michael O'Dowd, Dr Sean Lyons, Breda Lynch, Dr Marcus Rahilly
Contains Work placement	Yes – Work placement models 05
Exit Award	

Award title	Bachelor of Science in Music and Sound Engineering
Code	AL_EMUSC_7
NFQ Level	7
ECTS Credits	180
Award Class	Ordinary Bachelor Degree Ab-Initio
Award Type	Bachelor of Science
Delivery Mode	Full time
Duration	3 years
Proposed starting date	2022
Contact	Dr Marcus Rahilly, Michael O'Dowd, Dr Sean Lyons, Duncan Moore
Contains Work placement	Yes – Work placement models 10
Exit Award	HC in Engineering in Music and Instrument Technology Stage 2

Award title	HC in Engineering in Music and Instrument Technology
Code	AL_EMUSC_6
NFQ Level	6
ECTS Credits	120
Award Class	Higher Certificate
Award Type	Higher Certificate in Engineering
Delivery Mode	Full time
Duration	2 years
Proposed starting date	2022
Contact	Michael O'Dowd, Duncan Moore, Dr Sean Lyons, Breda Lynch, Dr Marcus Rahilly
Contains Work placement	Yes – Work placement models 10
Exit Award	

## 2.3 External Panel Members

Mr Danny Brennan (**Chair to Panel**),  
Former Registrar,  
Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Dr Ronan Lynch,  
Acting Head of Department of Creative Arts, Media and Music,  
Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Dr Iain Mc Curdy,  
Assistant Professor,  
Maynooth University.

Ms Ailsha Davey,  
Songwriter/Record Producer.

Mr Derek McCreanor,  
Founder - Enhance Acoustics.

Dr Ashling Jackson (**Secretary to Panel**),  
Senior Lecturer,  
Dept. of Social Sciences,  
TUS Midlands Campus.

## 2.4 University Staff

Dr Sean Lyons

Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Informatics

Ms Breda Lynch

Head of Department of Polymer, Mechanical and Design

Mr Mike O'Dowd

Programme Co-ordinator

Programme Development Team

- Duncan Moore
- Dr Shane Byrne
- Audrey O'Beirne-Cleary
- Jody Walsh
- Thomas J. O'Donoghue

### **3. FINDINGS, CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **3.1. Main Findings**

The External Validation Panel of Assessors (hereafter referred to as Panel) approved the Level 7 and the Level 8 suite of programmes. The Panel agreed that there are no conditions. Recommendations are documented below.

#### **3.2 Conditions**

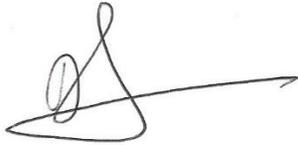
The Panel agreed that there are no conditions.

#### **3.3 Recommendations**

- The Panel recommended consideration of the removal of the Industrial Placement module from year 4. If this action is taken, the available credits could be added to the overall credit allocation for the Capstone Project modules, increasing overall credits to 20.
- The Panel recommended that the Capstone Project modules might run over two semesters as a single module entitled Capstone Project or as an alternative arrangement where any element completed in semester 1 should be substantive and reflect the credits associated with it.
- The Panel recommended that consideration be given to replacing the 10 credit Event Management module in semester 2 with the following modules:  
Semester 1: Event Management – 5 credits.  
Semester 2: Entrepreneurship for the Creative Industries – 5 credits.
- The Panel recommended that a review of all module content be considered, so that module content appropriately reflects relevant module credit weighting. If this is undertaken, Introduction to Mastering on the Sound Engineering 4 module could be removed as part of this process.
- The Panel recommended that specific references to proprietary software systems be considered and made more generic in relevant modules.

### 3.4 Commendations

- The Panel commended the Department and the Programme Development Team on the comprehensiveness of the suite of programmes.
- The Panel commended the Department and the Programme Development Team on the excellent standard of the documentation.
- The Panel commended the Department and the Programme Development Team on the inclusion of modules related to making instruments in earlier stages of the programme. The established link with Solas in Athlone for this element was positively acknowledged.
- The Panel commended the Programme Development Team for the appropriate pitching of module learning outcomes to the relevant programme level and the apt use of action verbs in line with Bloom's Taxonomy.



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**Signature of Chairperson**

16 May 2022

**Date**