



TUS

**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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**Dámh an Ghnó agus Fáilteachais
Faculty of Continuing, Professional, Online and Distance Learning
Department of Lifelong Learning**

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel 16th June 2023

for the

**Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management
with Exit awards
Bachelor of Science in Science in Quality and Lean Management
Higher Certificate in Science in Operations, Quality and Lean Management
Certificate in Operations Quality and Lean Management**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the external validation visit for the proposed Department of Lifelong Learning programmes held on 16th June 2023. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations for the development of taught programmes. An external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.2 Higher Education Provider

Provider	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Continuing, Professional, Online and Distance Learning
Department	Lifelong Learning
Date of Visit	16 th June 2023

2.3 Programmes Evaluated

Programme Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management
Code	AL_SQUAL_8
NFQ Level	8
ECTS Credits	240 ECTS
Award Class	Honours Degree Ab initio
Delivery Mode	Part Time, Online
Duration	4 years
Proposed Start Date	September 2023
Contact	Dr Michael Tobin

Programme Title	Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management (embedded award)
Code	AL_SQUAL_B07
NFQ Level	7
ECTS Credits	180 ECTS
Award Class	Ordinary Bachelor Degree Ab initio
Delivery Mode	Part Time, Online
Duration	3 years
Proposed Start Date	September 2023
Contact	Dr Michael Tobin

Programme Title	Higher Certificate in Science in Operations, Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Higher Certificate in Science in Operations, Quality and Lean Management (embedded award)
Code	AL_SOPER_C06
NFQ Level	6
ECTS Credits	120 ECTS
Award Class	Higher Certificate
Delivery Mode	Part Time, Online
Duration	Two years
Proposed Start Date	September 2023
Contact	Dr Michael Tobin

Programme Title	Certificate in Operations Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Certificate in Operations Quality and Lean Management (embedded award)
Code	AL_EOPER_E06
NFQ Level	6
ECTS Credits	60 ECTS
Award Class	Certificate
Delivery Mode	Part time, Online
Duration	1 year
Proposed Start Date	September 2023
Contact	Dr Michael Tobin

2.4 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Danny Brennan	Former Registrar, Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Mary Fenton	Head of Department of Education, SETU, Waterford
Cathal Kearney	Registrar, Dorset College & Education Consultant
Niamh Doherty	Director, Lean: Europe, Africa and Asia Steris
John Costello	Regional Skills Manager

Secretary to Panel: Dr Patrick Donohue, Former Assistant Registrar, TUS Midwest

2.5 TUS Staff

Name	Role
Dr Michael Tobin	Dean of Faculty of Continuing, Professional, Online & Distance Learning
Seadna Ryan	Head of Department of Lifelong Learning
Department Teaching Staff: Kevin Farrell, Alex Courtney, Colette Kelly, Declan Doran, Elaine Burke, Geraldine McDermott, Imelda Rea, Jim Gilchrist, Kevin Sweeney, Maura Flynn, Rory McLaughlin, Shona Stewart	

3.1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.2 Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the following programmes: Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management with the following exit awards: Bachelor of Science in Science in Quality and Lean Management, Higher Certificate in Science in Operations, Quality and Lean Management and Certificate in Operations Quality and Lean Management.

3.3 Conditions

No conditions apply.

3.4 Recommendations

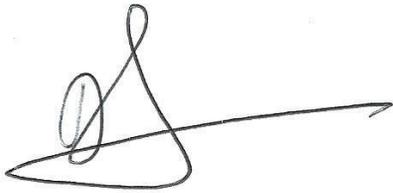
1. Modify the entry requirement for the Ab-initio BSc Honours programme on page 6 of the document.
2. Check the alignment of the learning outcomes, the use of appropriate verbs to ensure consistency with the programme level.
3. Make more explicit the development of soft skills in the programmes, the programme module learning outcomes and indicative content (e.g., Lean Management; Organisational Behaviour and Change Management).
4. Establish alternative learning paths for course (e.g., Warehouse Operators, Product Builders, etc).
5. Consider changing the module title Quality and Environmental Sustainable Governance to Environmental Sustainable Governance (ESG). Modify the aims

and objectives of the module to make reference to all management. Use the acronym ESG throughout the indicative content.

6. Change references of exit awards to embedded awards where appropriate.
7. Differentiate between pre-approved and new modules in the documentation.
8. Review the module content and alignment as outlined in the panel discussions as outlined in Section 4.0.
9. Consider ways to enhance the development of communities of practice of learners.
10. Proofread the documentation to ensure the programme titles are correct in all instances.
11. Review module texts and reading lists to ensure they are up to date.
12. Move statistical learning from Lean Management to Mathematics and Statistics modules.
13. Include treatment of incident management in the Risk Management module (e.g., Social Media).

3.3 Commendations and Observations

1. The panel commends the quality of the programme submission and documentation and noted its comprehensive and detailed nature.
2. The panel commends the positive and collegiate engagement of the programme team during the validation visit.
3. The panel commends the use of broad career pathways outlined in the course offerings.
4. The panel commends the programme team on their innovation in programme delivery assessment and links to e-working hubs.
5. The panel welcomes the provision of programmes in Lean and Quality that enable professional qualifications.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that starts with a large loop and ends with a long horizontal stroke.

Signature of Chairperson

Date: 13/07/202

