

## Differential Validation

(Major Programme Changes – Type A)

### Section A

### Report of the Review Panel

<b>Programme Reference Number:</b>	M063
<b>Faculty/School(s):</b>	Science
<b>Department(s):</b>	Health and Nutritional Sciences

#### Details of Programme(s) Reviewed

Title:	Award Type:	NFQ Level:	ECTS:	Duration	Delivery Mode:
SG_SHUMA_H08 Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Human Nutrition	Major	8	240	4 years	Full-time
SG_SHUMA_B07 Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition	Major	7	180	3 years	Full-time

<b>Date of Review:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024
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#### Review Panel

Panellist Role	Name	Role and Organisation
Chair	Dr Breda McTaggart	Head of School of Business, ATU
External Academic/Discipline Expert	Sean Gilbride	CEO of Digi Food NPD
Academic/Head of Department	Dr Marie Moran	Head of Department of Business, ATU
VPAAR Nominee/Academic Secretary	Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant Registrar, ATU

All external members of the panel have declared that they are independent of ATU (Atlantic Technological University), and all have declared that they have no conflict of interest.

#### Programme Board

The panel met the staff listed below during the review of the proposed modifications.

Chair of Proposing Programme Board	Dr Laura Keaver
Head of Department	Dr Thomas Smyth
Lecturer	Dr Owen Kenny
Lecturer	Dr Amy Mullee

## Summary of Proposed Modifications

- In stage 1, introduction of a kitchen-based culinary module into year one, semester 2 (FOOD06019) of the programme with Introduction to Nutrition (NUTR06017) moving from semester 2 to semester 1, which will replace the physics 1 module which is being removed.
- In stage 2, Removal of the microbiology module in year two semester one ( MCRO06001) and update the module descriptor for the agri and food microbiology module (MCRO06009) in semester two to remove the agri content (new MCRO06019).
- In stage 2, Essential skills module increased from 5 ECTS to 10 ECTS (NUTRO06029).
- In stage 3, Learning outcomes reduced in research methods module (NUTR07028).
- In stage 4, work placement module (NUTR08017) is reduced to 15 ECTS (new NUTR08037) from 20 ECTS and increase research project module( NUTR08011) from 10 to 15 credits (new NUTR08038).

## Rationale for Modifications

Proposed change: Introduction of a kitchen-based culinary module FOOD06019 into year one of the programme.

Rationale: Based on accreditation body (AfN) requirements for practical cooking skills, students continued request for more nutrition/food content in year one and feedback from lecturers of kitchen-based modules in later years there was a proposal to introduce a culinary nutrition practical based module into year one of the programme. The Introduction to nutrition module currently in semester two would work better prior to this module and therefore introduction to nutrition will move to semester one with culinary nutrition being added to semester two. Physics 1 (PHYS06007) is being removed from the programme as the content does not map to any of the required competencies for the external accreditations.

Proposed change In stage 2, Essential skills module NUTRO06029 increased from 5 credits to 10 credits.

Rationale: Essential skills module increased from 5 credits to 10 credits to reflect the volume of content to be delivered and to allow contact time for development of key skills required for years 3 and 4 of the programme.

Proposed change: In stage 2, removal of the microbiology module in year two semester one (MCRO06001) and update the module descriptor for the agri and food microbiology module (MCRO06009) in semester two to remove the agri content (new MCRO06019).

Rationale: Consistent student and external examiner feedback on the heavy workload and number of hours involved in year 2 semester one. It is proposed that the microbiology module is removed from semester one (4 hours) and the agricultural and food microbiology module in semester two is redesigned to include the basics and vital skills of micro alongside the practical application of this to food. This module was originally on the agrifood programme which has since been discontinued and some of the content is not relevant to the nutrition programme, by removing this content it makes space to include the fundamentals of microbiology.

Proposed change: In stage 3, Learning outcomes reduced from 5 to 3 in research methods module (NUTR07028)

Learning outcomes reduced as there was overlap with the research project module (NUTR08011). Module descriptor will also be updated to ensure that some key skills – critical literature review, development of a project proposal and completing an ethics application are all included as assessments.

Proposed change: In stage 4, work placement module (NUTR08017) is reduced to 15 ECTS (new NUTR08037) from 20 ECTS and increase research project module (NUTR08011) from 10 to 15 credits (new NUTR08038).

Rationale: The issue of workload associated with the research project which is currently undertaken Sept-December alongside four modules in semester one in the fourth year of the programme has consistently been raised by the students and external examiners. Currently, semester two contains a 16-week work placement and two online modules. The reduction of this to 15 credits (minimum of 12 weeks) to allow for an additional 5 credits to be allocated to the research project and for January and February to be dedicated to the completion of this after project planning, ethics approval and data collection have occurred in semester one.

## Findings

### Overall Finding

Approved without changes	
Approved subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	<b>X</b>
Rejected	

### Reason for Overall Finding

The validation panel welcome the changes proposed since the AfN accreditation of the original programme was almost 5 years ago. Normally such changes would be implemented as part of programmatic review, but this has been delayed due to the wider ATU integration.

The panel support the implementation of the proposed changes subject to the conditions and the recommendations below.

## Commendation

The panel wish to commend the programme team for the work they have undertaken and their willingness to interpret the AfN requirements, identify the required changes and revise the programme to meet these requirements ahead of programmatic review.

The panel commend the programme focus on developing strong communication skills and the range of communication assessments throughout the programme. They also commend the strength of collaborative assessment in the programme.

## Conditions

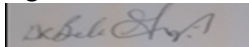
1. Ensure that the special regulations in regard to the modules that are non eligible for pass by compensation (as approved by academic council in Feb 2023) are set out in both the Level 7 and Level 8 programme.
2. Ensure that the Level 7 programme is listed as an exit award from the level 8 programme.

## Recommendations

1. Expand the content of the Indicative Syllabus in the following modules,
  - FOOD06019 Culinary Nutrition
  - NUTR06029 Essential Skills for Nutrition Science
  - NUTR07028 Research methods
  - NUTR08037 Industrial Placement / Professional Placement
2. Reduce the number of assessment components in the 5 ECTS module MCRO06019 Food Microbiology Micro, review the content to focus on the interpretation of results.
3. Complete the repeat assessment section and add in the full-time hours in NUTR08005 Global Perspectives in Nutrition, similar to the way they are set out in the module NUTR08014 Food Marketing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
4. Following the roll of the changes for an academic year, the programme team should formally review the change to the work placement to assess the impact of the changes on students or employer relationships
5. Explore the possibility of more alignment of the final year research project and work placement with individual employers and work placement providers to enhance the quality and real-world focus of the research projects.

## Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the evaluation panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.

<div>Signed: </div> <div>Name Dr Breda McTaggart Differential Validation Panel Chair</div>	<div></div> <div>Date: 16 September 2024</div>
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Note: The programme team should submit their response to the Quality office before the 17<sup>th</sup> October, with implemented changes in AMM where relevant, for review and submission to the next Academic Council Meeting for approval. The next Academic council meeting date is 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Approved modifications commence at the start of the academic year following approval.