

New Module External Validation Report

Section A

Details of Module Reviewed

Title:	Spaces, Places and Relationships for Learning, Wellbeing and Collaboration
Department:	Nursing, Social Sciences and Integrated Care
NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications) Level:	Level 6
ECTS:	5 ECTS
Duration:	One semester (13 weeks)
Proposed Start Date:	September 2023
Delivery Mode(s):	Blended

Date of Review:	01 June 2023
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Review Panel

The module was reviewed by the Academic Council Academic Programmes Committee. The Committee members in attendance are as follows:

- Anna Meehan (Chair)
- Breda McTaggart
- Seamus Dowling
- Seamus Lennon
- Muhammad Mahmood Ali
- Carmel Brennan
- Thomas Dowling

Programme Design Team

The panel met the staff listed below during the review process.

Justin Kerr	Joanne Doherty
Mary Skillington	Rita Melia
Louise Kilbane	

Introduction

In 2019 ATU Galway Mayo (formally GMT) signed an MOU with Niagara College in Canada, whereby students from Niagara College on completion of their 2-year Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care, could apply to ATU Mayo to enter year 3 to complete the BA(Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care. At this time, it was agreed the faculties would arrange mobility trips for students from Niagara College and ATU Mayo.

In 2022 a delegation of Academic Staff and students from Niagara College began the first of the mobility trips through the Be World Ready Funding in Canada. This weeklong study trip to ATU Mayo, allowed students to partake in activities on and off Campus. A return trip was organised by ATU Galway Mayo and February 2023 saw a delegation of Academic staff and students attend Niagara College as an educational and cultural experience supported through the Galway Mayo International Office.

During the February 2023 trip academic staff led by Dr Justin Kerr met with Dean Carol Philips and her team to discuss ongoing collaboration. Under the MOU between Institutes of Technology Ireland and Colleges of Ontario "IOTI and Colleges Ontario's will, subject to the laws, rules. Regulations and national policies from time to time in force, governing the subject matter in their respective countries and/or province, take the necessary steps to encourage and promote the co-operation in the following areas including faculty, student and administrative exchanges and distance education". (MOU, IoTI & Colleges Ontario, 2011). It was agreed ATU Galway Mayo would write a 5-credit module for students from Niagara college to take as an elective module from their programme. Niagara College chose 5 programmes which the elective module would be offered.

The module is Level 6 and will be blended delivery. Students will complete some of the module online in Niagara University, have one week of intensive learning onsite in Mayo and then complete the module online when they return to Niagara. The module is not Early Childhood Education and Care specific and so it is hoped that in the future, the module will be taught on different programmes in Mayo following the appropriate quality assurance process to amend programme schedules.

See Appendix for the module learning outcomes, entry requirements and assessment breakdown.

Rationale for Module

The aim of the module is to provide students with an understanding of the holistic benefits that physical activity, recreation, learning and play can have across a range of environments and spaces. Students will be introduced to various pedagogies and leadership theories that will enable learners to become educators and leaders in the promotion of suitable environments to ensure a person's health and well-being flourish. The module is both inter-cultural as well as generational in that it focuses on the shared spaces, nationally and internationally, between early childhood, adolescent, and adults as they come together to share and appreciate the role of meaningful 'relationships' in education and care.

Findings

Overall Finding

Validated without changes	
Validated subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	X
Rejected	

Conditions

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council that subject to satisfying any condition(s) detailed below, the panel is satisfied that the proposed module(s) is fit for purpose.

- None

Recommendations

The panel advises Academic Council that the Programme Development Team and/or the Department should take cognisance of any recommendations outlined below.

- Review the title, giving consideration to the removal of Social Sciences as it may limit understanding and opportunity for students.
- Clarify repeat mechanism for students.

Report Approval

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

Signed:  Name Academic Programmes Committee Chair	Date 19/06/23
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