

Validation Report



BN731

**Certificate in Energy Efficient Domestic
Retrofit Technology¹**

Level 6 25 ECTS credits

¹ Original title - Certificate in Sustainable Building and Retrofit Technology. See panel conditions.

Introduction

The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown was established in 1999. The mission of the Institute is to serve its students and the community by meeting the skills needs in the economy and increasing the level of participation in third-level education and training, particularly in Dublin North-West and its environs.

The Institute in 2006 was awarded delegated authority enabling the development, validation, implementation and continuous improvement of taught higher education and training programmes up to and including level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

In keeping with the Institute's mission statement, course and programme development is on-going. This programme supports the mission of the Institute and facilitates much wider access to the Institute by a cohort of potential students whose needs are currently not being met.

The purpose of this document is to report on the findings of the peer review panel established to validate this proposed programme against the criteria for the validation of programmes as stipulated in the Institute policy document 2MP01¹.

This submission by the School of Informatics and Engineering evolved through:

- examining the competence, expertise and experience of ITB staff in addition to the strategy of the department/school/Institute and Government educational policy.
- the current need for qualified construction craftspeople to up-skill and the significant legislative changes in the area of energy efficiency.

¹ 2MP01 Design, validation and accreditation of new academic programmes

Programme overview

The purpose of the proposed Certificate in Sustainable Building & Retrofit Technology is to equip successful graduates with the skills and knowledge to operate within organisations involved in sustainable building & retrofit technologies within the construction or manufacturing sectors. The need for engineers and technicians with relevant qualifications and experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy technology, sustainable construction and retrofit has been clearly identified through research and is being driven by legislative changes. Successful practice in these areas requires a combination of technological know-how, design skills, and a critical understanding of the industry context. This programme aims to provide this combination of skills and knowledge. The programme is designed to build on the learning from construction trade studies and provide access to new opportunities in a sector that has been significantly contracted by the current recession.

Programme detail

Programme title	Certificate in Sustainable Building and Retrofit Technology - Level 6 25 ECTS credits
Award title	Certificate in Sustainable Building and Retrofit Technology - Level 6 25 ECTS credits
NFQ level	6
ECTS¹ credits	25
Programme code	BN731
Banner code	BN_ESBRT_Q

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

Panel members

Chairperson

Mr. Tony Quinlan
Registrar (retired)
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

Panel member 1

(SEAI)

Mr. Joe Durkan
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Panel member 2

Mr. Kevin Kellett
Bord Gais Networks

Panel member 3

Mr. John Smartt
Dublin Institute of Technology

Panel member 4

Mr. Séamus Hoyne
Tipperary Institute

In attendance

Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan
IT Blanchardstown

Mr. Michael Keane
IT Blanchardstown

Date of Panel Meeting

Wednesday 2nd June 2010

Institute staff present

Session I Meeting with Head of Department, Programme Leaders and lecturing staff

Mr. Richard Gallery, Head of Department of Engineering

Mr. Liam Quirke, Head of Trades

Mr. Mark Keyes

Mr. Gerard Duke

Mr. David Peyton

Mr. John Kilcoyne

Mr. Jerry Bradley

Mr. Jonathan Cussen

Panel findings

In evaluating the appropriateness, quality and proposed operation of this programme the following criteria have been considered and are hereby reported upon:

Strategic planning

The panel was satisfied that the programme is in keeping with the Institute's mission, that it does not constitute redundant provision and that it makes efficient use of resources.

Evidence of consultation

From the submission document and through discussion with the programme design team the panel was informed of the depth of the consultation that took place. The panel was satisfied with this consultation.

Protection of learners

Section 43 of the Act^I does not apply.

Demand

The demand for this programme is driven by both the current need for qualified construction craftspeople to up-skill and the significant legislative changes in the area of energy efficiency.

Quality assurance

The panel was informed of how the proposed programme had been developed and approved internally whilst complying with the Institute's quality assurance policies and procedures. The panel concurred that said policies and procedures had been applied to the development of the proposed programme.

Programme titles and award titles

The panel recommended that the title of the proposed programme be amended to more accurately inform prospective learners and other stakeholders. See conditions of validation.

Ethics

The panel was satisfied that the Institute has internal policies and procedures in place to ensure that all teaching, learning or research activity across the spectrum of NFQ levels is conducted / delivered in a manner that is both morally and professionally ethical.

Unity

The panel found that the programme design is consistent with HETAC's^{II} policy on accumulation of credits and certification of subjects, that it has an underlying unifying theme with modules bonded by linkages being either implicit or explicit. It was also clear to the panel how the standards of knowledge, skill and competence evolve throughout the programme as a whole.

Teaching and learning

^I Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999

^{II} Higher Education and Training Awards Council

The panel discussed with staff of the Institute the various modes of interaction with learners. Evidence of a clear dialogue was confirmed, enabling learners to develop and have available to them the support of academic staff.

Course management arrangements were discussed and deemed adequate.

Learner assessment

Through discussion with the design team, and from the submission document itself it was explained in detail to the panel the multiple modes of assessment, both formal and informal that will be employed on the programme. The panel deemed these to be adequate.

Standards of knowledge, skill and competence

The panel felt having reviewed the syllabi and assessment methods for the programme that learners would be capable of attaining the standards of knowledge, skill or competence relevant for this award.

Access, transfer and progression

The programme incorporates the established procedures for access, transfer and progression allowing students to choose from various entry and exit points that support clear transfer and progression routes within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

Panel observations

The panel congratulated the programme design team on what they found to be a very impressive, highly innovative initiative responding to the dramatic decline in the construction and manufacturing sectors whilst incorporating the current market shift towards sustainable building and retrofit technology within the domestic and small building sector.

Decision of the panel

The panel recommends the validation of the proposed programme namely:

Banner code	ITB code	Programme title	Award title	NFQ level and ECTS credits	Format
BN_EEDRT_Q ^o	BN731	Certificate in Energy Efficient Domestic Retrofit Technology - Level 6 25 ECTS credits ^o	Certificate in Energy Efficient Domestic Retrofit Technology - Level 6 25 ECTS credits ^o	Level 6 25 credits	Special purpose

Panel conditions

This validation is subject to the following conditions:

1. The programme title as proposed be changed to more accurately reflect the energy efficiency and domestic retrofit perspective of the programme and to better inform prospective learners of the focus of the award.
2. Additional elective modules be identified and made available as bridging modules to satisfy any pre-requisites not initially met by applicants holding the various trade qualifications.

^o Programme title as proposed is subject to consideration and recommendation by the programme development team

Panel recommendations

1. Review and expand the content of the module “Sustainable Building Retrofit” to include issues such as thermo conductivity and further align the learning outcomes to those of a NFQ level 7 programme.
2. Consider including a module on “Heating and Control Technology” to replace the module “Energy Management” thus strengthening both the synergy of the modules and the focus of the programme towards energy efficiency and domestic retrofit technology.
3. Make other minor and technical amendments as discussed at panel meeting.

Panel signatures

Chairperson

Mr. Tony Quinlan _____ Date _____

Secretary

Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan _____ Date _____