

Validation Report



BN732

**CERTIFICATE IN ENERGY EFFICIENT HEATING
SYSTEMS^I**

Level 6 20 ECTS credits^{II}

^I Original title - Certificate in Energy Efficient Installation Technologies. See panel conditions.

^{II} Original ECTS credits proposed 17. See panel recommendation 3.

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 Institute's commitment to providing progression and upskilling opportunities to a cohort of potential students whose needs are currently not being met.

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

Programme overview

The purpose of the proposed programme is to equip students with the skills and knowledge to operate in an increasingly regulated energy installation industry. The need for engineers and technicians with relevant qualifications and experience in energy efficiency, sustainable energy technology, sustainable construction and retrofit has been clearly identified through research and is being driven by legislative changes. Increased regulation requires specific qualifications to enable individuals and companies to operate in Gas, Oil and renewable energy installation. 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 and in doing so to put its graduates in an ideal position to operate as technicians at the heart of organisations engaged in providing energy efficient building services and renewable energy solutions to both new build and the retrofitting of existing dwellings. The programme is designed to build on the learning from Plumbing and Electrical trade studies and provide opportunities in a construction sector that has been significantly contracted by the current recession.

Programme detail

Programme title	Certificate in Energy Efficient Installation Technologies - Level 6 17 ECTS credits
Award title	Certificate in Energy Efficient Installation Technologies - Level 6 17 ECTS credits
NFQ level	6
ECTS¹ credits	17
Programme code	BN732
Banner code	BN_EEEIT_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.

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.

^I Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999

^{II} Higher Education and Training Awards Council

Teaching and learning

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 energy management and cost reductions.

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_EEEHS_Q ^o	BN732	Certificate in Energy Efficient Heating Systems - Level 6 20 ECTS credits ^o	Certificate in Energy Efficient Heating Systems - Level 6 20 ECTS credits ^o	Level 6 20 credits	Special purpose

Panel conditions

This validation is subject to the following conditions:

1. The programme title as proposed be changed to “Certificate in Energy Efficient Heating Systems” in order to more accurately reflect the programme content and to better inform prospective learners of the focus of the award.
2. The entry requirements be re-written to clearly reflect any specific requirements pertaining to individual modules. Furthermore, additional elective modules should be identified and made available as bridging modules to satisfy any pre-requisites not initially met by applicants holding various trade qualifications.

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

Panel recommendations

1. Update the syllabus to reflect any changes between the current GID¹ programme and the new Gas Technology Programme Review, once published.
2. Review the proposed syllabus of the Heating Control Technology module to include heating system design and address system integration as the panel is of the opinion that any installation outside of new builds would have to integrate with existing systems .
3. Review the content of modules to bring the ECTS credits in line with Institute standards to allow integration and sharing of modules across both existing and new programmes.
4. Incorporate, where appropriate, the new codes of practice for heating and solar technology.
5. Consider expanding the module Solar Thermal Technology to include alternative technologies.
6. Make other minor and technical amendments as discussed at panel meeting.

Panel signatures

Chairperson

Mr. Tony Quinlan _____ Date _____

Secretary

Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan _____ Date _____

¹ Gas Installer Domestic training course