



Institute of Technology Sligo
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH
PROGRAMME VALIDATION REPORT

Date of Evaluation: 20th November 2020

Programmes Evaluated: MEng in Geotechnical Engineering /Structural Engineering Joint programme leading to-
MEng in Geotechnical Engineering with Structural Engineering – 90 ECTS Full time L9
MEng in Structural Engineering with Geotechnical Engineering – 90 ECTS Full time L9

Award title: Master of Engineering in Geotechnical Engineering with Structural Engineering
Master of Engineering in Structural Engineering with Geotechnical Engineering

Unique Programme Reference Number PRN: SG_EGEOT_M09 leading to separate award codes To be confirmed

Panel of Assessors:

Name & title	Job title & place of work	Role on panel
Dr Breda McTaggart	Head of Department of Social Sciences	Chairperson
Mr Niall McEvoy	Head of Innovation, Institute of Technology Sligo	Panel member
M Francis Fidgeon	Partner CST Group Chartered Consulting Engineers	Panel member
Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant registrar, IT Sligo	Recording Secretary

Declaration Regarding Any Conflicts of Interest: The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting groups

Institute Management: Trevor McSharry, Head of Department of Civil Engineering and Construction

Persons met by validation panel

Name & title	Role in Institute	Rationale for presence at validation.
Patrick Naughton	Lecturer	Programme Development Team
Tomas O’Flaherty	Lecturer	Programme team

Validation criteria	Sufficient evidence /Insufficient evidence
<p>Rationale for the programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region • Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates • Rationale for the programme e.g. School’s/Institute’s strengths/opportunities • Programme Aims and Objectives • Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes • Related existing programmes. 	Sufficient Evidence Provided.
<p>Commendation:</p> <p>1. The panel welcomed the flexibility that the programme team showed in responding to the request from the International Office to provide current on-line programme to international students on a full time basis. The programme is currently running to an on-line cohort and the programme being considered here is a full time version of the programme adapted to full time delivery.</p> <p>Condition: None</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>1. On page 4 of Vol One the Keys Skills section mentions ‘The ability to apply creative problem-solving approaches to Geotechnical and Structural Engineering applications in line with national and European standards’ In light of the international profile of potential students consider reviewing and broadening this statement.</p>	

<p>Programme structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery type (semesterised or stage-based) • Proposed mode of delivery full time • Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme) 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided. Intake planned for Sept 2021 if sufficient numbers register on the programme.</p>
<p>Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None</p>	
<p>Resources (over the full duration of the programme)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme • Location of the delivery • Specific s requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports • Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements • Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners) 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided.</p>
<p>Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None</p>	
<p>Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student admission requirements • Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ • Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning) • Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided. Access routes are clear and rational provided.</p>
<p>Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None</p>	
<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes • Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme • Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme • Student workload • Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects. 	
<p>Commendation: None Condition: Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Correct the formatting of the characters in the modules in AMM if possible e.g. Geotechnical Engineering II, Indicative syllabus point 5 / assessment strategy last paragraph and Literary resources. 	
<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used • The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination) • Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments. 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided. These modules are already approved as part of on-line programme. The modules have been adapted to include both delivery types.</p>
<p>Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In the teaching and learning strategy ensure that the statements address both full time and part time learners separately, or are adapted to more generic statements. See example in Geotechnical Engineering I. 	
<p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme • Technical and administrative support 	<p>Sufficient Evidence Provided.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff development • Industrial/commercial profile of staff • Research and publications 	
Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None	
Programme Administration and Quality Assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for managing programme • Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements • Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students • EU and international aspects if appropriate • Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions. 	Sufficient Evidence Provided. QA procedure in place provide the necessary structures.
Commendation: None Condition: None Recommendation: None	

Overall decision of the panel	
<p>The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the following full time programmes:</p> <p>MEng in Geotechnical Engineering with Structural Engineering MEng in Structural Engineering with Geotechnical Engineering</p>	

Chairperson: Dr Breda McTaggart

Date _____

Secretary: Dr Aodhmar Cadogan

Date: 27th Nov 2020

Approved Programme Schedule - SG_EGEOT_M09 Master of Engineering in Geotechnical / Structural Engineering Joint Programme

Stage 5

Delivery	Code	Module Title	Level	Credit	M/E	IL	FT	FO	CA	PF	EXAM	PROJ	PRAC	Total
SEM 9	ENG09029	Geotechnical Engineering I	09	05	M	12.00	3.00	0	60	0	40	0	0	100
SEM 9	ENG09035	Design of Building Structures	09	05	M	12.00	3.00	0	0	0	40	60	0	100
SEM 9	ENG09031	Soil - Structure Interaction	09	05	M	12.00	3.00	0	60	0	40	0	0	100
SEM 9	ENG09030	Geotechnical Engineering II	09	05	M	12.00	3.00	0	60	0	40	0	0	100
SEM 9	ENG09018	Design of Bridge Structures	09	05	M	12.00	3.00	0	0	0	40	60	0	100
SEM 9	RSCH09030	Research Methods	09	05	M	13.00	2.00	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
SEM 10	RSCH09039	MEng Research Thesis, Mode 3 Full-time	09	60	M	1500.00	0.00	0	40	0	0	60	0	100
Credit Total				90										

Semesters Per Stage	Elective Rules Per Stage	Credits Required	Award Percentage
2	0	0	0

Key

M/E - Mandatory/Elective, FT - Full Time, FO - Formative, CA - Continuous Assessment, PF - Pass/Fail, EXAM - Final Exam, PROJ - Project, PRAC - Practical,