



**Institute of Technology Sligo**  
**INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH**

**REPORT OF VALIDATION PANEL**

Date of Evaluation	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
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Programmes Title(s)	Higher Certificate in Water and Wastewater Operations Level 6 120 credits Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations Minor award Level 6 60 ECTS Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations Minor award Level 6 60 ECTS
Award Title(s):	Higher Certificate in Science in Water and Wastewater Operations Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations
Programme Code(s)	SG_SWATER_C06 SG_SWAST_E06 SG_SDRIN_E06
NFQ Level	6
ECTS credits	120, 60, 60 respectively

**Evaluation Panel Member:**

Name & title	Job title & place of work	Role on panel
Dr Breda McTaggart,	Chair of Planning and Coordination, Institute of Technology, Sligo	Chairperson
Janette Gillen	Innovation Centre Manager, Institute of Technology, Sligo	Panel Member
Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant Registrar, Institute of Technology Sligo.	Secretary
Conor McCarthy.	Director, Jennings O'Donovan	Technical report received from External Specialist,

**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 and Construction Engineering.**

**Programme development team. As below**

**Persons met by validation panel**

Name & title	Role in Institute	Rationale for presence at validation.
Trevor McSharry	Head of Department	Institute Management
Lisa Cronin	Lecturer, Department of Environmental Science	Programme Team
Salem Gharbia	Lecturer, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering	Programme Team
Mel Casserly	Lecturer, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering	Programme Team

Note: In the context of this report, a condition indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the validation panel must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new (or revised) programme. Conditions are mandatory for Approval of the Programme(s). A recommendation indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the panel should be given serious consideration by the programme development team for implementation.

**Background to proposed changes**

The changes to the programme involve the integration of two 5 credit modules into one 10 credit module in two stages of the programme.

Currently in Semester 3 of the programme, Introduction to Drinking Water Treatment (WATR06014) and Drinking Water Treatment (WATR06006) are currently taught on a sandwich basis, i.e with WATR06014 being completed over the first 6 weeks of term, followed by WATR06006 for the second part of the term.

Similarly in Semester 5 of the programme, Introduction to Wastewater Treatment (WATR06003) and Secondary Biological Wastewater Treatment (ENVR06079) are currently taught on a sandwich basis, i.e. with WATR06003 being completed over the first 6 weeks of term, followed by ENVR06079 for the second part of the term.

During the development of the programme, it was envisaged that some students would apply for an exemption for the Introduction to Drinking Water Treatment module, and the Introduction to Wastewater Treatment module, as they may have undertaken a similar programme offered by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) at level 5. To date, no student has applied for the exemption, and given the fact that most of the early participants on the programme have completed the LASNTG level 5, it seems unlikely that there will be demand for this exemption in the future.

Validation criteria	Sufficient evidence / Insufficient evidence
<p><b>Rationale for the programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region</li> <li>• Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates</li> <li>• Rationale for the programme e.g. School's/Institute's strengths/opportunities</li> <li>• Programme Aims and Objectives</li> <li>• Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes</li> <li>• Related existing programmes.</li> </ul>	Sufficient evidence provided
<p><b>Commendation: None</b>  <b>Condition: None</b>  <b>Recommendation: None</b></p>	
<p><b>Programme structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery type (semesterised or stage-based)</li> <li>• Proposed mode of delivery (i.e. in-class, on-line, blended, full time and/or part time)</li> <li>• Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme)</li> <li>• Role of placement</li> </ul>	Sufficient evidence provided for the changes. The panel are satisfied that there is sufficient justification for the merging of the four 5ECTS modules into two 10ECTS modules
<p><b>Commendation: None</b>  <b>Condition: None</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 1 :</b> Create a subversion of all three programmes (SG_SWATER_C06 SG_SDRIN_E06 and SG_SWAST_E06) incorporating the two/one/one new modules and removing the four/ two/two previous modules respectively. Note: This needs to be approved by the school before the changes can be implemented in banner prior to the opening of the registration window in August 2021.</p>	
<p><b>Resources (over the full duration of the programme)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme</li> <li>• Clarification of any staffing requirements</li> </ul>	Sufficient evidence provided. No change to resources as a result of the proposed changes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of the delivery</li> <li>• Specific s requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports</li> <li>• Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements</li> <li>• Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners)</li> </ul>	
<b>Commendation: None</b> <b>Condition: None</b> <b>Recommendation: None</b>	
<b>Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student admission requirements</li> <li>• Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ</li> <li>• Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning)</li> <li>• Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes</li> </ul>	Sufficient evidence provided.
<b>Commendation: None</b> <b>Condition: None</b> <b>Recommendation: None</b>	
<b>Curriculum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules</li> <li>• The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes</li> <li>• Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme</li> <li>• Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme</li> <li>• Student workload</li> <li>• Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Sufficient evidence provided</p> <p>New modules were reviewed along with the technical report from the external specialist.</p>
<b>Commendation: None</b> <b>Condition: None</b> <b>Recommendation 2</b> : Check and ensure the accuracy of the student contact hours in the two new modules WATR06016 and WATR6017.	
<b>Assessment</b>	Sufficient evidence provided.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used</li> <li>• The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination)</li> <li>• Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Commendation: None</b>  <b>Condition: None</b>  <b>Recommendation: None</b></p>	
<p><b>Staffing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme</li> <li>• Technical and administrative support</li> <li>• Staff development</li> <li>• Industrial/commercial profile of staff</li> <li>• Research and publications</li> </ul>	<p>Sufficient evidence provided. No change to the staffing requirements.</p>
<p><b>Commendation: None</b>  <b>Condition: None</b>  <b>Recommendation: None</b></p>	
<p><b>Programme Administration and Quality Assurance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure for managing programme</li> <li>• Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements</li> <li>• Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students</li> <li>• EU and international aspects if appropriate</li> <li>• Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Sufficient evidence provided.</p>
<p><b>Commendation: None</b>  <b>Condition: None</b>  <b>Recommendation: None</b></p>	

**Overall decision of the panel**

The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the changes to the following programme:

Higher Certificate in Science in Water and Wastewater Operations

Certificate in Wastewater Treatment operations

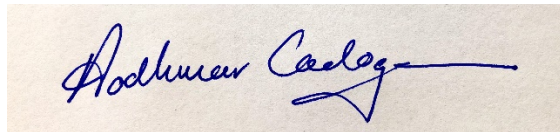
Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations

Chairperson:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Dr Aodhmar Cadogan



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Programme Schedule

Cannot be appended until new programme are build in AMM as per recommendation 1 above.