Part 1  Programme details

Proposed title  BEng Tech in Automotive Technology and Diagnostics

Nature and duration of programme  Modular, part-time, three years or more

DIT award  Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Automotive Technology and Diagnostics

Classifications of awards  BEng Tech: with classifications of Distinction; Merit Upper Division; Merit Lower Division; Pass

Parallel award sought from other award body  None

Professional/external accrediting body  Accreditation may be sought from Society of Automotive Engineers, Institute of Automotive Engineer Assessors and the Institute of the Motor Industry

Part 2  Programme background/structure

Background:
The programme has been designed to supersede the Department of Transport Engineering’s delivery of the Department of Education and Science’s Technological Certificate in Automobile Engineering. It is aimed at meeting the educational needs of the automotive sector by providing graduates with a degree level qualification, offering a core-disciplinary approach in which learners obtain a high level of technological and diagnostic skills specifically related to the automotive sector. The development of this programme which aims to provide upskilling for current and out-of-work craftpersons, also provides a response to the recommendation of the School Review Panel that reviewed the School of Mechanical and Transport Engineering in April 2009, namely that ‘the School should maintain the ladders for opportunity for its automotive students as well as its aeronautical students.’

Programme structure:
The Bachelor of Engineering Technology is a modular part-time programme which consists of three stages. It will be delivered largely through evening classes.

Entry Requirements:
Applicants ideally should have or be working towards achieving the FETAC Level 6 Higher Certificate (National Craft Certificate) in an automotive related trade. Applicants with no background in the automotive industry can still apply for entry into stage 1 of the programme. These applicants should have obtained 5 passes in the Irish Leaving Certificate, including Mathematics and English or Irish, or a qualificant that the Institute deems equivalent.

Advanced Entry
Applicants who already possess the FETAC Level 6 Higher Certificate (National Craft Certificate) in an automotive related trade are eligible to apply for entry into stage 2 of the programme.
Applicants who already possess the FETAC Level 6 Higher Certificate (National Craft Certificate) in an automotive related trade and a full Technological Certificate in Motor Car Engineering (all four examinations) are eligible to apply for entry into stage 3 of the programme.
Applicants can apply for exemption from specific modules on the basis of their prior academic qualifications and work-related experience. Applicants will be assessed on their merits by the Recognition of Prior Learning process.

**Student assessment**

In accordance with DIT’s General Assessment Regulations. In a small number of modules minimum thresholds of performance apply.

**Derogations from General Assessment Regulations**

None sought.

**Part 3  Validation details and membership of panel**

**Date of validation:** 1/2 December 2009

**Panel Membership**

**Internal Members**

Dr Chris Hills (Chair), School of Mathematics, DIT Kevin Street; Garrett Keenaghan, School of Construction, DIT Bolton Street; Anthony Shanahan, School of Electronic and Communications Engineering, DIT Kevin Street

**External Members**

Professor Mike Blundell, Department of Mechanical & Automotive Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Computing, Coventry University; Stephen McDonnell Technical Services Manager, Volkswagen Group Ireland Ltd

**Officer**

Jan Cairns, Quality Assurance Officer

**Part 4  Recommendations of Panel in relation to awards sought**

The Panel is pleased to recommend to Academic Council approval of the Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Automotive Technology and Diagnostics, at level 7 within the National Framework of Qualifications, subject to two conditions and with recommendations.

The Panel believes that this programme will make an important contribution to the automotive industry in Ireland. It has also been very impressed with the staff it has met and their expertise in and enthusiasm for their subject areas.

**Conditions**

- It should be identified within the programme document for each stage of the programme which modules are core, compulsory and intrinsic to the programme and which modules are optional/electives. In order to safeguard progression through the programme, module descriptors should refer to pre-requisite/co-requisite modules as necessary.
- There should be clarity and consistency throughout the documentation in terms of the stage at which modules are to be delivered, specifically in relation to the module descriptors and the various tables included within the document. It should be ensured that there is a module descriptor for every module named within the Programme Document. The tables should incorporate all modules, both core and elective, encompassed by the programme.

**Recommendations**

a) There should be explicit reference to the manner in which work-based learning may contribute towards any credit allocated and its assessment procedure for those students who are in employment, as well as the equivalent alternative for students who are not employed.

b) There should be explicit reference to the rate at which a part-time student might complete each stage of the programme.

c) The Programme Committee should investigate any requirements for any accreditation by appropriate professional bodies that is deemed desirable and should consider how such requirements may be met by the programme.

d) The requirements for entry to stage one of the programme should be specific and refer to Leaving Certificate requirements where appropriate. The Programme Document should also outline the process of assessment of suitability, particularly where candidates have no experience in the automotive industry. The entry requirements in relation to advanced entry should clarify that suitably qualified candidates are ‘eligible’ for advanced entry rather than ‘guaranteed’ advanced entry and that the words ‘or equivalent’ are added in relation to qualifications accepted.

e) The Programme Document should be consistent throughout in terms of the weightings between examinations and continuous assessment, and the module descriptors should
correlate with stated policy in relation to weightings. Reference to future intentions regarding continuous assessment should be removed. Similarly, there should be consistency in relation to references to minimum thresholds of performance throughout the documentation.

f) The Programme Document should point students to policies and regulations in relation to timeframes for the submission of coursework and penalties for the late submission of coursework.

g) The Programme Team should review the entire module suite and syllabus in order to ensure consistency in the format and level of detail provided, particularly in relation to module content and assessment.

h) The Panel has identified a number of topics that it would recommend the Team make explicit reference to within the module descriptors, including noise and vibration, water leaks, occupant safety, NCT testing, ‘clever repair’, ethics and techno-legal aspects.

i) The Programme Committee should review the programme aim and learning outcomes to ensure that they meet NQAI requirements in relation to level 7 awards.

Other observations

- The Panel would encourage the Programme Committee to facilitate students to achieve other qualifications during their programme, in order to add value to the students’ learning.
- The Panel supports the Programme Committee’s stated intention to seek validation of programme modules as CPDs.