



Griffith College

Coláiste Uí Gríofa

Graduate Business School

Master of Science in International Management and
Law

With embedded

Postgraduate Diploma in International Management and Law

Report of Expert Panel

November 2013

Part 1 General Information

1.1 Details of the Validation Event

Provider	Griffith College Dublin
Date of Evaluation	29 th October 2013
Programme Evaluated	Master of Science in International Management and Law Postgraduate Diploma in International Management and Law

Panel of Experts

Mr Eoin Langan	Head of Business School, Athlone Institute of Technology
Mr Gary Bernie*	Lecturer in Business, IT Blanchardstown
Ms Niamh Hearn	Lecturer in Business, GMIT
Ms Karen Murray	Lecturer in Law, National College of Ireland
Ms Caroline Murphy	Owner, Legalwise (niche legal services management consultancy) Qualified Solicitor, Ireland, England & Wales, Accredited Mediator, Accredited Lexcel Consultant
Mr Eamonn Nolan	Rapporteur, Griffith College

*Due to adverse weather conditions in Europe, Mr Gary Bernie was unable to get a flight in time and so was not available to attend the meetings in Griffith College.

1.2 Summary

The Expert Panel, having reviewed the documentation presented by Griffith College Dublin (GCD) and considered the responses of the programme team during the course of the evaluation meeting, is recommending approval to QQI of the proposed Master of Science in Management and Law subject to the conditions outlined in this report. The Panel has also made a number of recommendations which it suggests that the Programme Team should consider in relation to the programme.

The attached report addresses issues raised by the Panel in the context of the review.

Part 2 Report of the Expert Panel

2.1 Introduction

Griffith College (GC) is an independent provider of higher education and professional training. Its academic programmes are validated by QQI and Nottingham Trent University. It also provides a range of programmes leading to the examinations of professional bodies, including those in Accountancy and in Law. The College has campuses in Dublin, Limerick and Cork. Griffith College has been providing programmes in a number of faculties since the late 1990s and currently provides programmes from Level 6 to Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

2.2 Background to the Programme Submission

The Graduate Business School has brought forward the proposal for a Master's programme at level 9 on the NFQ. This proposal has been discussed within the School and approved for submission by the College's Academic and Professional Council (APC).

2.3 Examination of the Programme

Having received documentation prior to the panel visit to GC, the Panel met with the staff of GC involved in the design of the proposed programmes to examine the submission against the criteria for the validation of programmes as stipulated by QQI. The visit took place on Tuesday 29th October 2013.

A number of meetings took place during the visit. The first was with the Senior Management of the College, and the Graduate Business School, and then with the broader programme team. The following outlines those discussions, not chronologically, but under the headings from QQI's Core Validation Policy and Criteria, initially under the three broad headings as outlined in section 3.1 and then under the elaborated criteria as outlined in section 3.2.

2.3.1 Standards

The panel discussed the Learning Outcomes as set out in the programme document and are happy that these are appropriate and achievable for students on a level 9 Master of Science programme.

In relation to the content of the Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs), the panel feels that they should be reviewed to reflect the hybrid nature of the programme. The references to legal and solving complex legal problems should be replaced with references to international business problems.

2.3.2 Access Standard

Both from the documentation and the discussion with the programme team, the panel are satisfied that the entry requirements as detailed in the documentation are explicit and meet the criteria under this heading.

2.3.3 Learning

The panel were impressed by the team's approach to learning methodologies, and particularly the group work policy as set out in the programme document.

2.4 Elaborated Programme Validation Criteria

2.4.1 Development and publication of explicit intended learning outcomes

As stated above the panel discussed the programme and module learning outcomes with the proposers. The panel raised some concerns about the linkages between these and the specific detail both in the modules and as articulated by the programme team in meetings.

The prerequisite learning, as expressed in the entry requirements, of a level 8 degree, and the English language requirement for international students was addressed and the panel is satisfied that as set out it is appropriate.

2.4.2 Careful Attention to curriculum and programme design and content

2.4.2.1 The programme's content and learning environment must be appropriate to the programme's intended learning environment.

The panel engaged positively with the staff from the team and are satisfied that the staff are competent to deliver a programme at this level on the NFQ.

The Graduate Business School has a mainly part time teaching staff, and see this as an advantage in that it allows for greater input of practical real world experience. With many staff either engaged in research or professionally in industry, the balance between academia and professional experience was seen by the panel as very strong.

The link between this programme and the existing MSc programmes was discussed and the team explained that there are some modules shared. Resources, both human and physical, required to deliver the programme were discussed and the panel were assured that a combination of existing resources and the planned resources would be adequate for the delivery.

The question of running the programmes at other campuses was discussed. The faculty outlined that the current proposal is to run the programme at the Dublin campus only.

2.4.2.2 The programme should involve authentic learning opportunities to enable the achievement of the learning outcomes

The panel felt that the assessment strategies outlined in the documentation are both clear and appropriate.

There was a lot of discussion on the differentiation between the programmes and streams already existing and the common taught modules. The panel are satisfied that the team have the experience in teaching students from different streams and have processes in place to deal with any issues that might arise.

Also, the question of students from a legal and non-legal background being common taught on the programme was discussed. While the panel are satisfied with the responses and explanations from the team, we feel that an explicit strategy for the differentiation of the learning for students of the different streams with the core International Business and LLM modules should be developed.

2.4.2.3 The information about the programme as well as its procedures for access, transfer and progression should be consistent with national policies.

The programmes as presented do not indicate that the award leads to any such entitlement.

The panel are of the view that the ECTS credits are consistent and appropriate. The College QA policy on RPL will apply to students on this programme as it does to all students in the College.

2.4.2.4 The programme should meet genuine education and training needs

The faculty have just completed a programmatic review and engaged in industry and learner surveys. They explained that these programmes have been under discussion for some time and they were satisfied that there is a requirement for a programme of this type. The panel is satisfied that no issues in relation to this criteria needed to be raised.

2.4.2.5 The programme should be viable

The viability of the programmes was raised. The Faculty believe that this programme will be popular and viable.

The panel asked about the faculty growth and plans for the future. The development of specialised programmes and cross-faculty programmes has been part of the development. The question of a separate MSc, as against having a stream was discussed. The team stated that they wanted to validate the programme in its own right.

2.4.2.6 Programme Assessment strategy and module assessment strategies consistent with Assessment and Standards.

The panel discussed assessment with the team, with particular reference to the common taught modules. The panel feel that the team should consider developing an explicit strategy for the differentiation of the learning for students of the different streams with the core International Business modules and the LLM modules.

2.4.2.7 Arrangements for learner protection

The College management team informed the panel of bonding arrangements they have with other providers which cover learner protection for all students of the College.

2.4.2.8 Appropriate Quality Assurance arrangement

The programme will be run under the Quality Assurance arrangements that have been agreed with QQI and the panel are satisfied that these are comprehensive.

2.4 RECOMMENDATION / COMMENT

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

2.4.1 Major Award

The panel of experts recommend the validation of the following programmes:

NFQ Level	<i>Level 9</i>
Programme	<i>Master of Science in International Management and Law</i>
ECTS	<i>90 ECTS</i>

NFQ Level	<i>Level 9</i>
Programme	<i>Postgraduate Diploma in International Management and Law</i>
ECTS	<i>60 ECTS</i>

2.4.2 Conditions

The panel is recommending that QQI validate the proposed programmes subject to the following conditions.

1. The title of the programme is revised to Masters of Science in International Business and Law to align this programme to the existing programmes within the Graduate Business School.
2. Rewrite the programme learning outcomes to reflect the hybrid nature of the programme. It is recommended that the learning outcomes that make reference to equipping students with knowledge to be able to solve legal and other complex legal problems be replaced with reference to students being able to solve international business problems
3. Amend the rationale for the programme to remove the references to the Legal Services Regulation Bill 2011

2.4.3 Recommendations

The panel of experts also made the following recommendations:

1. Consider the inclusion of contract law and multi-jurisdiction within the International Trade Law module.
2. Consideration be given to the inclusion of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) into the International Commercial Arbitration module.
3. That the continuous assessment element of the International Commercial Arbitration module be amended to incorporate a mock arbitration.
4. Consideration be given to developing an explicit strategy for the differentiation of the learning for students of the different streams with the core IB and LLM modules.

Appendix 1

College Staff met during the evaluation meeting

Mr Tomás Mac Eochagáin, Director of Academic Programmes
Mr Eamonn Nolan, Head of Academic Programmes
Ms Ailish Finucane, Head of Academic Administration
Ms Fiona O Riordan, Head of Centre for Promoting Academic Excellence
Mr Rob McKenna, College Librarian

Professor Wallace Ewart, Head of Graduate Business School, Griffith College
Ms Siobhán Leonard, Head of Faculty of Law, Griffith College
Mr David Langwallner, Dean of Faculty of Law
Ms Áine MacManus, Programme Director, International Business
Ms Madeleine Ford, Programme Director, Accounting and Finance
Dr Claire O Connor, Programme Director, LLM
Mr Rex Coughlan, Lecturer
Ms Deborah Kirkland, Lecturer
Mr Justin Keogan, Lecturer
Mr Mark Campbell, Lecturer
Ms Karen Sutton, Lecturer
Dr Cian Carroll, Lecturer
Dr Claire Hogan, Lecturer
Ms Sana Khan, Lecturer
Mr Rory Flynn, Lecturer

Appendix 2: Proposed Programme Schedule

Name of Provider		Griffith College										
Award Title		Master of Science										
Programme Title		Master of Science in International Management and Law										
Stage Exit Award Title		N/A										
Modes of Delivery (FT/PT):		FT, PT, ACCS, Block, Online/Distance/Blended										
Award Class	Award NFQ level	Award EQF level	Stage		Stage NFQ Level	Stage EQF Level	Stage Credits		Date Effective	ISCED Subject Code		
Major	9	7	1		9	7	30		Feb. 2014	342		
Module Title		Semester	Module		ECTS Credits	Total Learner Effort Module (hours)			ALLOCATION OF MARKS			
			Status	NQF Level		Total Hours	Contact Hours	Hours Independent Work	C.A. %	Proj. %	Pract %	Exam %
Management Accounting and Control		1	M	9	5	100	36	64	50		50	
International Marketing Management		1	M	9	5	100	36	64	50		50	
Globalisation and Corporate Responsibility ⁽⁺⁺⁾		1,2	M	9	5	100	36	64	75		25	
International Trade Law		1	M	9	10	200	36	164	30		70	

⁽⁺⁺⁾ Taught across two semesters

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Stage Exit Award Title		Postgraduate Diploma in International Management and Law										
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Award Class	Award NFQ level	Award EQF level	Stage	Stage NFQ Level	Stage EQF Level	Stage Credits	Date Effective	ISCED Subject Code				
Major	9	7	2	9	7	30	Feb. 2014	342				
Module Title		Semester	Module		ECTS Credits	Total Learner Effort Module (hours)			ALLOCATION OF MARKS			
			Status	NQF Level		Total Hours	Contact Hours	Hours Independent Work	C.A. %	Proj. %	Pract %	Exam %
Strategic Human Resource Management		2	M	9	5	100	36	64	50			50
International Strategy		2	M	9	5	100	36	64	50			50
Business Research Methods ⁽⁺⁺⁾		1,2	M	9	5	100	36	64	100			
European Union Internal Market and Competition Law ⁽⁺⁾		2	E	9	10	200	36	164	30			70
International Financial Services Law ⁽⁺⁾		2	E	9	10	200	36	164		30		70
International Intellectual Property Law ⁽⁺⁾		2	E	9	10	200	36	164	30			70
International Tax Law ⁽⁺⁾		2	E	9	10	200	36	164		30		70
International Commercial Arbitration ⁽⁺⁾		2	E	9	10	200	36	164		50		50

Corporate Governance ⁽⁺⁾	2	E	9	10	200	36	164	50			50
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⁽⁺⁾Choose two electives

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Name of Provider		Griffith College										
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Major	9	7	3	9	7	30		Feb. 2014	342			
Module Title		Semester	Module		ECTS Credits	Total Learner Effort Module (hours)			ALLOCATION OF MARKS			
			Status	NQF Level		Total Hours	Contact Hours	Hours Independent Work	C.A. %	Proj. %	Pract %	Exam%
Research Dissertation		3	M	9	30	600	20	580		100		