



CINNTE REVIEW OF NUI: INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NOVEMBER 2023

Approval and Review of NUI's Institutional Implementation Plan

Policy Owner	Registrar, following approval by Senate		
Date Approved	09.11.2023	Approved by	NUI Senate
Next Review	Q1 2024	Review by	Registrar

Version Control			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
IIP 0.1	Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh	25.08.2023	First Draft, following receipt of CINNTE Review Report
IIP 0.2	Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh, Kieran McGovern, Patrick O'Leary	29.08.2023	Internal review by Quality Team
IIP 0.3	Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh, Kieran McGovern, Patrick O'Leary	02.11.2023	Approved by NUI Senior Management Team subject to minor changes
IIP 1.0	Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh, Kieran McGovern, Patrick O'Leary	09.11.2023	Approved by NUI Senate

INTRODUCTION

The CINNTE review report was shared with NUI in draft form for the purpose of factual accuracy checking in May 2023. The final version of the report was shared with NUI. Some of the requests for actual corrections were accepted by the Review Team, while others were not. NUI submitted the Institutional Response to the CINNTE Review Report was submitted to QQI in July 2023 and the report and institutional response were approved by the QQI Approvals and Reviews Committee on 26 September 2023. These will be published on the QQI and NUI websites once available (currently being prepared for publication by QQI).

The Institutional Implementation Plan (IIP) is to be submitted to QQI in December 2023. This draft document has been prepared by the NUI Quality Team (consisting of the Registrar, the Head of Academic Services and Registry and the Manager of Academic Affairs). It has been shared with all staff of NUI for feedback and presented to NUI Senior Management Team (SMT) for approval on 2 November 2023. Subject to approval by SMT, the IIP will be presented to Senate on 9 November 2023 for approval in advance of submission to QQI.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CINNTE REVIEW REPORT

1. The panel recommends that NUI put in place the appropriate means to ensure that it meets its responsibilities as an awarding body by assuring its oversight of those awards for which it is jointly responsible. [Refer to Section 3.1.5/CINNTE Objective (CO) 1]
2. The review panel recommends that NUI produces further synthesis reports of external examiner reports including analysis of developments over time of all members of the federation and formally shares these with members. [Ref: 3.2.1/CO2]
3. The panel recommends that NUI strongly considers the appointment of a student council, using the established pool of student leader resources, i.e., SU sabbatical officers and part time officers from RCSI. The panel also suggests that NUI uses its association with NStEP which already has established partnerships with UCC, University of Galway and MU. [Ref: 3.1.4/CO1]
4. The panel recommends the establishment by NUI of an official forum for the discussion of standards and quality assurance and enhancement in the federation accompanied by appropriate documentation and monitoring. [Ref: 3.1.2/CO1]
5. Given the NUI's unique oversight of the NUI matriculation process over their CUs and RCs, the panel recommends that the NUI consider collecting longitudinal data on the impact of NUI matriculation exemptions on the longer-term progression and academic success of students. This would contribute new evidence to inform national best practice regarding the impact of pre-requisite subjects on access and progression. [Ref: 3.3.2/CO3]

The top five recommendations (Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11) are in **bold** in the main table of recommendations and associated actions that follows. The reference number indicates the section of the CINNTE Review Report where the recommendation is located.

Abbreviations

AA: Academic Affairs

CO: CINNTE Objective

ES: Eddie Smyth

IT: Information Technology Unit

KMc: Kieran McGovern

NStEP: National Student Engagement Programme

POL: Patrick O'Leary

RO: Registrar's Office

SUC: Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh

CINNTE Objectives

CO1 Effectiveness and Implementation of QA Procedures

CO2 Enhancement of Quality

CO3 Procedures for Access, Transfer and Progression

CO4 Supports for International Learners

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RELATED ACTIONS

No	Recommendation	Ref	Action	Lead in NUI	Due
1	The review panel recommends that NUI explores ways in which the permanent participation of the CU Registrars in Senate meetings can be assured.	3.1	Registrar will make a proposal to Senate reflecting this recommendation during 2023-24 session [flesh out action with some details of proposal when agreed]	POL and RO	Q1 2024
2	The panel recommends the establishment by NUI of an official forum for the discussion of standards and quality assurance and enhancement in the federation accompanied by appropriate documentation and monitoring.	3.1.3	2.1 Registrar will bring a proposal to Senate in Nov 2023 regarding the establishment of a mechanism for quality assurance and enhancement. 2.2 Academic Affairs (AA) team will set up the approved mechanism and put in place appropriate documentation and monitoring system. These actions are also relevant to Recommendation 5.	SUC and KMc to develop proposal document, POL to sign off.	Q4 2023 Q1-2 2024
3	The panel recommends that NUI strongly considers the appointment of a student council, using the established pool of student leader resources, i.e., SU sabbatical officers and part time officers from RCSI. The panel also suggests that NUI uses its association with NStEP which already has established partnerships with UCC, University of Galway and MU.	3.1.4	3.1 Registrar to contact senior leaders in member institutions to inform them of the CINNTE recommendation and NUI's plans, seek assent. 3.2 NUI-UCD Intern to conduct some research and liaise with student reps and NStEP to establish draft Terms of Reference for an NUI Student Council (must also establish what local steps must be taken to 'feed' reps to council). 3.2 Launch NUI Student Council	POL SUC & KMc AA & RO	Q4 2023 Q4 2023 Q3-4 2024
4	The panel recommends that, in its follow-up process with IPA, NUI ensures that the recommendation	3.1.4	4.1 Add student voice as a standing item to Steering Committee meetings.	SUC	Q4 2023

	made by the IPA's institutional review panel about inclusion of the student voice is considered and encourages NUI to support the IPA in this regard.		4.2 Follow up on recommendations relating to Student Voice under SC standing item on QIP.	Quality Team	Ongoing
5	The panel recommends that NUI put in place the appropriate means to ensure that it meets its responsibilities as an awarding body by assuring its oversight of those awards for which it is jointly responsible.	3.1.5	See Actions 2.1 and 2.2 above		
6	The review panel recommends that NUI produces further synthesis reports of external examiner reports including analysis of developments over time of all members of the federation and formally shares these with members.	3.2.1	6.1 Add section to thematic analyses of EE reports on previous reports ('Key issues in previous reports' / 'Similarities and Differences') 6.2 Send thematic reports to Academic Council (or equivalent) in each member institution.	AA and RO AA (SUC)	Q1 2024 Q1 2024
7	The review panel recommends that NUI conducts more thematic analyses across the members of the federation where a deeper analysis is deemed useful.	3.2.4	7.1 Add a note to all thematic analysis reports that further analysis can be undertaken in specific areas as Senate directs. 7.2 Monitor trends/changes to identify areas where more specific comparison and analysis would be beneficial.	AA and RO AA (SUC)	Q1 2024 Ongoing
8	In the light of other recommendations made in this review, the panel recommends the inclusion of appropriate objectives [in Strategic Plan 2023-27] to give prominence and	3.2.4	8.1 Addendum to SP highlighting actions that connect to CINNTE IIP and noting additional actions.	AA/RO? Heads of all units	Q4 2023 Q4 2023

	visibility to recommendations made herein and to allow for the measurement of progress.		8.2 Include all CINNTE actions in the Strategic Plan monitoring mechanism (local operational plans, Strategic Plan Review etc).		
9	The panel recommends that NUI adopt an advisory and quality oversight role in any IPA review and reassessment of the direction, delivery, and quality of their educational scope, in line with the changing educational demands of learners within the Irish public service, including those learners' access, transfer and progression needs.	3.3.1	9.1 Discuss with IPA (during SC23-3). 9.2 Add ATP (Access, Transfer & Progression) to new programme approvals section of SC agenda.	Quality Team (POL, KMc & SUC) AA (SUC)	Q4 2023 Q4 2023
10	The review panel recommends that NUI explore whether more consistency in its matriculation regulations can be achieved within the basic cross-institutional matriculation requirements at national level. The panel considers that such a harmonisation will be valuable in simplifying and enhancing access opportunities for students.	3.3.2	10.1 Internal review of NUI Matric Regs (in keeping with agreements of sectoral working group), incorporating feedback from user surveys conducted for ISER. 10.2 Consult with stakeholders, e.g. Dyslexia Ireland, regarding changes. 10.3 Develop and launch online exemption application form, which streamlines application and makes it easier to navigate. (This is also a relevant action for Recommendation 12.) Note: these actions will have some impact on Recommendation 12 and related actions.	RO	Q3 2023 Q4 2023 Q4 2023
11	Given NUI's unique oversight of the NUI matriculation process over its CUs and RCs, the panel	3.3.2	11. 1 Discuss project with CAO.	POL	Q4 2023 (after CAO)

	recommends that NUI consider collecting longitudinal data on the impact of the NUI matriculation exemptions on the longer-term progression and academic success of students. This would contribute new evidence to inform national best practice regarding the impact of pre-requisite subjects on access and progression.		<p>11.2 Discuss project with member institutions.</p> <p>11.3 Check legal implications (GDPR and Data Protection)</p> <p>11.4 Explore feasible mechanisms for data collection.</p> <p>11.5 Implement agreed mechanism.</p>	<p>RO</p> <p>RO</p> <p>RO</p> <p>RO</p>	<p>offers conclude)</p> <p>Q1 2024</p> <p>Q1 2024</p> <p>Q1 2024</p> <p>Q4 2024</p>
12	Until more fundamental enhancements can be delivered, the panel recommends, as a matter of priority, that the NUI website should be developed to include the simplest and clearest explanation possible of the NUI matriculation process, with links to relevant individual matriculation pages on the websites of the different constituent universities.	3.3.2	<p>12.1 Review and revise the matric pages on www.nui.ie to simplify language (plain English principles), unify terminology in use on homepage and include clear links to admissions pages of all member institutions.</p> <p>12.2 Revise Matriculation Regs (for publication in 2025-26), reflecting stakeholder feedback and CINNTE recommendation.</p> <p>Action 10.3 (online exemption application form) is related to this recommendation.</p>	<p>RO and IT (ES)</p> <p>RO (with input from Publications)</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p> <p>Q2 2024</p>
13	The panel recommends that, as with access, transfer and progression (section 3.3.1), NUI's oversight of and responsibility for any possible future review and revision of the IPA's education offerings should be extended to encompass their work with all learners, including those coming from, or recently arrived from outside Ireland. Such learners should	3.4.1	<p>[As noted in the Institutional Response, there are aspects and functions of the IPA that do not come properly within the scope of the NUI-IPA relationship. The NUI Registrar is a member of the IPA Board and the triannual NUI-IPA Steering Committee meetings provide ongoing oversight of IPA developments.]</p> <p>13.1 Add international learners as standing item to Steering Committee agenda.</p>	<p>AA (SUC)</p>	<p>Q4 2023</p>

	come under the Code of Practice for the Provision of Programmes to International Learners.				
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