

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/21/21)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

11 March 2021

Agenda Item 5.4.9

COVER SHEET

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Unit 16B2a: Computing

Presenter: Professor M Keenan

To consider a proposal for a one-year extension to the period of approval for MSc Internet of Things.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

REQUEST TO EXTEND APPROVAL AND POSTPONE REVALIDATION

Form CA6b)

SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST

FACULTY: Computing Engineering and the Built Environment

SCHOOL: School of Computing

REVALIDATION UNIT NUMBER AND NAME: 16B2 IOT (2022-23 listing)

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: 2022/23

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED: One year, 2023/24
(eg one year to include the September 2018 intake)

COURSE(S): 16B2a Internet of Things (2022-23 listing)
(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

REASON FOR REQUEST:

Postgraduate computing programmes within the School are currently listed on the revalidation schedule under one unit 16B2a; however, this unit is listed under the 2022-23 year as containing Internet of Things and in the 2023-24 schedule as IOT/AI (pg). This request seeks to consolidate the schedule and for unit 16B2a Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence (pg) to be considered within the 2023-24 academic year. This alignment will draw together the suite of Masters provision within the School into one unit allowing for effective consideration of all programmes reflecting the sharing of modules within the suite. The proposal therefore consolidates provision within the postgraduate space bringing together provision with clear synergies for consideration at the same juncture.

CURRENCY AND VALIDITY:

(Please confirm that the curriculum remains current and valid and provide evidence of this (eg extract from most recent external examiner reports and those of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory body)

The MSc Internet of Things provision remains current as evidenced through the most recent 2018-19 External Examiners report:

"In general the program as a whole is well structured and balanced." For example:

"COM744: this is a very impressive module. The CW2 (Blogs and lab work) of most students show a vast amount of structured knowledge, toolsets and practical skills learnt through the module. Could not design this module any better as evident by the assessments."

"COM745: this is another fine and tightly focused module teaching basics of databases including Relational and MySQL passing by Graph Databases (to introduce high dimensional data) before teaching Hadoop and exposing the students to an exercise with very large datasets that needs to be

imported into a Hadoop system they must configure appropriately and run and visualize analysis results. Great module, cannot be taught in any different structure, needs to stay very focused."

"COM835: matches standard offering of this module in many other university and so it certainly passes scrutiny."

"COM834: great syllabus."

The External Examiner, Professor Sumi Helal, unexpectedly resigned in July 2020, and a report for the 2019/20 academic year has not, as yet, been received. Regarding materials for the October 2020 Board of Examiners Professor Helal noted:

"He had looked at the papers, the comments [were] all in order, the grades are fair, he was impressed with the execution and he was happy with everything."

STANDARDS AND QUALITY:

(Please confirm that quality is high and there are no concerns. Provide evidence of this through external examiner reports and annual monitoring datasets and reports)

There are no concerns in relation to standards and quality, as evidence please see extract below from the most recent (2018-19) External Examiners report:

"I am an external examiner to another institution with a Masters in IoT program and in comparison, it is my opinion that the program at Ulster is comparable and in fact more meritorious. There are not many such program to compare compatibility but in comparing at module level of similar modules in other institutes, the program is certainly on par and compatible with best practices."

"The lectures (content) and the assignments are well aligned and the assignments cover the full range of theory and practice (in addition to leaving room for creativity). This all are indicators of a compliance to the best practices in program effectiveness with regards to student learning."

PSRB (if applicable):


(Please confirm that any deferral will be accommodated by the PSRB and that accreditation will be ongoing for the full duration of the deferral)

N/A

DEMAND: Demand is increasing in this area, including in relation to interest from the international market and the programme composition allows for efficiencies in delivery with the sharing of modules across postgraduate programmes.

FACULTY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER'S ASSESSMENT (for partner institutions only):

FACULTY CONFIRMATION:

SIGNED: _____  _____ DATE: ___1.03.2021_____

Associate Dean (Education)

The completed form should be returned to the Academic Office, Room J410, Tower Building, Coleraine.

SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:

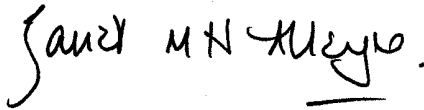
The Faculty's request is seeking an extension of approval of one year for one course (MSc Internet of Things (IOT)) within unit 16B2a to that its revalidation year is aligned with that of the remainder of the unit ie. IOT is currently due revalidation in 2022/23 and the rest of the unit in 2023/24). The MSc Internet of Things started in September 2018 and I had only one external examiner report available (should be two). The external examiner was very supportive of the course and confirmed that quality and standards were satisfactory.



SIGNED: _____
Academic Policy and Standards Manager

DATE: 2.3.21

SECTION C: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ASSESSMENT (reflecting annual monitoring data)



4 March 2021

SIGNED: _____
Head of Quality Enhancement

DATE: _____

**SECTION D: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
(delegated authority from Senate)**

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

Late requests (in-year and no imminent Committee meeting) (actioned by Chair on behalf of ASQEC)

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

SIGNED: _____
Chair ASQEC

DATE: _____

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office
July 2019