

Quality Promotion Office Annual Report 2015

Overview

This document reports on quality assurance and enhancement activities across many areas in DCU, including those of the Quality Promotion Office (QPO), Faculties, Committees and several Support Offices.

DCU Quality Promotion Office (QPO) / Quality Promotion Committee (QPC):

Continuation of the Quality Improvement and Development (QuID) funding programme whereby all staff can submit proposals for projects outside of the quality review process to improve and enhance quality in their area for staff and/or students. Across the university, 19 projects to the value of €50,000 received QuID funding approval in 2015.

Other Activities Led by the Quality Promotion Office

- Presentations made by Dr Sarah Ingle, David Molloy and Aisling McKenna the QQI Enhancement Seminar at Farmleigh, Phoenix Park, Dublin
- Participation by Sarah Ingle in the Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.
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Quality Review Documentation:

The following quality review documentation was published on the DCU website:

- Finance Office (February, 2015)
- Communications and Marketing (June 2015)
- School of Physical Sciences (June 2015)
- Research and Innovation Office (September 2015)

DCU internal Quality Reviews completed in 2015:

Area	Date of Review Visit	Type
Research & Innovation	18 – 20 February 2015	Support/ Service Unit
Estates	15 – 17 April 2015	Support/ Service Unit
Library	3-5 December 2015	Support/ Service Unit
School of Biotechnology	2nd – 4th December 2015	Academic Unit

DCU internal Quality Review schedule confirmed for 2016:

Area	Date of Review Visit	Type
Engineering and Computing	20-22 nd April, 2016	Academic Unit
School of Chemical Sciences	December 2016	Academic Unit

Professional Accreditation of Academic Programmes during 2015:

Accreditation body	Faculty	Academic Programme(s)	Details
AACSB	DCU Business School	All UG and PG Taught Programmes	Visit by International Panel in November 2015
CIMA- Chartered Institute of Management Consultants	DCU Business School	MSc Management (Business) MSc in Management (Strategy)	Exemptions for specific CIMA modules to graduates
CIPD- Chartered Institute of Professional Development	DCU Business School	MSc in Human Resource Management MSc in Human Resource Strategy MSc in Work Organisational Behaviour/Psychology	Programmes reaccredited (for 5 years)
Engineers Ireland	Engineering and Computing	BEng Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering BEng Biomedical Engineering	Accreditation for 2015-2020
Institute of Physics	Science and Health	Undergraduate Programmes	
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI)	Science and Health	Undergraduate Programmes	

Internal APR and PPR Reviews conducted in 2014/15

APR/PPR	School	Academic Programme(s)
Annual Programme Review	All	All UG and PG Taught Programmes
Periodic Programme Review	DCU Business School	MSc in Human Resource Management MSc in Work and Organisational Psychology MSc in Work and Organisational Behaviour MSc in Human Resource Strategies
Periodic Programme Review	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	BEng Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering BEng Biomedical Engineering
Periodic Programme Review	Computing	BSc in Computer Applications
Periodic Programme Review	Law and Government	BA in International Relations BCL (Law and Society) BA in Economics, Politics and Law
Periodic Programme Review	Physical Sciences	BSc in Applied Physics BSc in Physics and Astronomy BSc in Physics with Biomedical Sciences UG Cert in Fundamentals of Plasma and Vacuum Studies
Periodic Programme Review	Open Education	BSc in Information Technology BSc in Management of Information Technology and Information Systems
Periodic Programme Review	Health and Human Performance	

Regulatory Initiatives

- Publication by the HEA of the National Framework for Doctoral Education, to facilitate consistent and enhanced excellence in the quality of doctoral education and training including Masters Research programmes
- Outcome of the HEA performance-based Compact Cycle 2 completed, in which DCU was categorised as a category 1 institution, thereby securing release of all performance-based funding in 2016.

Other Quality Related Initiatives

- Ongoing monitoring and review of student performance at module and programme level by Education Committee.
- Continued analysis of factors contributing to academic non-progression at DCU, including prior educational attainment, socio-economic factors.
- The DCU student response rate in the Irish Student Survey of Engagement was 26%, the highest of any Irish university in 2015.
- Provision of academic discipline reports based on the student feedback outputs from the Irish Student Survey of Engagement provided to Programme Chairs to support the student feedback elements of Annual and Periodic Programme Review.
- Ongoing encouragement of participation with the SSOT process and development of further procedures for the non-SSOT related elements of QuEST
- Development of procedures in relation to Quality Assurance of Graduate Training Elements by the Graduate Research Studies Board
- Implementation of the first phase of Predicted research project, which focuses on the development of a data analytics approach to supporting student retention. The system predicts outcomes for students based on their engagement with the university's virtual learning environment
- Approval of Protocols for decisions to enter into a Collaborative Provision. These protocols are now embedded in a module within Guru to facilitate approval of agreements, and are included in the DCU Signing Authority Policy.

Aisling McKenna, Director of Quality Promotion and Institutional Research, Dublin City University, April 2016.