



TUS

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre, An tIarthar Láir
Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest

**Faculty of Science and Health
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Biotechnology**

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel 3rd February 2026

for the

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice

Proposing Faculty/School	Faculty of Science and Health
Department	Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Biotechnology
Award and Programme Titles (NFQ Level) and (ECTS Credits)	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice Level 08 Required Credits: 60 Delivery Mode: Full Time Start Term: 202600 Award Class: Honours Degree Addon Award Type: Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Type & Date of Panel	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Panel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External Panel Date of Panel: 03/02/2026
Panel Membership	Dr Aodhmar Cadogan (Chairperson to Panel) Assistant Registrar, Atlantic Technological University Sligo Dr James Barlow Senior Lecturer Department of Chemistry Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland Dr Aoife Guiry Lecturer Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Galway Ms Muriel Pate Chief II Pharmacist Health Service Executive Kilian McGreal Pharmacist (Industry Representative) Emer Sheehan Former Learner Representative Dr Sarah O'Toole (Secretary to Panel) Regional Tertiary Education Manager TUS Midwest campus Amanda Ryan Quality Officer

	TUS Midlands campus
Management & Programme Team	<p>Dean of Faculty of Science and Health Dr Don Faller Head of Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Biotechnology Dr Carmel Kealey</p> <p>Dr Brian Murphy Senior Lecturer</p> <p>Programme Team: Dr Gary Stack, Dr Eileen Lane, Diane Patterson, Fiona Breslin, Claire Stack.</p>
Programme Rationale	<p>The Irish pharmacy sector is undergoing a period of immense change. Pharmacists' roles are evolving to encompass an ever-increasing number of clinical domains including vaccinations, the treatment of minor ailments and prescribing. This has resulted in enormous potential for the expansion of the professional role of the pharmacy technician to take on roles that would traditionally have been completed by the pharmacist. For this role, enhanced, further continuous professional development of the pharmacy technician is required. Pharmacy technician graduates of the future will require advanced training programmes which incorporate the requisite professional and transversal skills and advanced knowledge of their profession.</p> <p>Building on enhanced clinical and technical skills acquired in the level 7 BSc Pharmacy Technician (Add-on) programme at TUS, the proposed Level 8 BSc (Hons) in Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice (Add-on) programme aims to develop core competencies in the key areas of leadership, innovation, sustainability and digital health to ensure that graduates are well-placed to tackle the challenges of modern healthcare into the future. In parallel, the programme facilitates pharmacy technician graduates to pursue postgraduate studies at Masters or PhD levels in cognate areas across the pharmacy and healthcare domains.</p> <p>This aligns with the International Pharmaceutical Federation's advice in the Global Situation Report on Pharmacy 2025 that 'pharmacy technician education providers should introduce tiered training so that pharmacy technicians can contribute more effectively to the pharmacy team skill mix'. The development of this</p>

programme ensures that TUS pharmacy technician graduates can access an educational offering equivalent to the highest levels of training available to students within the EU. This programme also aligns principally with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as evidenced by the programme aims, rationale and demand for the programme. Teaching and Learning Strategy for the BSc (Honours) in Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice has been significantly informed by the TUS Strategy: Putting Learning First: TUS Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2022 – 2025. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) best practice learning, teaching and assessment strategies will be adopted through this programme. Simultaneously, the programme is designed to develop the whole person and prepare students to contribute, be creative and adapt to the diverse communities and societies where they will live, work and learn.

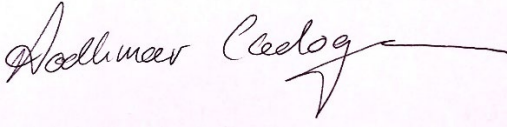
On completion of this programme, graduates will be equipped to take on enhanced responsibilities, support quality improvement and service development, and act as agents of change to further advance the role of the pharmacy technician. Graduates will be ready to practice as part of sustainable, technology-enabled, and patient-centred pharmacy services and to act as innovators, leaders, and change agents in the evolving Irish healthcare landscape.

With a level 8 qualification and relevant experience, graduates can target higher-level roles that blend technology, strategy, management and environmental impact in the public and private healthcare sector. Graduates would be eligible to apply for advanced roles such as Digital Health Project Manager or Quality and Patient Safety Advisor within the HSE. They can pursue careers in procurement, including roles such as Supply Chain Coordinator with Pharmasource or within buying groups like Axiom. It also provides graduates with the opportunity to advance into graduate entry programmes in Ireland e.g. pharmacy, physiotherapy and medicine, and provides a pathway to higher-level professional roles.

Across five in-depth interviews with stakeholders representing hospital, industry, and community pharmacy contexts, there was broad support for the introduction of a Level 8 qualification for pharmacy technicians in Ireland. Participants agreed that the

	<p>qualification could advance professionalisation, enhance workforce capability, and improve the quality and consistency of pharmacy services.</p> <p>The proposed level 8 qualification is supported as a strategic step toward professionalising the pharmacy technician workforce in Ireland.</p>
<p>Validation Meeting Agenda/Summary</p>	<p><u>Private Meeting of Panel</u> <u>Meeting with Management Team</u> General Overview and Strategic Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale for the Programme • Demand for Graduates/ Employability • Staffing, Facilities and Resources • Access/Transfer and Progression routes <p>A Presentation will be delivered to the Panel</p> <p><u>Meeting with Programme team</u> Programme Level Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Stakeholder Engagement • Access, Transfer & Progression • Programme Structure • Programme Learning Outcomes • Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy • Review of Programme Schedules <p>Curriculum & Module Descriptors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Learning Outcomes • Indicative Syllabus Content • Assessment/Repeat Assess Strategy • Module Resources <p><u>Private Meeting of Panel</u> <u>Meeting with Senior Management</u> Presentation of Summary Findings</p>
<p>Main Findings</p>	

<p>Commendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The panel would like to commend the programme team on the development of the programme for the sector overall approach to provide a level 8 opportunity in this discipline. 2. The panel would like to commend the team for the development of the innovative modules and the focus on digital pharmacy / practice management and sustainability aspects that are an increasing feature of the pharmacy operations. 3. The panel would like to thank the management and programme team for their engagement with the panel.
<p>Conditions (Note: Only applicable to External Validation Panels)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the documentation for any blended or online delivery modes and remove.
<p>Recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the overall teaching and learning strategy documentation to ensure the student's learning commitment in time / days is accurately reflected. 2. Rephrase the reference to "an extensive experimental programme" on page 13 of the programme document under the Teaching and Learning Methodologies section. 3. Review the documentation to ensure that reference to Robotics is explicitly mentioned in a module e.g. Digital Pharmacy. 4. Review and reflect on the module assessment strategies across all modules to identify some specific individual and groupwork elements in line with UDL principles. 5. Review the terminology and reference to sustainability within the relevant context within the Sustainability in Pharmacy module. 6. Consider incorporating aspects of psychology of management and the management of people in

	<p>other modules in addition to the Pharmacy Management and Leadership module.</p> <p>7. Consider the differences in approach for the coursework with students currently employed compared to full time students in the Health Care Innovation and Quality Improvement and the Sustainability in Pharmacy modules.</p>
Chairperson Signature	
Date	_10___/02___/2026___