

Mater Dei Institute (MDI)

Strategic Dialogue Cycle 2 Reflections on Performance

Prerequisites

A cycle 2 self-evaluation report has been received from Mater Dei Institute.

All sections have been completed, reporting progress against the 2014 targets as set out in the published compact.

Overview

- Mater Dei is currently engaged in initiatives planned as part of the collaboration and incorporation into the 'new DCU'. Since Mater Dei is a college of Dublin City University, all the objectives will be contributed as part of DCU to the 3U cluster and the Dublin Leinster pillar II Cluster.
- Mater Dei state one commitment in relation to Access to maintain their commitment to widening access to education but only give a base target of 12% and this is in relation to mature learners.
- While excellent progress appears to have been made against outlined objectives in teaching and learning, further clarification is required in respect of some objectives.
- The Institute reports that it is behind target on the development of METIS as a shared platform due to external factors of which the HEA is aware.
- The target for engagement is reported as completed in full.
- The only objective outlined in the compact for internationalisation was the integration of the MDI International Office within the DCU structure.
- In line with the compact, MDI now offers DCU programmes.

Self-evaluation report - domain level review

1. Regional clusters:

Mater Dei is currently engaged in initiatives planned as part of the collaboration and incorporation into the 'new DCU'

Since Mater Dei is a college of Dublin City University, all the objectives will be contributed as part of DCU to the 3U cluster and the Dublin Leinster pillar II Cluster.

2. Participation, equal access and lifelong learning:

Mater Dei state one commitment in relation to Access to maintain their commitment to widening access to education but only give a base target of 12% and this is in relation to mature learners. All interim targets have been met concerning HEAR (FETAC) and DARE learners but matures have dropped to 7.2%.

It should be noted that "in the context of incorporation into DCU 9% of all entering first year students" will come from the target groups. It would be helpful to clarify how this relates to the DCU target.

Overall the MDIE access targets look unambitious and can probably be met by using basic HEAR/FE and mature student CAO quotas. As such there is little evidence of active outreach and targeting of access students.

3. Excellent teaching and learning and quality of student experience:

Institution Objective: 1

Target is met and inter institutional working groups have formulated an integration programme. Previously, there were 11 distinct programmes and 3 jointly with SPD and DCU. It would be of benefit to establish the current level of integration.

Institution Objective: 2

Target is met, an audit of MDI academic regulations and procedures identified the areas of variance which was completed at progress against 2014 target. It would be useful to know what these variances were and how many arose.

Institution Objective: 3

Target is met regarding identification of areas of variance between academic calendars (of MDI and DCU) and completion of phase I alignment of semester dates.

While progress appears to have been made against outlined objectives in teaching and learning, further clarification is required in respect of some objectives as set out above.

4. High quality, internationally competitive research and innovation:

All objectives in published compact match self-evaluation report and the self-evaluation report is completed in full and colour coded.

Institution Objective: Development of METIS as a shared platform for initial Teacher Education Providers

The Institute had a target of 2 users (within the MDI/DCU/SPD group). The Institute reports that it is behind target due to external factors of which the HEA is aware.

Note extract from interim dialogue minutes:

- Initial feedback on the system from the Teaching Council is very positive and SPD/MDI feel that the overall discussion on the systems future/funding needs to be advanced.
- They are open to adjudication by an independent arbiter, including the HEA/Teaching Council, of the value the system which is way ahead of any other system at present.
- The tendering for the national rollout of the system is approximately one year behind schedule. The colleges are very open to talking with others regarding inclusion on this project but stress the need for only one system in the sector to be hosted in the Institute of Education in DCU.
- They believe that due to its huge potential as a Teaching & Learning/Research tool it is also a commercially viable system.

PhD level and MA are not predicted to change between now and 2016. No profile is provided for 2016/17.

5. Enhanced engagement with enterprise and the community and embedded knowledge exchange:

Institution objective: Development of a placement school module within METIS.

The target is reported as completed in full, however challenges remain as outlined above under research and innovation.

6. Enhanced internationalisation:

As this is an institution in the process of major change - the only objective outlined in the compact was the integration of the MDI International Office within the DCU structure. There are some significant pre-integration student targets underlying all this though; do these remain appropriate and do MDI have sufficient capacity?

7. Institutional consolidation:

In line with the compact, MDI now offers DCU programmes.