



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



GMIT

GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INSTITIÚIC TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMH-E-MÁIGH EO

Memorandum of Agreement

between

National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway)

and

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)

1. Preamble

1.1 NUI Galway and GMIT hereby enter into a collaborative agreement to service the educational, social and economic needs of their students and the wider regional/national community while recognising the differentiation of mission and ethos of both institutions. Both institutions are key drivers of regional development and both exert a significant influence on the wider development of a national and innovative knowledge-based economy. Increasingly, higher education institutions, are finding new ways of pooling expertise, knowledge and resources as a means of releasing new energy and vision in the national interest. This agreement has been drawn up in that spirit. To give effect to this agreement collaborative opportunities will be sought in teaching and learning, entrepreneurship, regional development, commercialisation, innovation, distance education, work based learning, research collaboration and any other areas of common interest jointly agreed by the institutions.

1.2 This memorandum of agreement is not an exclusive agreement between NUI Galway and GMIT. It therefore does not inhibit either institution from forming collaborative partnerships with other parties where such partnerships do not conflict with the terms of this agreement. This memorandum of agreement will form the basis of an implementation plan overseen by a committee appointed by the Presidents of each institution.

2. Taught Programmes and Research

2.1 Taught Programmes

NUI Galway and GMIT recognise that the primary focus of NUI Galway programmes are at levels 8, 9 and 10 on the National Qualifications

Framework, while the primary focus of GMIT programmes is at levels 6, 7, and 8. Both institutions will continue to offer level 9 taught programmes. Collaborative arrangements regarding the introduction of new programmes and other developments, including flexible learning, flexible delivery, placements, internships, staff development and adjunct faculty will be facilitated where feasible. It is agreed that discussions will take place between both institutions on the rationalisation of existing programmes and the development of new programmes and the need to provide for staff members in either institution contributing to level 9 programmes in the other with due regard for workload considerations.

2.2 Research Programmes

Under this agreement postgraduate research progression will be a particular priority, recognising NUI Galway as the lead institution in the research domain and the established research experience of GMIT in areas of Aquatic Science and Mechanical Engineering. Wherever possible, the staff and students in both institutions will have access to the totality of research facilities with due regard to the capacity and the management of these facilities. Both institutions will work together to develop a collaborative strategy for research which will enhance the capabilities and expertise of both institutions. Both will seek to develop and award joint/dual research degrees at Masters and Doctoral levels in relevant and related research areas. It is envisaged that as the collaborative experience deepens and develops over time, joint/dual awards in these areas will become the norm. It is anticipated that a lead-in period of approximately two years will be required to facilitate this development. Joint awards are comprehended as awards involving a single parchment issued on behalf of both institutions, while dual awards are comprehended as awards involving parchments issued by both institutions. Arrangements will be put in place to encourage and provide opportunities for the joint supervision of research students in accordance with best standards in modern academic practice.

3. Teaching and Learning

GMIT and NUIG will devise a joint Teaching, Learning and Assessment strategy to provide programmes that focus on the needs of students, the workplace and the world of professional practice in the region, nationally and internationally. This will involve:

- a detailed consideration at the appropriate level in both institutions of the scope for programme connectivity and progression between levels 8 and 9 having regard where appropriate to minor programme modifications.
- A detailed consideration at the appropriate level in both institutions of the scope for programme connectivity to enable students transfer across level 8 programmes and to progress to the next programme level in both institutions where appropriate.
- the development of joint and dual awards appropriate to the context of the mission and ethos of each institution.

- the development of a framework for the provision of level 9 taught programmes that recognises the academic strengths of each institution.
- a review of the regional lifelong programmes of both institutions with a view to establishing a single, rebranded programme for the needs of the region that employs flexible delivery.
- an examination in consultation with other providers of the feasibility of establishing a joint mathematics teaching and pedagogy project to assist schools in the region in implementing the national 'Project Maths' programme and in supporting the teaching of mathematics in both institutions.
- an assessment of the feasibility of pooling resources to establish joint staff development and pedagogic research functions.
- a review of respective institutional work placement/internship/community engagement programmes with a view to establishing joint approaches to future programmes. This review will be sensitive to existing relationships with other institutions involved in adult and continuing education.
- The creation where feasible of adjunct positions for each institution's teaching staff.

4. Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer

Both institutions are committed to cutting edge research which supports the achievement of the knowledge and innovation economy and society. A key pillar of the joint approach to research development will be a strong cultivation of linkages with the world of industry on technology transfer and commercialisation. In developing and implementing a joint vision for research and development, both institutions will seek added value where appropriate through integration with existing alliances among regional/national organisations and bodies. In this regard, both institutions will work closely with the University of Limerick, LIONRA and other parties. In developing a joint Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer strategy, the following collaborative possibilities and actions will receive particular attention:

Research

- Alliance of GMedTech with the National centre for Biomedical Engineering and Science (NCBES) to pool research capability
- GMIT alliance with the Ryan Institute on Marine and Freshwater research
- GMIT alliance with the Ryan Institute on energy and environment research
- Exploring potential for research in education and pedagogy
- Participation of research staff and students in Graduate Schools
- Creation where feasible of adjunct positions for each institution's research staff.

Development

- Further exploration of collaborative enterprise development models for the region especially in the context of European policy.

Innovation

- Mapping the different strengths of NUIG and GMIT in business support, incubation, graduate entrepreneurship and enterprise platforms.
- Formation of a strategic alliance network comprising GMIT, NUIG, other entities and development of a one-stop-shop with single branding for enterprise formulation.

Technology Transfer

- Evaluation and exploitation of GMIT's potential Intellectual Property, through expertise available in NUIG's Technology Transfer Office and the joint creation of a market for existing IP in the region
- Development of an intellectual property trade/exchange service for the region.

Resource Sharing

- Facilitation of access to each institutions' libraries for research students and staff
- Encouragement where feasible, of laboratory and equipment sharing between institutions.

5. Shared Facilities and Services

5.1 Under this agreement a joint task group will be established to advise on the development of collaborative models in respect of student and staff clubs and societies in both institutions.

5.2 Bi-lateral collaboration at Head of Function and/or Director level will be encouraged in sharing best practice, knowledge, skills and technological expertise. Where practicable and having regard to in-house demands on resources in either institution, the cross-provision of services will be explored. Examples will include:

- Pedagogical Practice and Emerging learning Technologies
- Library and Bibliographic Services
- Academic Administration (Registry)
- Financial Management
- Information Systems and ICT Standards and Practices
- Human Resource Management
- Careers
- Access

- National and International Marketing in a Galway Branding Context
- Sports and leisure
- Gaeilge.

6. Internationalisation and Partnerships

The international higher education market poses particular challenges in respect of quality assurance for higher education institutions in Ireland.

- The parties will examine the potential of joint marketing and admissions for international students.
- Joint preparatory programmes for international students will be examined.
- A common quality assurance policy on joint/dual awards with international higher education partners will be jointly developed.
- Business models for international marketing that best meet the joint needs of the institutions will be evaluated.

7. Community Engagement in the Region

7.1 The engagement and support of communities across the region will be critical to the mission of both institutions and the future development of the region.

- GMIT and NUI Galway will become active participants in the planning and execution of the Galway 2040 initiative. (See section 8.2 below).
- Each party will advise the other on the development of community projects and actively seek ways to bring joint resources to bear in sustaining the benefits of those projects.
- The parties will explore international best practice experiences of community engagement, including civic and service learning models that might prove transferable to the region.
- The parties will promote and foster collaboration between their respective Students' Union organisations. A particular emphasis will be placed on fostering joint volunteering programmes as a means of promoting inter-institutional engagement with Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's) in the community
- The parties will develop and promote a common programme for the region's further education sector in terms of learner access and support.

7.2 *Fís gan Teorainn – Vision for Galway 2040*

Both institutions commit to support the emerging vision for Galway 2040. In the first instance, this will involve engaging with the Galway 2040 Steering Team in developing strategic ideas for the development and

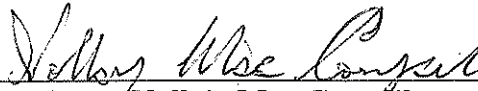
renewal of Galway city and county over the next thirty years. Other practical supports from both institutions will be:

- participation in a small executive Team for Galway 2040
- preparation of short trigger papers on ideas for programme innovation and training across multiple domains
- engagement with local community and business leaders on social and economic development opportunities
- engagement with local and national media on major initiatives as they emerge
- contributions to the development of action plans for key projects in the region
- provision of dedicated support to Galway 2040 from the graduate business schools of NUI Galway and GMIT.

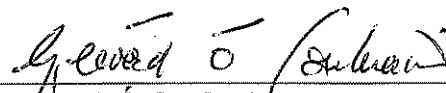
8. Irish Language and Culture

Given the importance of the Irish language and culture to the region and the key role of Government policy in catering for the social, cultural, economic and educational needs of the Gaeltacht community, NUI Galway and GMIT will collaborate where feasible in supporting and developing existing Irish medium programmes, implementing responsibilities in relation to Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla and sharing professional and material resources in catering for student and adult education needs. In propagating and promoting this strategy for the region, both institutions will work closely with Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and a wide spectrum of relevant Irish language regional and national organisations.

Signed on behalf of **National University of Ireland, Galway**


 Signature
Professor Nollaig Mac Congáil
Registrar and Deputy-President

Date: 5/5/11

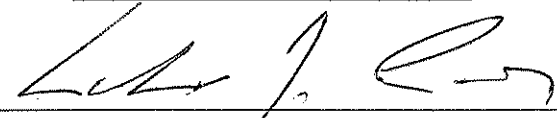
 Signature
Gearóid Ó Conluain
Rúnaí

Date: 5/5/11

Signed on behalf of **Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology**

 Signature
Rory O'Connor
Chairman
Governing Body

Date: 5/5/2011

 Signature
Michael Carmody
President

Date: 5/5/11

