

Opinion of employer/stakeholder on validation

Thank you for agreeing to provide an opinion on the programme referred to below. With this form you should have received a copy of relevant information such as the degree specifications and/or some or all of the modules of study and assessments.

The TEC Partnership places considerable value on the input of peers and stakeholders in assuring the quality and in maintaining the accuracy, currency and validity of our programmes. Your opinion set out on this form will be considered carefully in the review of the programme.

Please be aware that this document will form part of the Official Record of the TEC Partnership and could be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Personal Information

1	Name and Email	
2	Position	IT Technician
3	Institution	Independent Contractor

Information about the programme (to be completed by the TEC Partnership)

4	Title of Programme	Digital & Technology Solutions
5	Mode (FT, PT or both)	FT
6	School	Grimsby Institute
7	Awarding Body	

In relation to each question below, please make any recommendations for changes which you think should be made to the programme (each box will expand as required)

8	Curriculum: Please indicate the extent to which the design and content of the modules (that form the design of the programme) reflect what employers are looking for? Is the programme relevant and current?
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Module Title – Professional and research Skills**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Making learners aware of technical documentation is a good focus as this is generally the main documentation source used for resolving issues and producing business cases to customers. The use of search engines and how to correctly phrase search requests and use search tools would also be a relevant skill used daily in IT.

Module Title - Systems Analysis & Design Methodologies**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Depending on business / role in the IT industry depends on how formally system design methodologies are used. Looking at how these methodologies can be used informally (not written but thought process based on) within a given task would be beneficial.

Module Title – Computer Network Fundamentals**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Even though the theory of the OSI 7 layer model is useful to understanding deep technical issues, this knowledge is not regularly required for day to day troubleshooting / installation. Ensuring a focus on the correct use and capabilities of hardware such as switches / routers / Firewalls / Access Points does not seem to be included but is the basis of most network design / construction. Ensuring the learners are aware of common providers of enterprise equipment and the benefit of these products over home products may also be useful.

Module Title - Business Information Systems Fundamentals**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Looking at and including a focus on off the shelf business systems for Customer Information, finance and stock will ensure the learner is aware of different providers / products regularly used for different information purposes.

Module Title – Web Development**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Even though good web design and implementation to technical standards is very important, businesses regularly ask how they can ensure their websites are at the top of search engine lists so business websites get more traffic converting into sales. Learners could be made aware of how major platforms rank websites in searches and how higher ranking can be achieved through a cost / no cost basis.

Module Title – Database System Fundamentals**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Database Technologies to be used for implantation of the learner's database are not identified so unable to say whether they are industry relevant or not. Microsoft SQL Management Server would be a relevant and industry used technology.

Module Title – Agile Project Management**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Due to IT projects encompassing many different technical areas in many project planning situations learners should be aware of how using relevant technical people to help identify task time frames and technical issues will help keep projects on time overall.

Module Title - Database Application Development**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

The module covers all key aspects of basic database planning, creation and testing. It includes skills relevant to databases built for business use. The technology used for the back end database storage / management is not specified but the other tools / techniques indicate it will be a business level technology such as Microsoft SQL Server Manager or equivalent from other suppliers.

Module Title – Computer Security – Network & Systems

Module Design / Content Relevance –

The module covers a vast array of relevant subject areas and skills. There is no specification of the types of VPN used; within industry SSL and L2TP/IPsec are well used VPN technologies which could be included. As the learning / assessment can be done using virtual technologies I would recommend learners have access to Cisco / WatchGuard / Ubiquiti technologies as these are some of the industry leaders in network infrastructure and security and regularly found in businesses.

Module Title - Network Management & Operations

Module Design / Content Relevance –

Note – G-Rationale – ‘rate’ not ‘reate’

O- Rationale, SA2 – ‘supporting’ not ‘supportijg’

Network maintenance and updating (LO4) is a key component to keeping networks secure and robust. More focus on this area such as how / why this is used and demonstration of tasks such as firmware updates on devices and saving device configuration / images would demonstrate commonly completed tasks in industry. Dependant on the provider of technologies used (example for WatchGuard products) making learners aware of and using WatchGuard System Manager to manage multiple firewalls rather than using the web-based configuration tool for each independent firewall would demonstrate larger scale device control / management used within industry.

Module Title – Major Project Development

Module Design / Content Relevance –

Project investigation, planning, development and testing is done regularly within industry and this unit shows the learners ability to pull all of these skills as well as technical development together in a coherent way which can deliver an end product.

9	Assessments: Please indicate the extent to which you think the assessments methods are appropriate. For example, do the assessments relate to the workplace? Do they develop the knowledge and skills of the student to best prepare them for the world of work?
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Module Title – Professional and research Skills

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

Ensuring reference to relevant product technical information will mimic that required when researching solutions for implementation within business cases to customers. The use of Online Meetings to deliver project proposals is becoming more wide spread due to a change in business practices since COVID-19 and could be used as a delivery method for ‘group project video presentation’.

Module Title - Systems Analysis & Design Methodologies

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

In LO4. A database will be designed and built. Non enterprise technologies such as Access would probably be more suitable for a unit not focused around databases for speed of understanding / delivery and still give a good foundation in products more likely to be found in business IT such as Microsoft SQL Management Server.

Module Title – Computer Network Fundamentals

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

Learners could also be asked to resolve a pre-determined network fault within SA2 as fault finding is a regular task.

Module Title - Business Information Systems Fundamentals

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

In SA1 and SA2 learners should also consider cost of custom and off the shelf information systems and how this would inform on choice.

Module Title – Web Development

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

SA2 covers a good range of relevant technologies. As discussed in the module overview the testing should also reflect use on different devices.

Module Title – Database System Fundamentals

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

SA2 does not identify if this development would be for a small or medium size business with single or multiple concurrent user access which would define the type of database technology to be used for production of the database.

Module Title – Agile Project Management

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

In the workplace evaluation of a project, either formal or verbally is done by other members of the staff / team. SA2 could include peer assessment of another learners case study.

Module Title - Database Application Development

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

SA1 and SA2 include required base knowledge and demonstration of skill sets required for database creation and implementation. SA2 could also include backup / restore of the completed database to demonstrate this skill set which is required in disaster recovery within business.

Module Title – Computer Security – Network & Systems

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

Inclusion of network resilience to give multiple data paths within the network design would be advantageous.

Module Title - Network Management & Operations

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

The assessment will demonstrate the ability to present technical information to stake holders in a non-technical language they can understand.

Module Title – Major Project Development

Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -

The assessment and supporting documentation will enable the learner to demonstrate that they're product is well planned and that the demonstrated product meets the stake holders' requirements. As part of SA2 and within industry, I would also expect to see details of code / network device configurations etc to enable proper documentation of the actual implementation and not just design; this would then be kept for reference / further development of the project.

10	<p>Work Based Learning: Please indicate the extent to which any work based or placement elements are achievable, fit for purpose or suitably structured and organised?</p>
<p>Module Title – Professional and research Skills Module Work Based Learning Achievement - The skills of technical research using search engines to identify ways to resolve technical problems and how to display this to explain to a customer why a product, technology or change of product use are best practice could be developed in a workplace.</p> <p>Module Title - Systems Analysis & Design Methodologies Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Being able to model current IT processes and suggest ways to improve those processes through following a suitable methodology would allow learners to develop skills.</p> <p>Module Title – Computer Network Fundamentals Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Identifying, documenting and resolving network issues will help to mimic everyday issues resolved by network technicians.</p> <p>Module Title - Business Information Systems Fundamentals Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Analysing, identifying and recommending Information Systems of some form or another is a regular task within IT.</p> <p>Module Title – Web Development Module Work Based Learning Achievement - The creation of good quality websites which successfully work over multiple devices will mimic the desirable outcome for any business website.</p> <p>Module Title – Database System Fundamentals Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Dependant on the technology used will depend whether the end product would be suitable for medium sized multiple concurrent user access or not.</p> <p>Module Title – Agile Project Management Module Work Based Learning Achievement - The use of peer assessment of project planning if included would mimic industry practices.</p> <p>Module Title - Database Application Development Module Work Based Learning Achievement - The inclusion of backup and restore of other peers databases would demonstrate the ability to work within unfamiliar databases.</p> <p>Module Title – Computer Security – Network & Systems Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Including the correct requirement for and use of tools such as ping, trace route, netstat and nslookup would mimic those used regularly in network troubleshooting in industry.</p> <p>Module Title - Network Management & Operations Module Work Based Learning Achievement - Communicating projects in a non-technical manner is key to enabling key stake holders to understand why / how a project should be implemented.</p>	

Module Title – Major Project Development

Module Work Based Learning Achievement -

Within the workplace employees will be required to take charge of projects individually or as part of a team so demonstrating the ability to deal with all areas of a project shows relevant workplace skill sets.

11	Would you or a colleague be willing to support the programme by acting as a guest speaker, providing work placements, contributing to the design of case studies or work-based projects for assessment?
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No

12	Please feel free to make any other comments you feel appropriate in relation to the quality, the content of the learning opportunities or resources.
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The course covers a good breadth of subject areas which will enable learners to have some understanding of many important IT fundamentals before picking a specific subject area to focus / work in.

The inclusion of an overall project also enables the learner to demonstrate the full breadth of skills learnt within this course and have valuable interaction with a stakeholder to produce a product which meets real world requirements.

Signature

(if you are submitting electronically, inserting your name is acceptable in lieu of a signature)

Signature	
Date	29/05/2020

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