

### **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	Software Development
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	<b>Curriculum:</b> 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 – Introduction to Programming & Frameworks****Module Design / Content Relevance –**

The module includes a good ground work in knowledge and skills from planning through to coding and testing. It's not specified what language within Visual studio will be taught or is to be used by learners (VB, C# or F#).

**Module Title – Database Design & Implementation****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 – IT Infrastructure & Maintenance****Module Design / Content Relevance –**

Being able to understand overarching issues with an IT system and how these issues can be resolved and also inform business policy is critical in many larger organisations who need to be / proven to be compliant to industry standards.

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

Even though good web design and implantation 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 – Business Systems & Process Automation****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 – Project Management Fundamentals****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 – Security & Intrusion Prevention****Module Design / Content Relevance –**

The module covers a wide range of logical, software and policy-based considerations regarding System security but doesn't mention social media information awareness or physical security which forms the foundation of a good security consideration.

**Module Title – Application Development**

**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

The module includes relevant skill sets in OO knowledge which are extremely relevant when looking at moving into industry. skills from planning through to coding and testing are very valuable and regularly re-iterated in the software industry. A variety of programming languages are identified but a focus on one or two truly OO languages may be beneficial (C#,F# etc).

**Module Title – Robotic Process Automation**

**Module Design / Content Relevance –**

The use of Raspberry Pi's is a good way of exposing students to unique technologies which can be bent to be used to understand / control all manner of inputs / outputs respectively. Exposing learners to methods of programming such as PLC whilst more a diagramming than written language would give them an understanding of the structure of different types of languages which are used for many automated factory lines and a skill which many employers look for.

**Module Title – Major Development Project**

**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.

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**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?

**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 – Introduction to Programming & Frameworks**

**Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -**

SA1 encompasses a full program development from design and coding to testing. Different components would generally be split into smaller chunks within the workplace and worked on within teams or different departments.

**Module Title – Database Design & Implementation**

**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 – IT Infrastructure & Maintenance**

**Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -**

Even though looking at low level technical details is important, to be able to have a higher level understanding of an IT system and work with others to provide the detail / costings etc. Enables learners to be able to assess and deliver recommendations on larger scale projects.

**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 – Business Systems & Process Automation**

**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 and how / if different vendor products can be used together for automation of business processes across different settings.

**Module Title – Project Management Fundamentals**

**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 learner’s case study.

**Module Title – Security & Intrusion Prevention**

**Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -**

The focus of assessment seems to be less focused on web development than would be expected in due to the nature of the course. Learners could be asked to focus more on web server, database or application security issues.

**Module Title – Application Development**

**Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -**

A specified set of minimum required design / testing documentation to be submitted by the learner would help the learner identify the core documentation expected in software development in industry.

**Module Title – Robotic Process Automation**

**Module Assessment Relevance to the Workplace -**

SA2 could be extended to include the ability for certain programmed factors to be customised during operation such as run speed, or include safety systems such as an all stop to mimic features regularly found in automated lines and robotics.

**Module Title – Major Development Project**

**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 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	<b>Work Based Learning:</b> Please indicate the extent to which any work based or placement elements are achievable, fit for purpose or suitably structured and organised?
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**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.

**Module Title – Introduction to Programming & Frameworks**

**Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

As this module aims to help learners understand and develop basic skills it is difficult to say where these elements of coding are achievable in the workplace as they are underpinning skills which develop to workplace skills later on. That said, design and testing are regularly performed in industry.

**Module Title – Database Design & Implementation****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

The inclusion of backup / restore of other peers databases would demonstrate the ability to work within unfamiliar databases.

**Module Title – IT Infrastructure & Maintenance****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

Learners would be able to help identify issues in IT infrastructure which could be changed to enable policies to meet legal and regulatory requirements.

**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.

**Module Title – Business Systems & Process Automation****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

Analysing, identifying and recommending Information Systems of some form or another is a regular task within IT. How to use custom / off the shelf products to automate and integrate different aspects of a business to create better information flow and data analysis is also valuable.

**Module Title – Project Management Fundamentals****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

The use of peer assessment of project planning if included would mimic industry practices.

**Module Title – Security & Intrusion Prevention****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

Being aware of and able to identify where possible security issues could be misused in both software and the infrastructure it runs on is something which everybody needs to be regularly aware of in this day and age.

**Module Title – Application Development****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

This module builds on earlier skills which the learner has demonstrated to enable them to possess OO understanding and coding skills which are required by the majority of employers looking for application developers.

**Module Title – Robotic Process Automation****Module Work Based Learning Achievement -**

Enabling external inputs / outputs in computing systems is a valuable tool and can be used in many software development industries which require hardware interaction.

**Module Title – Major Development Project****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 learned 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	02/06/2020

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ELECTRONICALLY by emailing to [heqa@grimsby.ac.uk](mailto:heqa@grimsby.ac.uk)**

**This document is available in alternative formats on request from the HE Quality Office**