



| <b>Project Title:</b>           |                                   |  |   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Project Deliverables</b>     |                                   |  |   |   |
| <b>Key Strategic Activities</b> | <b>Constituent Activities</b>     | <b>Key Performance Deliverables</b>  | <b>Timeframe</b> (Identify the projected completion - year and quarter in following format e.g., 2019/Q2) | <b>Status</b> (This column to be filled in, in advance of each project review) <sup>1</sup>   |
| Prediction model development    | Extensive data gathering exercise | Data gathering and initial findings report.                                | January 2019  | Completed. Have data for 2018 cohort, and procedures in place to obtain same for 2019 cohort. |
|                                 | Model development                 | Interim report of first iteration of model - methodology and design report | March 2019  | Initial delay in achieving deliverable due to ethical constraints requiring                   |

<sup>1</sup> Please use the following cell colour to indicate progress –  
 Green (progressing as planned or mark completed)  
 Orange (delay in achieving deliverable but it will be delivered. Please enter a comment to explain delay)  
 Red (Deliverable will not be achieved. Please enter explanatory comment)

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|  |                           |   |            | <p>project to discriminate between data sources that can be anonymised (interaction and performance) versus data sources that need to contain personal information (pre-registration information). Also reconciling datasets between different functions within the Institute took significant time. Current predictive model uses interaction dataset only and is effective for 'information rich' modules (i.e. have strong VLE presence with attendance / assessments).</p> |
|  | Model test on 2018 cohort | Reliability test report on first iteration of model design. | April 2019 | <p>Due to delays mentioned above this activity is still ongoing. Estimated completion June.</p>  |

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|                       | Model update  | Documentation of final model design.   | May 2019                | Currently in development. In response to findings to date, the final model is being extended to incorporate historical performance dataset (last three years), to identify association rules between modules. This will help address issues with 'information poor' modules in the VLE dataset. Revised date is July/August . |
| Retention initiatives | Consultation with the 2018 non-completion cohort through survey and interview | Dissemination of the results of the needs analysis from at risk students to all stakeholders (student life and learning, maths learning centre). | June 2019 – August 2019 | Needed to redesign this activity due to ethical and timing considerations regarding consulting directly with the 2018 non-completion cohort. Modified activity included holding Workshop with involvement from Student union and invited existing   |

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|  |  |  |                         | <p>students from various stages within current programmes. Will return to this activity with the 2019 cohort. Also the Computer and Maths Learning Centre now has end of year survey which will be of use here.</p> <p>Have had a number of meetings with both Student Life and Learning staff (in particular with the Retention Officer) and with the Computing and Maths Learning Centre manager.</p> |
|  | Development of student focused initiatives | Strategic plan on the retention intervention measures to be initiated with the 2020 cohort | June 2019 – August 2019 | Preliminary work done only at this stage.   |
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| Prediction Model | Model used to identify in week 4 of semester 1 to identify at risk cohort         | Recording of at risk student cohort identified by the model.   | September 2019              | Initial discussions with VLE regarding process for updating interaction dataset on a weekly basis. This step is critical to effective deployment.<br><br>Remaining considerations regarding rollout of model will be resolved over the next few months. |
|                  | Interventions delivered to at risk cohort   | Retention strategies enabled on the student cohort identified through the model  | September 2019              |   |
|                  | Tracking student's behaviours, attitudes and experience of retention initiatives. | Continual assessment of student's engagement to the initiatives and the reporting of any issues that arise in this stage through monthly student feedback. | September 2019 – April 2020 |   |
|                  |   |  |                             |   |
| Analysis         | Quantitative data analysis of completion of the student cohort deemed at risk     | Statistical analysis of completion results of at risk cohort.  | April 2020 – May 2020       |   |

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|                          | Feedback at risk cohort on their attitudes towards retention initiatives delivered | Post initiatives student feedback on their assessment of the initiatives offered to them from week 4 onwards from all the at risk cohort. | May 2020  |  |
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| Dissemination of results | Overall assessment of the outcomes from the retention initiatives                  | Final report on the assessment of the success of the model and on the interventions delivered   | June 2020 |  |
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## Project Team

| Team Member Role and Responsibility (Please reflect the role and responsibility of all team members) |                                   |   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Staff Name   | Institution                       | Role  | Description of Responsibility                    |
| Kieran Murphy  | Waterford Institute of Technology | Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computing | Statistical analysis and design of interventions |

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| <b>Aoife Hennessy</b> | <b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b> | <b>Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computing</b>      | <b>Statistical analysis and design of interventions</b>       |
| <b>Mark O'Dowd</b>    | <b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b> | <b>Data Analyst</b>   | <b>Access and responsibility of all retention data in WIT</b> |
| <b>Richard Hayes</b>  | <b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b> | <b>Vice President for Strategy and Institutional Transformation</b> | <b>To inform strategic policy of project outcomes</b>         |
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ *Kieran Murphy* \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_30 May 2019\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Leader**