

<b>Economics Development Group</b> <b>Meeting 3</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b>	
<b>Agenda:</b> Rationale and aim of Economics Specification	<b>Documentation/Discussion:</b> The group discussed a proposed rationale and aim for the revised Economics specification. The rationale describes why learning about this subject is important for the world we live in today ie. why study economics? The aim outlines the expected impact of this specification on students' learning
Learning areas in Economics	The group had previously discussed the structure of the specification. The structure describes how the subject is organised. The units within the structure outline briefly the significant content students will learn. The group discussed the content of the 2007 syllabus and its relevancy to the new revised specification and the new proposed structure.
Inquiry approach to teaching Economics	Dr. Ella Kavanagh and Mr Daniel Blackshields (UCC) who are Directors for the BA Economics through Transformational Learning provided a presentation to the group on the inquiry approach to teaching Economics. Their approach is based on the Teaching for Understanding Framework. It is a student-centred approach that focuses on how students use and apply their knowledge. Some considerations that emerged from the session included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The core concepts we wish to impart</li> <li>▪ Examine the course from a key skills perspective</li> <li>▪ The integration of micro- and macro-economic elements of the course</li> <li>▪ The importance of reflecting on learning</li> </ul>
<b>These emerging issues were identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further deliberations around the learning areas of the new specification is required</li> <li>▪ Continuing importance to balance the breadth and depth of content in the revised specification</li> <li>▪ Continuing importance of accommodating skills development and active teaching methodologies</li> </ul> <b>Next meeting:</b> The next meeting of the group is scheduled for <b>20th October 2015.</b>	