Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University

PROGRAMME VALIDATION PANEL REPORT FORM

Date of Evaluation	26th Jan 2023

Proposed Programmes Title(s)	Master of Science in Digital Business Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Digital Business Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Digital Business
Proposed Award Title(s):	Master of Science in Digital Business Postgraduate Diploma in Business in Digital Business Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Digital Business
Programme Code(s)	SG_BDIGI_M09 SG_BDIGI_O09 SG_BAPPL_S09
NFQ Level	9
ECTS credits	90 / 60 / 30

Evaluation Panel Member:

Name & title	Job title & place of work	Role on panel
Mr David Denieffe	Vice-President, Academic Affairs, South East Technological University, Ireland	Chairperson
Dr John King	Lecturer in Transformation Leadership Ulster University	Academic Panel Member
Professor. Colette Henry	Head Of Department, Department of Business Studies, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)	Academic Panel Member
Ms Anne Marie McLaughlin	Innovation Manager for Donegal Digital Innovation Company (DDIC), ii – inishowen innovation.	Industry Expert Panel Member
Dr Aodhmar Cadogan	Assistant Registrar, ATU Sligo	Recording Secretary

Declaration Regarding Any Conflicts of Interest: The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting groups

Institute Management: Dr Breda McTaggart, Tomas O Faherty, Marie Moran.

Programme development team: Lead, Alan Kelly

Persons met by validation panel

Name & title	Role in Institute	Rationale for presence at validation.
Dr Breda McTaggart	Head of Faculty of Business and Social Sciences	Head of Faculty
Dr Marie Moran	Head of Department	Head of Department of Business
Dr Tomas O Faherty	Head of Department	Head of Department of Marketing Tourism and Sport.
Dr Valerie McTaggart	Head of Department	Head of Department of Social Sciences.
Alan Kelly	Lecturer	Programme Development Lead
Dr Brian Coyne	Lecturer	Programme team member
Lisa Dunne	Lecturer	Programme team member
Diolinda Coyle	Lecturer	Programme team member
Carol Moran	Lecturer	Programme team member
Adrian Durcan	Lecturer	Programme team member
Diane O Brien	Lecturer	Programme team member
Cillian O Murchú	Lecturer	Programme team member
Gillian Donovan	Lecturer	Programme team member
Sandra Hallinan	Lecturer	Programme team member
Helen Grady	Lecturer	Programme team member
Fiona Mitchell	Lecturer	Programme team member

Note: In the context of this report, a condition indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the validation panel must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new (or revised) programme. Conditions are mandatory for Approval of the Programme(s). A recommendation indicates an action or amendment which in the view of the panel should be given serious consideration by the programme development team for implementation.

Validation criteria	Sufficient evidence / Insufficient evidence
Rationale for the programme • Philosophy underpinning the programme e.g. market for programme in the region and its relevance to the region • Graduate profile and employment opportunities for graduates • Rationale for the programme e.g. School's/Institute's strengths/opportunities • Programme Aims and Objectives • Expected intellectual development and Programme learning outcomes • Related existing programmes.	Sufficient evidence provided The aim of the Masters degree was clearly articulated. The process of development was also outlined by the team and the basic for the content in the programme.
Programme structure • Delivery type (semesterised or stage-based) • Proposed mode of delivery (i.e., in-class, on-line, blended, full time and/or part time) • Planned intake numbers (over the full duration of the programme) • Role of placement	Sufficient evidence provided The structure of the programme with regard to the high number of modules and assessment was discussed at length. See condition 1. The panel highlighted the need for consistency in the chosen award standard (either business or science)and discipline across the programmes. See condition 2.
Resources (over the full duration of the programme) • Facilities and human and material resources available to mount the programme • Clarification of any staffing requirements • Location of the delivery • Specific s requirements: lecture rooms, laboratories, library, Information technology and other student supports • Confirmation regarding any new facilities and staffing requirements	Sufficient evidence provided No specific resource implications.

• Special requirements (e.g. remote access for distance learners)	
Access, Transfer and Progression Criteria • Student admission requirements • Progression criteria from one stage to the next and to higher levels on the NFQ • Non-standard entry (e.g. mature candidates and candidates with experiential learning) • Transfer policy into the programme and onto other programmes	Sufficient evidence provided See recommendation 2 in relation to the entry and progression to the programmes
Curriculum • A matrix exhibiting the academic pathway and the relationship between modules • The consistency between the programme content, teaching methods and the programme learning outcomes • Balance between the depth and breadth of the programme • Rigour of the academic standard in the final stage of the programme • Student workload • Practice: the role and management of placement or work-based projects.	Sufficient evidence provided The panel agreed with the high quality and appropriateness of the proposed module content, however there was some concerns over the structure and packaging of the module into larger pieces of learning. The module Strategic Leadership and planning need to be reviewed in terms of reducing the content and the title. See recommendation 3. The panel were concerned that the critical analysis and critical thinking should be evident in all modules. See recommendation 1
Assessment • The appropriateness of the modes of assessment to be used • The balance between the marks awarded for different assessment modes (e.g. continuous assessment, projects, reports, sit-down examination)	Sufficient evidence provided The panel was concerned over the high number of individual pieces of assessment. See condition 1.

• Confirmation that all of the programme learning outcomes are appropriately and adequately assessed within the set of module assessments.	
Staffing • Quality and specialities of staff available to support the programme • Technical and administrative support • Staff development • Industrial/commercial profile of staff • Research and publications	Sufficient evidence provided
Programme Administration and Quality Assurance • Procedure for managing programme • Student support student counselling and tutorial arrangements • Aspects of programme which highlight and foster study skills, independent learning and the inculcation of individual responsibility in students • EU and international aspects if appropriate • Feedback mechanisms e.g. use of surveys, focus groups and follow-up actions.	Sufficient evidence provided
Commendation: 1. The Panel commended the comprehensive and high quality of the documents that was submitted. 2. The panel commended the detail that was provided in relation to teaching and learning strategy for each module individually. 3. Some of the modules would lend themselves to students who wish to take only a smaller piece of learning i.e. single modules or micro credentials, this could be explored in the future.	

4. The panel commended the research work that staff are currently undertaking and the evidence of qualified staff and expertise in this area. They noted a number of staff are currently undertaking their own PhD research.

Condition:

1. The programme needs to reduce the number of modules and number of assessments in the Masters programme. Consideration should be given to offering some larger Credit modules, without losing the content, in line with the current trend for level 9 part time delivery programmes. This will also have the effect of reducing the number of assessments which was also a concern of the panel.

2. The title of the PG Diploma needs to change to PG Dip in Science. Both the Master and the PGDip needs to align with the Science award standard at level 9, rather than the business standard currently indicated. Correct reference to MSc etc throughout the document. The team need to review the Programme learning outcomes across all three programmes to ensure alignment with the science award standard at level 9 and the development of a coherent set of graduated aims and programme learning outcomes to be achieved by the student.
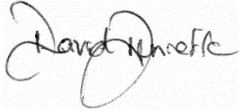
Recommendation:

1. Clearly indicate how critical analysis and critical thinking skills will be developed and embedded in each module
2. Clarify how the programmes are going to be offered as direct entry or exits.
3. Module Strategic Leadership and Planning review the content and title.

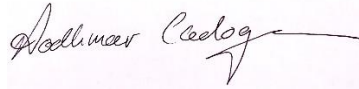| Overall decision of the panel	
The panel agreed to recommend to the Academic council the approval of the following programmes subject to completion of a desk top review by the panel of the final revised document: Master of Science in Digital Business Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Digital Business Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Digital Business	

Chairperson: Mr David Denieffe

_____   Date: 3/2/2023_____

_____   Date: __3/2/2023_____

Secretary: Dr Aodhmar Cadogan

Revised Programme Schedules *(table from AMM) condition 1*

SG_SDIGI_M09

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	M/E	OL Hours	Credits	CA %	PRAC PROJ %	PROJ %	EXAM %
CAPP09001	Business Analytics	Semester 1	Mandatory	3	10	100	0	0	0
TECH09004	Emerging Technologies and Applications	Semester 1	Mandatory	2	5	100	0	0	0
COMP09010	Agile Software Project Management	Semester 1	Mandatory	1	5	30	0	0	70
COMP09020	Networking, Cloud and CyberSecurity	Semester 2	Mandatory	3	10	100	0	0	0
MKTG09024	Digital Customer Experience	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	100	0	0	0
DSGN09014	Design Thinking for Innovation	Semester 2	Mandatory	2	5	100	0	0	0
RSCH09053	Research Methods	Semester 3	Mandatory	2	5	100	0	0	0
MGMT09034	Agile Business Solutions	Semester 3	Mandatory	2	5	100	0	0	0
DIGT09002	Digital Business Strategy	Semester 3	Mandatory	2	10	100	0	0	0
RSCH09054	Research Dissertation/Practicum	Semester 4	Mandatory	1	30	0	0	100	0