New Programme Validation

(Minor/SPA/Supplemental Award)

Section A

Report of the External Review Panel

Programme Reference Number:	GA_BTRAN_S08
Faculty/School(s):	Business
Department(s):	Enterprise & Technology

Details of Programme(s) Reviewed

Title:	Certificate in Transversal Skills - Identification and Development
Type of Award:	SPA (Microcredential)
NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications) Level:	8
ECTS:	5
ISCED:	0031 - Personal skills and dev
Duration:	1 semester
Proposed Student Intake:	10
Proposed Start Date:	
Delivery Mode(s):	Online

Review Panel

Panellist Role	Name	Organisation	Job Title
Chair	Breda McTaggart	ATU	Head of School
External Academic Discipline Expert*			
Industry/ Community Representative*	Louise Shields	Claddagh CU	CEO
Academic/Head of Department	Tomas O'Flaherty	ATU	Head of Dept
Student Representative			
Vice President for Academic Affairs and	Simon Stephens	ATU	AR

Registrar (VPAAR) Nominee/Academic Secretary			
Recording Secretary			

*One or two external members of panel in total.

All external members of the panel have declared that they are independent of ATU (Atlantic Technological University), and all have declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Programme Design Team

The panel met the staff listed below during the review process.

Seamus Lennon
Mary McCormack
Bridie Killoran
Carna Ginty

Introduction

This is a 5-credit, level 8 module, delivered online, which will facilitate the learner to identify areas for improvements across a range of soft skills, and undertake studies in those identified areas. The aim of this microcredential is to enable learners to: • Define and understand what transversal skills are and their relevance. • Identify current transversal skills and associated level of professionally competency. • Action leveraging these skills as success enablers to advance careers and enhance employability within the rapidly changing workplace. • Attain a set of additional transversal competencies and skills appropriate for the learners personal and professional development

Rationale for Programme(s)

The National Skills Strategy 2025 highlighted that core transversal skills are becoming increasingly important for a successful career. The OECD Skills Strategy Ireland report 2023 further reinforces the importance of transversal skills; highlighting that globalization, the digital transformation, the green transition and demographic change are combining to change and increase the skills needed to thrive in Ireland's workplaces and society. People will need a stronger and more well-rounded set of skills, including cognitive, social, and emotional, and job-specific skills, to flourish in life both in and outside of work.

Validation Criteria

ATU's Developing and Validating New Taught Programmes Policy specifies that new programmes must comply with the following criteria for validation:

1. The programme aims and learning outcomes are clear and aligned with the proposed award title.

   Yes. However, the number of MLOs should be reduced. The PLOs need to be reviewed and written at programme level.

2. The rationale for the programme is well informed and justified.

   To some extent. But the target audience should be clearly profiled.

3. The design of the programme is suitably structured and fit for purpose.

   To some extent but the programme would benefit from content on internal promotion, career progression and performance appraisal (see Rec 10).

4. The design of the programme ensures that students can successfully achieve the PLOs and MLOs.

   Yes.

5. The teaching, learning and assessment strategy is well planned and appropriate for the discipline area and type of award.

   Yes, once reference to asynchronous delivery is removed (see Rec 4)

6. Assessment techniques are fair, valid, reliable, consistent and a credible measure of the academic standard attained by students.

   To some extent. But 5 sub CAs is too many (see Rec 5).

7. The planned resources, including staff, physical, online, library and student supports, sufficiently support the teaching, learning and assessment strategy for the programme.

   Yes.

8. The programme facilitates lifelong learning for a diverse student population by setting out appropriate entry requirements and opportunities for access, transfer, and progression.

   Yes.

9. There is demand for potential graduates from the programme.

   Yes.

10. The learning environment and mode of delivery are consistent with the needs of the intended students of the programme and accessible and appropriate support services for students have been provided for. Yes.

11. Students will be well informed on the requirements of the programme, guided to relevant resources and supported in their studies in a caring environment.

   Yes

Findings

Overall Finding

Validated without changes	
Validated subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	**YES**
Rejected	

Commendations

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council of the following commendations.

N/A

Conditions

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council that subject to satisfying any condition(s) detailed below, the panel is satisfied that the proposed programme(s) meets the validation criteria as set out in Atlantic Technological University's Developing and Validating New Programmes Policy.

N/A

Recommendations

The panel advises Academic Council that the Programme Development Team and/or the Department should take cognisance of any recommendations outlined below.

1. Review the proposed title to ensure it maximises industry appeal.

2. Rewrite section 1 Introduction to align with text used in other programme submissions.

3. Check and confirm it is your intention to operate as pass/fail (p. 12 section 10.1).

4. Remove reference to asynchronous delivery.

5. Clarity that the online tutorial is delivered live and there independent learning is supported by other learning tools.

6. Remove reference to pilot.

7. Reducing the number of assessment components. Please align to new ATU guidance.

8. Review in consultation with the AR for Programmes the decision to included "failed components". Should be clear that the online tutorial is delivered live and there independent learning is supported by other learning tools.

9. Review the PLO/MLOs to ensure the language is at NFQ Level 8.

10. Engage with AMM (amm@atu.ie) team to ensure the accuracy of the final document.

11. Consider content/assessment linked to internal promotion, career progression and performance appraisal.

Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the evaluation panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.

Signed:	Date 15 03 25
Name Breda McTaggart Validation Panel Chair	