

## Differential Validation

(Major Programme Changes – Type A)

### Section A

### Report of the Review Panel

<b>Programme Reference Number:</b>	M3
<b>Faculty/School(s):</b>	Engineering and Design
<b>Department(s):</b>	Yeats Academy of Arts, Design and Architecture

#### Details of Programme(s) Reviewed

<b>Programme Title:</b>	BA (Honours) Interior Architecture & Design
<b>Programme Code:</b>	SG_DINAD_H08
<b>Embedded Awards: (Code and Title)</b>	None

<b>Date of Review:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> November and 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
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#### Review Panel

Panellist Role	Title	Name	Organisation	Job Title
Chair	Dr	Patrick Tobin	ATU	Head of School of Design and Creative Arts
External Academic/Industry Discipline Expert*	Ms	Aoife Rhattigan	Restless Design	Creative Director
Academic/Head of Department	Ms	Nollaig Crombie	ATU	Head of Department of Design and Creative Media
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar (VPAAR) Nominee/Academic Secretary	Ms	Carmel Brennan	ATU	Assistant Registrar

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 Board

The panel met the staff listed below during the review of the proposed modifications.

Emmet O'Doherty
Rowan Watson
Claire Lorusso

## Summary of Proposed Modifications

Additional Elective options in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme. These include the following:

1. Introduction of **2 additional new Elective modules** (1 in each semester of 3<sup>rd</sup> year).

DSGN08104 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Spaces for All- 10 credits

DSGN08105 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Entrepreneurship- 10 credits

These modules provide on-campus work placement type learning to students unable to complete the industry based off-campus work placement modules currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

2. Work Placement Module(s): modifying the Assessment Strategy & clarifying the contact time  
DSGN08102 Interior Architecture Stage Long Work Placement.

3. Adding a number of 5 credit elective modules added to 3<sup>rd</sup> year (existing modules from other YAADA programmes). Streams of these elective modules would be offered on campus to students. Each 30 credit stream would include one of the Studio Office modules above in (1). *See special Elective regulation 1 for elective module groupings/streams.*

## Rationale for Modifications

The changes proposed occur during the Sandwich Year. The changes proposed reflect the programme structure as proposed in the Level 8 validation documents. The changes proposed accord with the costings in the original programme proposal for this programme.

With the growing numbers of students in the IAD L8 programme, and a diverse student cohort, finding work placement is not always possible for students. Furthermore, some students are unable to complete an Erasmus semester in another country. Therefore, there is a need to provide on campus elective options to students who need them. There is also a need to ensure that those students who are not able to secure a placement, have an opportunity to gain the professional, industry-relevant skills and experience in their Sandwich Year. This is stated in the existing work placement modules: Where it is not possible to secure a work placement for a student, alternative module options are offered which address equivalent learning outcomes. The proposed changes will establish a work placement alternative for students in their Sandwich Year who are not able to

secure a position in a practice. Relatedly, a separate Studio-Office type module is proposed for each semester of the Sandwich Year (3rd year).

The two new proposed Studio-Office modules are supported streams of elective modules from Fine Art, Creative Design and Performing Arts (Theatre Design). The choice of streams of modules allows students to acquire skills from other creative disciplines that can enrich their abilities as Interior Architects. The range of options responds to the diversity of enriching modules offered across the Yeats Academy. Practically, the range also ensures that the numbers of additional students joining each elective module will be manageable. Grouping electives into streams which are linked to specific programmes also supports cohesion and engagement between students and the lecturers in the related programmes, with associated benefits for student retention and organisation.

## Findings

### Overall Finding (Initial Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November – See notes from Reconvened Meeting Below)

Approved without changes	
Approved subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	
Rejected	X

### Reason for Overall Finding

The panel were supportive of the concept of giving students more choice and flexibility and recognise the complementarity of modules from different programmes which would enhance students' skillset. However, the model was overly complex and raised anomalies. The panel are not recommending the changes at this time.

Given that there are students already taking modules other than work placement and Erasmus in Stage 3 this academic year, on a one off basis the modules being taken this semester will be recognised for progression. However, the Programme Board need to come back to the Differential Validation panel with a proposal for the second semester which will see the preponderance, if not all, modules that these students will take at level 7 or higher.

The Programme Board also needs to revert with an updated proposal for stage 3 for implementation in 2024-25 onwards. The proposing team were provided with the following advice in relation to any updates:

- Simplify the pathways, by reducing their number and providing coherent and connected pathways throughout both semesters.
- Produce a diagram to accurately show potential student pathways.
- Develop a clear plan for providing students with information on elective streams, ideally providing students with option to taste streams before choosing.
- The preponderance of modules should be at a level appropriate to the stage of the programme i.e., Level 7 or higher. If it is planned that students should be able to exit following successful completion of stage 3 of the programme, then all modules in this stage should be Level 7 or higher.
- Pre-requisites should be mapped out, ensuring that no health and safety issues arise and that there are no unknown barriers to progression – see initial mapping below.

- Ensure that all options for stage 3 are clearly labelled in the APS special regulations, including those that involve work placement and/or Erasmus.
- Both studio modules should enhance the focus on interactions with clients. Specifically:
  - DSGN8104 – Ensure that understanding clients and their needs is adequately covered in the module.
  - DSGN8105 – Include material on budgets and value engineering.

The Differential Validation panel is willing to convene speedily to consider any updated proposal submitted for this and subsequent years.

Prerequisite modules	Level	SEMESTER ONE	Prerequisite modules	Level	SEMESTER TWO
	8	DSGN08083 Interior Architecture Stage Long Work Placement - 60 credits			
	8	DSGN08081 Interior Architecture Semester Long Work Placement - 30 credits		8	DSGN08081 Interior Architecture Semester Long Work Placement - 30 credits
	8	DSGN08080 Interior Architecture & Design Erasmus 1 Semester Abroad - 30 credits		8	DSGN08080 Interior Architecture & Design Erasmus 1 Semester Abroad - 30 credits
	8	DSGN08104 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Spaces for All- 10 credits		8	DSGN08105 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Entrepreneurship- 10 credits
	6	ART06086 Printmaking 1 (Simple printmaking techniques)- 5 credits		6	ART06093 Drawing 2 (Foundation in Drawing Mediums)- 5 credits
	6	ART06097 Drawing 3 (Expanding Applications)- 5 credits		7	ART07050 Work in Context (Identifying the Future)- 5 credits
	6	ART06089 Painting 1 (Colour, Light and Composition)- 5 credits		6	ART06105 Digital Lens Based Media 4 - Intro to Video Production- 5 credits
	6	HIST06016 Visual and Material Culture 3: (The Contemporary World)- 5 credits		6	ART06082 Digital Lens Based Media One Intro Photography Film and Digital
	8	DSGN08104 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Spaces for All- 10 credits		8	DSGN08105 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Entrepreneurship- 10 credits
	6	ART06103 Digital Lens Based Media 3- Photography -5 credits		6	ART06106 Drawing 4 (Sustaining Practices)
	6	ART06095 Ceramics 1: introduction to clay origins, processes and surface treatments - 5 credits	ART06086 201900 Printmaking 1 (Simple printmaking techniques)	6	ART06090 Printmaking 2 (Advanced printmaking techniques)
	7	ART07053 Sculpture studies: land art, ephemera and the site specific- 5 credits		6	HIST06017 Visual and Material Culture 4 (Art & Social Practice) Design option
	8	ART08011 Professional practice (developing professionalism) -5 credits		6	ART06098 2019 Painting 2 (Introduction to Painting on Supports)- 5 credits
	8	DSGN08104 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Spaces for All- 10 credits		8	DSGN08105 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Entrepreneurship- 10 credits
	7	PERF07020- Theatre Design for Production- 5 credits		7	PERF07033 Semester 6 - Creative Writing Practice- 5 credits
	7	PERF07011 Theatre Design Studio Skills 4- 5 credits		6	PERF06060 Theatre Design 2- 5 credits
	7	PERF07019 Costume Design for Stage and Screen - 5 credits		6	PERF06097 Digital Media for Performing Arts 3 (Design)- film making- 5 credits
	6	PERF06110 Film Studies- 5 credits		6	HIST06018 Visual and Material Culture 4 - 5 credits
	8	DSGN08104 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Spaces for All- 10 credits		8	DSGN08105 Interior Architecture Studio Office: Entrepreneurship- 10 credits
	6	HIST06016 Visual and Material Culture 3: (The Contemporary World)- 5 credits		6	ART06105 Digital Lens Based Media 4 - Intro to Video Production- 5 credits
DSGN06131 201900 Digital Media for Design 2 (Applied Digital Projects)	6	DSGN06132 (User Digital Media for Design 3 (Digital rendering) Centered Design)- 5 credits		6	HIST06018 Visual and Material Culture 4- 5 credits
DSGN06140 201900 Digital Media for Design 1 (Foundation skills)				7	DSGN07097 Legal Issues for Creative Industries- 5 credits
DSGN06131 201900 Digital Media for Design 2 (Applied Digital Projects)	7	DSGN07091 Digital Media for Design 5 (5 credit)			
DSGN06132 201900 Digital Media for Design 3 (Digital rendering)					
DSGN06134 201900 Digital Media for Design 4 (Vector graphics)					
	6	MKTG06081 Marketing for Designers ( 5 credits)	DSGN06132 201900 Digital Media for Design 3 (Digital rendering)	6	DSGN06134 Digital Media for Design 4 - 5 credits
			DSGN06131 201900 Digital Media for Design 2 (Applied Digital Projects)		
			DSGN06140 201900 Digital Media for Design 1 (Foundation skills)		

Proposal - Students can choose ANY elective group from semester one, followed by ANY OTHER elective group from semester two

### Overall Finding (Reconvened Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

Approved without changes	
Approved subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)	<b>X</b>
Rejected	

### Reason for Overall Finding

The panel reconvened on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to review the updated proposal based on the feedback received to the initial report. The panel checked the compliance with the following.


- Simplify the pathways, by reducing their number and providing coherent and connected pathways throughout both semesters. **Complete**
- Produce a diagram to accurately show potential student pathways. **Complete**
- Develop a clear plan for providing students with information on elective streams, ideally providing students with option to taste streams before choosing. **Will be implemented at induction.**
- The preponderance of modules should be at a level appropriate to the stage of the programme i.e., Level 7 or higher. If it is planned that students should be able to exit following successful completion of stage 3 of the programme, then all modules in this stage should be Level 7 or higher. **Complete**
- Pre-requisites should be mapped out, ensuring that no health and safety issues arise and that there are no unknown barriers to progression – see initial mapping below. **Complete**
- Ensure that all options for stage 3 are clearly labelled in the APS special regulations, including those that involve work placement and/or Erasmus. **Complete**
- Both studio modules should enhance the focus on interactions with clients. Specifically:
  - DSGN8104 – Ensure that understanding clients and their needs is adequately covered in the module. **Complete**
  - DSGN8105 – Include material on budgets and value engineering. **Complete**

Recommendation:

1. Relabel 'streams' in the special regulations as group electives to more accurately reflect the intention.

### Report Approval

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

Signed:  Name Dr. Paddy Tobin Differential Validation Panel Chair	Date 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2023
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