

Programme Validation Report

**Institute of
Art, Design +
Technology
Dún Laoghaire**

**Programme Validation:
MSc Data Visualisation
(PG Diploma in Data Visualisation)**

Date of Report: 19 October 2021

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Part 1 Introduction

1 Overall Recommendations

Provider Name	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
Date of Panel (Online)	11 October 2021
Date of Report	19 October 2021

Principal Programme	Title	Master of Science Data Visualisation
	Award	Master of Science NFQ Level 9
	Credit	90
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Embedded Award	Title	Postgraduate Diploma Data Visualisation
	Award	Postgraduate Diploma NFQ Level 9
	Credit	60
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory

2 Evaluators

Name	Role	Affiliation
Dr Sheila Flanagan	Chair	<i>Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, DKIT</i>
Rachel Lavin	Industry Representative	<i>Data Journalist, Sunday Business Post</i>
Eamon Spelman	Academic Representative	<i>Lecturer, Limerick School of Art & Design / LIT</i>

3 Principal Programme

Names of Centres where the programmes are to be provided	Maximum Number of Learners (per centre)	Minimum Number of Learners
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Technology	24	12

Enrolment Interval (normally 5 years)	Date of First Intake	Sept 2021
	Date of Last Intake	Sept 2028
Target learner groups	<p>This programme is intended for learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who have successfully completed a primary degree at level 8; and who are interested in learning more about the field of Data Visualisation; and/or who may be working in a related field related to data science or information design; and/or who want to retrain or upskill in order to start a career the field of Data Visualisation 	
Approved countries of provision	Ireland	
Delivery mode – Full-time/Part-time	Full-time Current delivery mode is Full-Time but IADT reserves the right to deliver the programme in a Part-Time mode in the future.	
The teaching and learning modalities	Studio, classroom and lab-based learning with additional online supports	
Brief synopsis of the programme (eg who is it for, what is it for, what is involved for learners, what it leads to)	<p>This Masters programme is designed for candidates who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>already working in data science, information design, or graphic design, and; who are looking to broaden and deepen their knowledge;</i> • <i>or those who are looking to retrain and up-skill in order to break into the field of data visualisation.</i> <p>This one stage Masters level programme will develop the learners’ creative, critical and technical skills in relation to data visualisation and prepare them for employment, research or further study in this growing field.</p>	

Summary of specifications for teaching staff	PTE¹	Qualifications and Experience
	0.375	Qualified to (minimum) Masters level with specialist experience in Data Visualisation, Statistics, and/or Information Graphics
	0.125	Qualified to (minimum) Masters level with specialist experience in Data Science, Statistics, and/or Data Analytics
	0.125	Qualified to (minimum) Masters level with specialist experience in Data Management and/or Data Law
	0.125	Qualified to (minimum) Masters level with specialist experience in Data Visualisation, Graphic Design, and/or Information Graphics
Summary of specifications for the ratio of learners to teaching staff	Staff to Learner Ratio	Learning Activity Type
	1:24	Lectures
	1:24	Tutorial, studio and labs
	1:6	Seminars and thematic research groups
	1:1	Research project supervision

¹ PTE is the part-time equivalent number. The number 1 indicates a part-time person dedicated to the programme.

4 Embedded Programme

Consistent with IADT's access and progression policies, the programme incorporates an exit award of a **Postgraduate Diploma Data Visualisation** upon the successful completion of **60 ECTS**.

On completion of the following modules, the learner will be able to apply to exit the programme with a **Postgraduate Diploma Data Visualisation** (Level 9, **60 ECTS Credits**) award

- Contemporary Issues in Data
- Data Visualisation
- Designing With Data
- Applied Data Analytics
- Advanced Data Visualisation
- Professional Practice

Part 2 Evaluation against the Validation Criteria

2.1 Criterion 1

The provider is eligible to apply for validation of the programme	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>The panel conducted the review online, on the 11 October 2021, using Microsoft TEAMS. The panel members were provided with the Programme Document in advance of meeting to review the content of the proposed programme Master of Science Data Visualisation (Postgraduate Diploma Data Visualisation). The panel noted the quality and comprehensive detail of the documents submitted for review. The panel met with the Registrar, Head of Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technology and Head of Department of Technology and Psychology, as well as members of the programme team.</p> <p>The panel were satisfied to validate this programme with no conditions, and some minor recommendations. They complimented the team on the development of this programme and feel it will assist the institute achieving its strategic objectives particularly in regard to development of professional and academic partnerships.</p> <p>Following discussion with the registrar, Head of Faculty, Head of Department and members of the faculty, the panel came to the view that the provider is eligible to apply for validation of the Msc in Data Visualisation and embedded programme PG Dip in Data Visualisation.</p>

2.2 Criterion 2

The programme objectives and outcomes are clear and consistent with the QQI awards sought	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>Having discussed the objectives and outcomes of the programmes with the teams, the panel were satisfied the objectives and outcomes of the programmes are consistent with the award level sought.</p>

2.3 Criterion 3

The programme concept, implementation strategy, and its interpretation of QQI awards standards are well informed and soundly based (considering social, cultural, educational, professional and employment objectives)

Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>The panel commended the team on the work placement element, and see it as a unique selling point which differentiates the programme from others currently available.</p> <p>The panel were concerned about resource requirements to implement the work placement as the programme develops and grows, along with Undergraduate programmes that also have work placements integrated. The Panel recommend, at institute level, consideration is put into the development of a Placement Office.</p> <p>Also, the panel recommended that the documentation is updated regarding the Work Placement module descriptor, to clarify the option of project in addition to placement.</p> <p>The panel were satisfied the criteria around the concept, implementation and interpretation of QQI standards were met by the programmes</p>

2.4 Criterion 4

The programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory

Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The panel were satisfied that the programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory

2.5 Criterion 5

The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>The panel had some discussion about modules 1, 2 and 3 in first semester. There was concern that there could be some overlap across these modules. It was understood that the objective is to bring the students up to particular level, depending on their background coming on to the course, e.g. science or creative, and these modules act almost as like conversion.</p> <p>The panel recommend that the module descriptors state more explicitly the conversion nature of these modules, and summarise the goals of each module, to demonstrate the advantages for the student</p> <p>The panel were of the opinion the programmes' written schedules were overall well-structured and fit for purpose.</p>

2.6 Criterion 6

There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>In relation to the area of the major project, the panel recommended the students are assigned to an appropriate tutor, even from a different field or department if necessary, for their final project, to ensure they have the opportunity to gain competency and level of skills to specialise in one software / visualisation tool of their choosing.</p> <p>It was agreed by the panel that there are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programmes as planned.</p>

2.7 Criterion 7

There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The panel agreed there are sufficient physical resources to deliver the programme in a safe and supported environment for students.

2.8 Criterion 8

The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The panel was satisfied the learning environment is consistent with the needs of the students.

2.9 Criterion 9

There are sound teaching and learning strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The panel was satisfied that the Institute and Faculty T&L strategies were of the required calibre to deliver the programmes.

2.10 Criterion 10

There are sound assessment strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The panel was satisfied that there are sound assessment strategies

2.11 Criterion 11

Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>The panel noted their satisfaction with the mechanisms in place to gather student feedback, through Programme Boards and Academic Council. Based on the existing programmes it was understood that issues raised are dealt with and the loop is closed.</p> <p>The panel were of the opinion that overall, learners enrolled on the programmes will be well informed, guided and cared for.</p>

2.12 Criterion 12

The programme is well managed	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	<p>The panel were satisfied that the programmes were well managed.</p>

Part 3 Overall Recommendation

3.1 Principal Programme

Select One	
X	Satisfactory (meaning that it recommends that IADT can be satisfied in the context of Unit 2.3 of Core Policies and Criteria for the Validation of Programmes of Education and Training)
	Satisfactory, subject to proposed special conditions (specified with timescale for compliance for each condition); these may include proposed pre-validation conditions, ie proposed (minor) things to be done to a programme that almost fully meets the validation criteria before QQI makes a determination
	Not satisfactory

3.2 Embedded Programme

Select One	
X	Satisfactory (as above)
	Satisfactory, subject to proposed special conditions (as above)
	Not satisfactory

4 Summary of Recommended Special Conditions of Validation

N/A

5 Summary of Commendations to the Provider

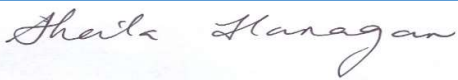
- The panel commended the Department and programme team on the quality of the documentation, which was of exceptionally high standard
- The Registrar, Head of Department, Head of Faculty and Programme Team were commended on their useful and informative presentations and participation in the sessions.
- The panel commended the current mechanisms in place based for gathering student feedback through Programme Boards and Academic Council.
- The panel commended the team and institute on the development of this programme and believe it will be a great addition.

6 Summary of Recommendations to the Provider

- The panel recommend the team and institute consider a work placement team is considered to support the strategic requirements for not only this course, but also the Undergraduate Programmes too.
- It is recommended that the Work Placement module descriptor is updated to clarify the option of completing a project is available, in addition to placement
- The Panel recommend that the module descriptors for modules 1, 2 and 3 summarise the goals and state more explicitly the conversion nature of these modules, to demonstrate the advantages the student.
- The panel recommend that when students are doing their major project, they are assigned a suitable tutor, from appropriate department, allowing learners to gain a competency in their chosen area.

7 Signature of Chairperson

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

Panel Chairperson Name	Sheila Flanagan
Panel Chairperson Signature	
Date	2/11/2021

8 Disclaimer

The Report of the External Review Panel contains no assurances, warranties or representations express or implied, regarding the aforesaid issues, or any other issues outside the Terms of Reference.

While IADT has endeavoured to ensure that the information contained in the report is correct, complete and up-to-date, any reliance placed on such information is strictly at the reader's own risk, and in no event will IADT be liable for any loss or damage (including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage) arising from, or in connection with, the use of the information contained in the Report of the External Evaluation Panel.

The programme team would like to thank the chair, academic expert, and industry expert for their time and diligence in reviewing the proposed programme.

Response to recommendations

1. The panel recommend the team and institute consider a work placement team is considered to support the strategic requirements for not only this course, but also the Undergraduate Programmes too.

Response: The team have noted the panellists' comments regarding the workload involved in running placements successfully and the importance of having a dedicated team in place to manage them. The Faculty is committed to appropriately resourcing the work placement aspect of this, and other, programmes. The Faculty is currently piloting work placements in two undergraduate programmes ahead of a Faculty-wide roll-out in 2023. This phased roll-out will allow for iterative improvements to the placement process, and for the placement team to be established, prior to a wider roll-out.

2. It is recommended that the Work Placement module descriptor is updated to clarify the option of completing a project is available, in addition to placement.

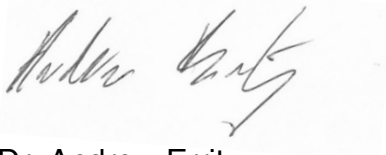
Response: Section 6.6.6 has been adjusted to further clarify the options available within the Professional Practice module.

3. The Panel recommend that the module descriptors for modules 1, 2 and 3 summarise the goals and state more explicitly the conversion nature of these modules, to demonstrate the advantages the student.

Response: Sections 6.1.4, 6.2.4, and 6.3.4 have been modified to more explicitly state the conversion nature of the respective modules, to demonstrate the advantages the student.

4. The panel recommend that when students are doing their major project, they are assigned a suitable tutor, from appropriate department, allowing learners to gain a competency in their chosen area.

Response: Staff allocations on each programme are determined on an annual basis considering the needs of each programme and staff capacity. The programme team is not limited to those listed in the programme document and every effort will be made to ensure students have a suitable advisor for their Major Research Project (be that a lecturer within the Department, or elsewhere in the Faculty/Institute if more appropriate).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Errity", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Dr. Andrew Errity

Head of Department of Technology and Psychology
Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technologies
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology