

Programme Validation Report

Microcredential Programme

Programme Validation Report for:

**Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative
Industries**

[Level 8: 10 ECTS]

Certificate in Professional Skills

[Level 9: 10 & 5 ECTS]

Date of Panel: 29 June 2023

Date of Report: 23 August 2023

Independent Evaluation Report on an Application for Validation of a Microcredential Programme

Part 1. Provider details

Provider name	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT) Kill Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland, A96 KH79
Date of report	23 August 2023

Section A. Overall recommendations

Programme	Title	Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries¹
	Award	Special Purpose Award
	Credit	10 ECTS
	NFQ Level	8
	ISED Code	0211; 0213
	Recommendation <i>Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory</i>	Satisfactory

Programme	Title	Certificate in Professional Skills
	Award	Special Purpose Award
	Credit	5 & 10 ECTS
	NFQ Level	9
	ISED Code	0211; 0213
	Recommendation <i>Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory</i>	Satisfactory

¹ *Building on the existing [Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries, L8, 5 ECTS, validated May 2022](#)

Expert Panel

Name	Role	Affiliation
Dr Seamus Cannon	Chair	Former Director of the Blackrock Education Centre
Ms Aideen Barry	Industry Expert	Artist and Lecturer, Limerick School of Art and Design
Dr Annette Clancy	Academic Expert	Lecturer/Assistant Professor, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD

The Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 ECTS] was [validated in May 2022](#). The programme team requested the original Programme Validation Panel be reconvened to consider the additional proposed iterations of the programme. Two of the original panel members were available to participate.

The Programme Validation meeting was conducted online on 29 June 2023 using Microsoft Teams. The Programme Validation Panel met with the Assistant Registrar, Head of Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technologies, and members of the programme team. The Programme Validation Panel members were issued with the proposed Programme Document before the meeting.

Section B. Programme Profile Information (as supplied by provider)

Brief synopsis of the programme(s)
<p>The Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 ECTS] was validated in May 2022. A number of iterations of this programme was successfully delivered by the Creative Futures Academy (CFA) at IADT during the academic year 2022/23. The CFA team wanted to expand the offering of programmes in this area, based on demand, research and staff feedback. The team has revised programme documentation to include the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 10 ECTS] (building on existing 5 ECTS version)• Certificate in Professional Skills [Level 9, 5 & 10 ECTS] <p>The Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries supports learners employed in the creative and cultural industries to upskill and reskill with a short course in foundational and/or applied skills. Designed to accommodate learners working within the creative and cultural industries the Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries will allow learners to participate in practical workshops, seminars, and tutorials so that they may critically engage with learning in their chosen fields and support their career progression and development.</p> <p>The Certificate in Professional Skills supports learners employed in the creative and cultural industries as advanced practitioners and/or tutors to upskill and reskill with a short course in applied skills. Designed to accommodate learners working within the creative and cultural industries the Certificate in Professional Skills will allow learners to participate in practical workshops, seminars, and tutorials so that they may critically engage with learning in their chosen fields and support their career progression and development.</p>
Target learner groups
<p>The Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 + 10 ECTS] and Certificate in Professional Skills [Level 9, 5+10 ECTS] are for learners working in the creative and cultural industries who wish to upskill or reskill in their chosen creative field through advanced practical workshops and applied techniques.</p>
Rationale for Programme
<p>Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 + 10 ECTS]</p> <p>The programme team used the QQI Award standards for Art and Design (revised, July 2014) in the development of the programme and modules learning outcomes for the Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries. Programme learning outcomes are aligned to those on the QQI National Framework Qualification Grid of level indicators for NFQ Level 8.</p> <p>Certificate in Professional Skills [Level 9, 5+10 ECTS]</p> <p>This award has been designed to accommodate the needs of learners from the creative and cultural industries and as such the QQI Award standards for Art and Design are the appropriate benchmark here. The programme team is satisfied that award title of Certificate in Professional Skills reflects the appropriate award for learners who successfully complete the programme.</p>

Evidence of Learner Demand

CFA Research (Balfe, 2021, 2022) has evidenced the appetite and need for Professional Skills in a structured and accredited environment. Graduate outcome surveys conducted by IADT's Careers Office has indicated that 30% of graduates are actively engaged in further study to change or improve their career options, with 26% of graduate respondents identifying further study as an opportunity for future employment, or ongoing professional development. Only 3% of graduate respondents were primarily motivated in further study by an interest in the course content, suggesting the largest motivations for further study is driven by career progression and upskilling.

Duration and Enrolment

Programme	First Intake Date	Duration and Delivery Mode	Cohorts / Intakes per Annum	Enrolment i.e. learners per Intake	
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries	Sept 2023	2-3 weeks (depending on mode of delivery) Part Time	120 Maximum enrolment per annum	10	12
Certificate in Professional Skills	Sept 2023	Up to 6 weeks depending on mode of delivery Part Time	120 Maximum enrolment per annum	10	12

Panel Commentary on Section C: Programme Profile Information

This should set out the panel's views on the adequacy of the case made by the provider for the approval of this programme as a viable, stand alone offering for the target learner group. The panel should take into account the proposed rationale, evidence of market demand, learner numbers, entry criteria, and marketing information. The information on objectives, MIPLO's and marketing information, rationale, should also be checked.

Where the proposed award is at a different NFQ level to that of its parent programme e.g. where the programme is taken from Stage 1 of a validated Level 8 programme, the panel should check the MIPLO to Level Indicator mapping for consistency.

The following Validation Criteria as they apply to this programme should be borne in mind, while also recognising that the programme of which this microcredential is a module, has already been deemed to have met these criteria.

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)*

Criterion 2: *The programme objectives and outcomes are clear and consistent with the QQI awards sought*

Criterion 11: *Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for.*

Criterion 12: *The programme is well managed*

[Comments and feedback applicable to all programmes unless stated otherwise]

Rationale, Learner Demand, Viability:

The Programme Validation Panel welcomed learning about the positive experience of the first cohorts on Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 ECTS]. The panel noted the quality of research and documentation provided and the fact the team have developed the proposed programmes by building on experience.

The Panel was satisfied with the rationale, learner demand and viability and believes this programme fits within the institute's Strategic Plan. They felt the programme concept, and implementation strategy, are well informed and soundly based and welcomed the agile and flexible structure and nature of the programmes which will benefit current creative industry sector.

Proposed Award - consistency with NFQ:

Having considered the objectives and outcomes of the programmes with the Programme Team, the panel was satisfied that the programme is consistent with the award level sought.

Learner Interests: - (Information, QA, Supports, Benefits / Skills accruing from programme):

The Panel noted its satisfaction with these programmes and the options being provided to accommodate professionals. The Panel suggested it would be interesting to produce a portfolio of the work produced by the students from these programmes.

Section C. Programme Content, Delivery and Assessment

Summary of specifications for teaching staff		
Role	Profile	WTE
Programme Coordinator	The Programme Coordinator lead should be qualified to at least or equivalent <i>level/ 9 qualification</i> and with a relevant Third Level Teaching and Learning qualification and/or equivalent relevant and comparable professional experience	0.25
Lecturer	Qualified to at least Bachelors of Arts (Hons) in Art, Design or cognate disciplines, or a person with at least 5 years' practical experience in a professional capacity, with contemporary experience of the professional landscape within the Creative and Cultural industries.	0.33

Mode(s) of Delivery <i>[Applicable to all programmes unless stated otherwise]</i>
Part-Time
Teaching and Learning Modes <i>[Applicable to all programmes unless stated otherwise]</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 5 + 10 ECTS] On-line (synchronous and asynchronous), classroom and studio-based practical sessions, independent learning, group presentation. • Certificate in Professional Skills [Level 9, 5+10 ECTS] Hybrid, blended, On-line (synchronous and asynchronous), classroom and studio-based practical sessions, independent learning, group presentation.

Assessment Strategy <i>[Applicable to all programmes unless stated otherwise]</i>
<p>Assessment procedures are flexible to meet individual circumstances within the limits of the Institute's and Faculty's assessment policies. These assessment policies are reviewed and updated annually as part of the review of assessment by the programme board. These policies are adhered to at both programme and module level.</p> <p>The programme minimum intended learning outcomes match the appropriate QQI awards standards. Assessment tasks are developed through constructive alignment of outcomes with learning and teaching strategies, translated into methods of assessment appropriate to the module and its goals. Assessment procedures are fair, consistent, and as far as possible valid and reliable and subject to regular review. External examiners review these procedures annually.</p> <p>Assessment tasks are developed for each module of the programme, are accompanied by grading schemes, and communicated to students appropriately.</p> <p>Student feedback is essential for learning and is given in an ongoing basis in classes, seminars, through the Institute VLE, and by email. Continuous and formative assessment is built into the learning and teaching strategy through class feedback sessions on assessment tasks prior to submission as well as individual and group feedback on completion of continuous assessment tasks. Formal summative feedback is provided to all learners upon the completion of each module and its component learning and assessment tasks.</p> <p>The programme team develop, revise, and manage the assessment tasks. It is aligned to Institute regulations as outlined in the IADT Quality Framework and other relevant policies. Module assessment strategies are developed by lecturers in alignment with the programme assessment strategy.</p>

Panel Commentary on Section D: Quality Assurance of the Programme Content, Delivery and Assessment

This should set out the panel's views on (1) how the provider has quality assured the programme development process and (ii) how it proposes to quality assure the programme when validated

The following Validation Criteria as they apply to this programme should be borne in mind.:

Criterion 12: *The programme is well managed.*

Criterion 6: *There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned*

Criterion 7: *There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned*

Criterion 8: *The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners*

Criterion 10: *There are sound assessment strategies*

[Comments and feedback applicable to all programmes unless stated otherwise]

QA of programme development process:

The Panel was satisfied with the programme development process and the programme documentation was commended, for the level of detail and research completed. The Panel commented on the volume of documentation provided, particularly for programmes of this level. It was explained that a policy for the development of micro-credential programmes is currently underway, and in the meantime, the existing IADT validation policy and processes and templates are used, even though they are designed for major award programmes.

QA of Programme Resourcing (Human and ICT) and Resilience:

It was agreed by the panel that there are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff and resources available to implement the programmes as planned. The Panel acknowledged that the staff are practitioners and are familiar with the industry fields.

QA of Assessment:

The panel was satisfied that there are sound assessment strategies. The Panel acknowledged the learning outcomes for the Certificate in Professional Skills (L9, 5 + 10 ECTS), in particular the additional outcomes and extra level of assessment, which they believe is well considered, ensuring the difference between 5 and 10 ECTS iterations of the programme.

Part 2. Overall recommendation

2.1 Programme(s):

- **Certificate in Professional Skills for Creative Industries [Level 8, 10 ECTS] (building on existing 5 ECTS version)**
- **Certificate in Professional Skills [Level 9, 5 & 10 ECTS]**

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 i.e. proposed (minor) things to be done to a programme that almost fully meets the validation criteria before QQI makes a determination);
	Not satisfactory.

Reasons for the overall recommendation

Overall the Panel was satisfied and very enthusiastic about these programmes and welcomed the offerings proposed in addition to the existing suite of programmes offered by IADT via the Creative Futures Academy (CFA)

Recommendations to the Provider

The Panel did not have any recommendations

Commendations and other observations

- The Panel commended the outstanding quality of the documentation provided.
- The Panel welcomed learning about the experience of the first cohorts of the Level 8, 5 ECT Certificate programme.
- The agility and flexibility of the programmes was commended to meet the needs of professionals and industry.
- The Panel suggested it would be interesting to produce a portfolio of the work produced by the students.

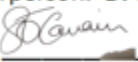
Special Conditions of Validation (directive and with timescale for compliance)

None

Declarations of Evaluators' Interests

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

Panel Chairperson: **Dr Seamus Cannon**

Signed:  _____

Date: Sep 22, 2023

2.2 Disclaimer

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Programme Validation Report – Faculty Response



L8 Certificate in Professional Skills for the Creative Industries

L9 Certificate in Professional Skills

Response to Panel

The writing team thanks the Validation Panel for their thoughtful and considered response and for their endorsement of the Certificates in Professional Skills enabling us to deliver a broad range of flexible modules in key areas.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalyn Smyth', written over a light blue horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Sisson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

September 2023