

# Programme Validation Report

## DL852 Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics

**Programme Validation Report for:**

**Principal Programme**

**Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics**

[Level 8, 60 ECTS]

**Date of Panel: 14 September 2023**

**Date of Report: 21 September 2023**

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## Part 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Evaluators

Name	Role	Affiliation
<b>Dr Dominic Dillane</b>	Chair	Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at TU Dublin
<b>Dr Jamie Rohu</b>	Academic Expert	Postdoctoral, TCD
<b>Dr Tom Egan</b>	Academic Expert	Executive MBA Course Director and Lecturer in Business Studies
<b>Mr John O'Toole</b>	Industry Expert	Director of Finance, Operations and Sustainability, Airfield Estate
<b>Ms Aileen Eglinton</b>	Industry Expert	Owner/MD at AE Consulting

## 1.2 Overall Recommendations

<b>Provider Name</b>	Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design + Technology (IADT)
<b>Date of Panel Meeting</b>	14 September 2023
<b>Date of Report</b>	20 September 2023

<b>Principal Programme(s)</b>	<b>Title(s)</b>	<b>Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics</b>
	<b>Award</b>	Master of Business
	<b>Credit</b>	60 ECTS
	<b>ISCED Code</b>	0410
	<b>Recommendation</b> <b>Satisfactory OR</b> <b>Satisfactory subject to</b> <b>proposed conditions OR</b> <b>Not Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>

### 1.3 Principal Programme: Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics

Names of Centres where the programmes are to be provided	Maximum Number of Learners (per centre)	Minimum Number of Learners
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), Kill Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	20	10

<b>Enrolment Interval (normally 5 years)</b>	<b>Date of First Intake</b>	October 2023
	<b>Date of Last Intake</b>	September 2027
<b>Maximum number of annual intakes</b>	1	
<b>Maximum total number of learners per intake</b>	30	
<b>Programme duration (months from start to completion)</b>	1 Year	
<b>Target learner groups</b>	<p>This programme was developed in response to the skills needs identified under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1 Initiative</p> <p>The target learner groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployed and in-receipt of a qualifying payment from the Department of Social Protection (DSP).</li> <li>• Self-employed</li> <li>• Returners,</li> <li>• Employed wishing to upskill</li> <li>• Recent Graduates from a full-time NFQ Level 8 degree within the 12 months prior to the course start date and who does not fit into one of the above categories.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approved countries of provision</b>	Ireland	
<b>Delivery mode – Full-time/Part-time</b>	Full-time and part-time. The programme is delivered on a full-time basis, however the Institute may decide to offer this programme on a part time basis in the future.	
<b>The teaching and learning modalities</b>	Lecturers with Industry experience Guest lecturers from industry Lab based tutorials Case based learning Webinars Self-directed study	
<b>Brief synopsis of the programme (e.g. who is it for, what is it for, what is involved for learners, what it leads to)</b>	This is a level 8 Higher Diploma Programme with a focus on Digital Business and Data Analytics. The target learners are applicants who have an interest in learning about business management and the impact and application of digital technologies to enable business strategy and growth.	

<b>Summary of specifications for teaching staff</b>	<b>WTE<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Qualifications and Experience</b>
	570-670 hours per annum (number dependent)	Level 8 or above in the following disciplines: Business management Data and cyber law Data analytics Cloud computing Business digital transformation
<b>Summary of specifications for the ratio of learners to teaching staff</b>	<b>Staff to Learner Ratio</b>	<b>Learning Activity Type</b>
	1:10	Standard lectures Practical Computer Labs
<b>Outline the physical resource requirements</b>	Classrooms and breakout seminar rooms Computer Laboratories Library Collaborative Study Spaces Printers and scanners	

<b>Work placements for which credit is allocated</b>			
<b>Title of the placement</b>	<b>Stage number</b>	<b>Credit (specify units)</b>	<b>Total hours in the workplace</b>
<b>Work Placement/Industry Project</b>	1	10	510

#### **1.4 Embedded Programme**

N/A

#### **1.5 Standalone Module Leading to a Minor Award**

N/A

#### **1.6 Programmes being replaced**

N/A

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<sup>1</sup> WTE is the whole-time equivalent number. The number 1 indicates a full-time person fully dedicated to the programme or a number of people whose time combined equals a full time person.

## Part 2 Evaluation against the Validation Criteria

The programme presented for validation falls under the designated awarding body status and related quality assurances processes of IADT.

The Programme Validation meeting was conducted online on Thursday 14 September 2023 using Microsoft TEAMS. The Programme Validation Panel met with the Assistant Registrar, Head of Department of Entrepreneurship, and members of the Programme Teams.

The Programme Validation Panel members were issued with the proposed Programme Documents before the meeting.

## 2.1 Criterion 1

The provider is eligible to apply for validation of the programme	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>Under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Act 2019 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2019 (SI No. 540 of 2019), made 5 November 2019, IADT may make awards up to Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications, and became a designated awarding body, on 1 January 2020.</p> <p>Following a review of the documentation provided and presentations and discussions with IADT Management and representatives from the Programme Team, the Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that IADT meets the prerequisites of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012 and is eligible to apply for validation of the <b>Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics</b>. The Panel were satisfied to recommend this programme for validation with 3 Commendations and 8 Recommendations.</p>

## 2.2 Criterion 2

The programme objectives and outcomes are clear and consistent with the awards sought	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>The programme document sets out the rationale for this programme being a Level 8 Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics. The core knowledge skills and competencies for Level 8 of the NFQ and are aligned with the appropriate discipline Award Standards.</p> <p>Having considered and discussed the objectives and outcomes of the programme with the programme team, the Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the aims and objectives are clearly defined in the programme proposal document, and this programme is consistent with the awards sought.</p> <p><b>Commendation#1</b> The Programme Team were commended on how they articulated the rationale for the programme.</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
<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p>The Programme Document represents the views of all relevant stakeholders, and the Faculty, Department and Programme Team developed the programme and learning outcomes informed by research, surveys, benchmarking against similar programmes, nationally and internationally and experience delivering the original programme since 2017. The programme's learning outcomes and related module learning outcomes have been mapped against the QQI awards standards for Business.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel noted the benefits of the programme and the funding options as an excellent opportunity for organisations to provide employee upskilling opportunities.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the programmes met the criteria around the concept, implementation, and interpretation of QQI standards.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #1</b> The Programme Validation Panel suggested the marketing of the programme includes promoting this course with local businesses and industry member organisations.</p>

## 2.4 Criterion 4

<b>The programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory</b>	
<b>Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>YES</b>	<p>The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied overall that the programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory. They welcomed the consideration of interviewing incoming students which they believe will enhance integration and ensure appropriate expectations are set. The Programme Validation Panel considered access routes, including Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). They encouraged the programme team to explore offering micro-credential options and to consider progression pathways for graduates of this programme.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #2</b> The Programme Validation Panel recommended that incoming students are interviewed as part of the induction process.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #3</b> The programme team should consider pathways for graduates of this programme into Masters level.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #4</b> The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team consider offering individual modules of this programme as micro-credential awards.</p>

## 2.5 Criterion 5

The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>The Programme Validation Panel reviewed the programme's written curriculum and discussed different aspects of the modules with the Programme Team. They commended the programme document's quality. The Panel discussed and explored further with the Programme Team, the content and structure of the curriculum.</p> <p>Overall, the members of the Panel were satisfied that the written curriculum is well structured and fit for purpose.</p> <p><b>Commendation#2</b> The Programme Validation Panel commended the Team on the quality of the Programme Document.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #5</b> The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team compare the structure of 10 ECT and 20 ECT modules, and ensure the difference is clearly articulated in the programme document.</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>The Programme Validation Panel considered the information provided in the Programme Document and the CVs of the staff, and met with a number of the faculty on the Programme Team.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel was satisfied that sufficient qualified and capable programme staff are available to implement this programme as planned.</p>

## 2.7 Criterion 7

There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>The Programme document outlines the facilities and physical resources available on the IADT campus, including the new Digital Media building on the IADT Campus, currently under construction.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that sufficient physical resources will be available to implement this programme as planned.</p>

## 2.8 Criterion 8

The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>The learning environments support social, cultural, and intellectual development through engagement with their peers, lecturers and the wider community. The Programme Validation Team highlighted the value of students becoming critical thinkers.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied the learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #7</b> The Programme Validation Panel suggested Lecturers are cognisant of supporting students develop critical thinking skills, across all subject areas.</p>

## 2.9 Criterion 9

There are sound teaching and learning strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>Learners are enabled to meet the Learning Outcomes using a diverse and blended set of Teaching Strategies. The Teaching strategies for this programme have been developed giving consideration to the Signature Pedagogies of the Discipline; National Quality Framework; Learner needs; Academic standards; Industry / Professional requirements, and IADT's Teaching and Learning policy and guidelines.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel agreed the teaching and learning strategies were sound and fit for purpose.</p>

## 2.10 Criterion 10

There are sound assessment strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<p>The programme document outlines the programme assessment strategy and module assessment strategies. Programme assessment procedures are consistent with IADT's Quality Framework and Learning and Teaching Assessment Strategy, and related policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Programme Validation panel discussed the assessments and submission deadlines in relation to student's workload. They also discussed the various options available to students for the Industry project, and believed this should be made clearer in documentation. The Programme Validation Panel considered the assessment strategies outlined in the programme documentation and, as discussed with the Programme Team, and were satisfied overall.</p> <p><b>Recommendation #6</b> The Programme Validation Panel recommended that the schedule of assessments is balanced and circulated to the students early in the programme.</p> <p><b>Recommendations #8</b> In relation to the Industry Project, the Programme Validation Panel recommended the programme document clearly articulate all the different options available, and how assessment will operate for each option.</p>

## 2.11 Criterion 11

<b>Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for</b>	
<b>Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
YES	<p>The Programme Validation Panel discussed induction, supports and services available to all students. The Panel concurred that there are suitable arrangements in place to ensure learners are well informed, guided and cared for, and as discussed, they were satisfied with the mechanisms in place.</p> <p><b>Commendation #3</b> The Programme Validation Panel welcomed the 80/20 hybrid mode of the programme, the focus on in-person delivery. This will benefit and enhance the student experience.</p>

## 2.12 Criterion 12

<b>The programme is well managed</b>	
<b>Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
YES	<p>Following the review of the programme documentation and discussions with the Management and Programme Team members, the Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the programme will be professionally managed.</p>

## Part 3 Overall Recommendation

### 3.1 Principal Programme(s): Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics

Select One	
<b>X</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b> (meaning that it recommends that IADT can be satisfied in the context of Unit 2.3 of <a href="#">Core Policies and Criteria for the Validation of Programmes of Education and Training</a> )
	<b>Satisfactory, subject to proposed special conditions</b> (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
	<b>Not satisfactory</b>

### 3.3 Reasons for the Overall Recommendation

The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that all the criteria were met, as demonstrated in the programme document and information provided by management and the Programme Team. The Panel recommended the **Higher Diploma in Digital Business + Data Analytics** for validation with no conditions and some recommendations, as outlined below.

#### 3.3.1 Summary of Recommended Special Condition(s) of Validation

N/A There were no conditions

#### 3.3.2 Summary of Recommendation(s) to the Provider

##### Recommendation #1

The Programme Validation Panel suggested the marketing of the programme includes promoting this course with local businesses and industry member organisations.

##### Recommendation #2

The Programme Validation Panel recommended that incoming students are interviewed as part of the induction process.

##### Recommendation #3

The programme team should consider pathways for graduates of this programme into Masters level.

##### Recommendation #4

The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team consider offering individual modules of this programme as micro-credential awards.

### **Recommendation #5**

The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team compare the structure of 10 ECT and 20 ECT modules, and ensure the difference is clearly articulated in the programme document.

### **Recommendation #6**

The Programme Validation Panel recommended that the schedule of assessments is balanced and circulated to the students early in the programme.

### **Recommendation #7**

The Programme Validation Panel suggested Lecturers are cognisant of supporting students develop critical thinking skills, across all subject areas.

### **Recommendations #8**

In relation to the Industry Project, the Programme Validation Panel recommended the programme document clearly articulate all the different options available, and how assessment will operate for each option.

## **3.3.3 Summary of Commendation(s) to the Provider**

### **Commendation#1**

The Programme Team were commended on how they articulated the rationale for the programme.

### **Commendation#2**

The Programme Validation Panel commended the Team on the quality of the Programme Document.

### **Commendation #3**

The Programme Validation Panel welcomed the 80/20 hybrid mode of the programme, the focus on in-person delivery. This will benefit and enhance the student experience.



#### 4 Signature of Chairperson

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

Panel Chairperson Name	Dominic Dillane
Panel Chairperson Signature	 <small>Dominic Dillane (Nov 16, 2023 16:50 GMT)</small>
Date	Nov 16, 2023

#### 5 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.

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Response to Programme Validation Panel Report

# **DL852 Higher Diploma in Digital Business and Data Analytics**

## To the programme Validation Panel

The programme team appreciate the hard work and rigour that went into the validation of the proposed Higher Diploma in Digital Business and Data Analytics. We welcome the commendations as stated by the evaluation panel.

- Commendation#1

The Programme Team were commended on how they articulated the rationale for the programme.

- Commendation#2

The Programme Validation Panel commended the Team on the quality of the Programme Document.

- Commendation #3

The Programme Validation Panel welcomed the 80/20 hybrid mode of the programme, the focus on in-person delivery. This will benefit and enhance the student experience.

We acknowledge the recommendations set out in the report and below have attached our responses and proposed related actions that will address these recommendations

### **Recommendation #1**

The Programme Validation Panel suggested the marketing of the programme includes promoting this course with local businesses and industry member organisations.

- The programme team are working with the Marketing team to identify appropriate organisations locally. We are in contact with DLR Chamber, DLRcoco and Sandyford Business District in relation to this and we acknowledge that the link with industry and social enterprises is important.

### **Recommendation #2**

The Programme Validation Panel recommended that incoming students are interviewed as part of the induction process.

- The programme team will endeavor to put a fair and transparent process in place around admissions. The issue of interview may be impacted by the timelines available to recruit but time permitting, this action will be undertaken.

### **Recommendation #3**

The programme team should consider pathways for graduates of this programme into Masters level.

- This option will be explored in the near future as part of the ongoing programme development process within the Department.

#### **Recommendation #4**

The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team consider offering individual modules of this programme as micro-credential awards.

- The programme team is open to exploring this option and believes that there is a market need for such a qualification. This option will be pursued once the first iteration of the programme has been successfully run.

#### **Recommendation #5**

The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team compare the structure of 10 ECT and 20 ECT modules, and ensure the difference is clearly articulated in the programme document.

- The programme team will review all modules and ensure that this is articulated in the document.

#### **Recommendation #6**

The Programme Validation Panel recommended that the schedule of assessments is balanced and circulated to the students early in the programme.

- The programme team will develop a full schedule of assessment in advance of running the programme and will strive to ensure that there is a balanced, and where possible an integrated approach to assessment.

#### **Recommendation #7**

The Programme Validation Panel suggested Lecturers are cognisant of supporting students develop critical thinking skills, across all subject areas.

- The programme team welcome this recommendation and will incorporate this into the planning for modules.

#### **Recommendations #8**

In relation to the Industry Project, the Programme Validation Panel recommended the programme document clearly articulate all the different options available, and how assessment will operate for each option.

- The programme team will incorporate this suggestion in the module descriptor.