

Programme Validation Report

**DL928 Master of Business – Circular Economy
Entrepreneurship**

**DL927 Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular
Economy Entrepreneurship**

Programme Validation Report for:

Principal Programme

Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship

[Level 9, 90 ECTS]

Embedded Award

**Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular Economy
Entrepreneurship**

[Level 9, 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
Dr Dominic Dillane	Chair	Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at TU Dublin
Dr Jamie Rohu	Academic Expert	Postdoctoral, TCD
Dr Tom Egan	Academic Expert	Executive MBA Course Director and Lecturer in Business Studies
Mr John O'Toole	Industry Expert	Director of Finance, Operations and Sustainability, Airfield Estate
Ms Aileen Eglinton	Industry Expert	Owner/MD at AE Consulting

1.2 Overall Recommendations

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

Principal Programme(s)	Title(s)	Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship
	Award	Master of Business
	Credit	90 ECTS
	ISCED Code	0410
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Embedded Award(s)	Title(s)	Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship
	Award	Postgraduate Diploma
	Credit	60 ECTS
	ISCED Code	0410
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory

1.3 Principal Programme:

Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship

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

Enrolment Interval (normally 5 years)	Date of First Intake	September 2023
	Date of Last Intake	September 2027
Maximum number of annual intakes	1	
Maximum total number of learners per intake	12	
Programme duration (months from start to completion)	18 Months	
Target learner groups	The target learner group are graduates of a Level 8 programme who have an interest in the Circular Economy and Entrepreneurship. As a HCI Pillar 1 funded initiative, the programme will give priority to the identified cohorts identified by the HCI initiative who meet the entry requirements and/ or equivalent.	
Approved countries of provision	Ireland	
Delivery mode – Full-time/Part-time	Part-time and full time. The programme is delivered on a part-time basis, however the Institute may decide to offer this programme on a full-time basis in the future.	
The teaching and learning modalities	Webinars Masterclasses Lab based tutorials Case based learning Self- directed study Field trips where possible	
Brief synopsis of the programme (e.g. who is it for, what is it for, what is involved for learners, what it leads to)	This is a level 9 Master programme with a focus on entrepreneurship for the Circular Economy. The target learner group are graduates of a Level 8 programme who have an interest in pursuing a career in the Circular Economy or who may have a business/project idea in this space. The learners will gain an in-depth understanding of models of Business within the Circular economy and throughout the programme will be guided towards developing their own projects and/or business ideas. In doing so, graduates will have developed a range of entrepreneurial competences in terms of mindset, skills and business acumen which can be applied either within existing businesses or in the creation of new businesses that are committed to the principles of the Circular Economy. The programme is 100% project based and leads to a level 9 Master in Business which specializes in the Circular Economy.	

Summary of specifications for teaching staff	WTE¹	Qualifications and Experience
	570-670 hours per annum (number dependent)	Level 8 or above in the following disciplines: Business Management Finance Entrepreneurship Economics Sustainability
Summary of specifications for the ratio of learners to teaching staff	Staff to Learner Ratio	Learning Activity Type
	1:10	Standard lectures Practical Computer Labs
Outline the physical resource requirements	Classrooms and breakout seminar rooms Computer Laboratories Library Collaborative Study Spaces Printers and scanners	
Work placements for which credit is allocated	N/A	

¹ 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.

1.4 Embedded Programme

It is inclusive of an embedded award, a **Postgraduate Diplomas in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship** at NQF, Level 9, 60 credits in accordance with the QQI Business Awards Standards adapted by IADT.

1.5 Standalone Module Leading to a Minor Award

N/A

1.6 Programmes being replaced

N/A

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 Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship and embedded award Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship. The Panel were satisfied to recommend this programme for validation with 3 Commendations and 7 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 9 Master of Business and Postgraduate Diploma in Business. The core knowledge skills and competencies for Level 9 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>Commendation#1 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
YES	<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 were satisfied that the programmes met the criteria around the concept, implementation, and interpretation of QQI standards.</p>

2.4 Criterion 4

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

Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
YES	<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.</p> <p>Recommendation #1 The Programme Validation Panel recommended that incoming students are interviewed as part of the induction process.</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; reading lists and they also considered and welcomed the planned use of guest specialist speakers. The suggested a number of recommendations to enhance the delivery of the programme.</p> <p>Overall, the members of the Panel were satisfied that the written curriculum is well structured and fit for purpose.</p> <p>Commendation#2 The Programme Validation Panel commended the Team on the quality of the Programme Document.</p> <p>Recommendation #2 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> <p>Recommendation #3 Ensure the GDPR content is appropriately covered in the curriculum, especially in relation to the research project.</p> <p>Recommendation #4 The topic of Artificial Intelligence should be introduced at the induction stage.</p> <p>Recommendation #5 The Programme Validation Panel understood that this is a Business Programme, but recommended that the programme Team ensure the importance of Ecology / Environmental issues are emphasised.</p> <p>Recommendation #6 Literature and Reading Lists – Update the documentation to ensure the readings lists include the latest versions of resources.</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.</p> <p>The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied the learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners.</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 students workload. 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>Recommendation #7 The Programme Validation Panel recommended that the schedule of assessments is balanced and circulated to the students early in the programme.</p>

2.11 Criterion 11

Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
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>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 students experience.</p>

2.12 Criterion 12

The programme is well managed	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
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):

Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship

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
	Not satisfactory

3.2 Embedded Awards Programme(s):

Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship

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

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 **Master of Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship** and embedded award **Postgraduate Diploma in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship** 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 recommended that incoming students are interviewed as part of the induction process.

Recommendation #2

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 #3

Ensure the GDPR content is appropriately covered in the curriculum, especially in relation to the research project.

Recommendation #4

The topic of Artificial Intelligence should be introduced at the induction stage.

Recommendation #5

The Programme Validation Panel understood that this is a Business Programme, but recommended that the programme Team ensure the importance of Ecology / Environmental issues are emphasised.

Recommendation #6

Literature and Reading Lists – Update the documentation to ensure the readings lists include the latest versions of resources.

Recommendation #7

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

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 students 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

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Response to Programme Validation Report

MBus and PGDiploma in Business – Circular Economy Entrepreneurship

Programme Team response to the Validation Panel Report

The programme team wish to thank the Validation panel members for their work and the consideration that they gave to the proposed programme. The team note the Commendations as outlined in the document.

- **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 students experience.

We acknowledge and thank the panel for their recommendations and our responses are noted below.

Recommendation #1

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

- The programme team will endeavour 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 #2

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 difference is clearly articulated in the document.

Recommendation #3

Ensure the GDPR content is appropriately covered in the curriculum, especially in relation to the research project.

- The programme team will ensure that this is covered with students, both in relation to any business ideas they may have as well as within the research project.

Recommendation #4

The topic of Artificial Intelligence should be introduced at the induction stage.

- The issue of AI – both its positives and negatives are increasingly important across all of our educational provision and the programme team are working with students on this topic right through from induction to completion. The Department are keeping AI developments under constant review and are evolving practise in relation to this matter.

Recommendation #5

The Programme Validation Panel understood that this is a Business Programme, but recommended that the programme Team ensure the importance of Ecology / Environmental issues are emphasised.

- The programme team are very cognisant of the Ecology/ Environment issues and these will be covered in the initial introductory module on the Circular economy as well as being addressed through project work and ongoing assessment.

Recommendation #6

Literature and Reading Lists – Update the documentation to ensure the readings lists include the latest versions of resources.

- The programme team will undertake a review of the reading lists to address this issue.

Recommendation #7

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

- This recommendation is in keeping with practice in the department and assessment schedules will be provided at the outset.