TUS
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne: Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie

Scoil Ealaíne agus Deartha Luimnigh
Limerick School of Art and Design

An Roinn Dearadh
Department of Design

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel, 19/04/2023

for the

Master of Arts in Design (Specialist Pathways)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the external validation visit for the proposed Master of Art in Design (Specialist Pathways), held on 19th April 2023. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations for the development of taught programmes. An external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Provider	TUS: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Limerick School of Art and Design
Department	Design
Date of Visit	19th April 2023

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title	Master of Art in Design (Specialist Pathways)
Award Title	Master of Art
Code	LC_ADESI_M09
NFQ Level	9
ECTS Credits	90
Award Class	Level 9
Delivery Mode	12-month blended-learning full-time. 24 month blended-learning full-time
Duration	1 year
Proposed Starting Date	September 2023
Contact	Dr Adam DeEyto/Mr. Glen O'Sullivan

2.3   External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Stephen McManus	Formerly DKIT (Chairperson)
Ms. Sarah Keane	Dolmen Design
Mr. Morgan Flynn	UL
Mr. Richard Meade	Southern Advertising
Ms. Anna Huoviala	Häme University
Ms. Sophie Dowdall	Student Representative

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Michael Francis Ryan, TUS.

2.4   Institute Staff

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Mike Fitzpatrick	Dean of Limerick School of Art and Design
Dr. Adam de Eyto	Head of Department of Design
Programme Coordinators: Mr. Glen O'Sullivan, Ms. Gianna Tomasso, Ms. Eleanor Moloney	
Programme Team: Fiona Bourke, Adam deEyto, Hugh Finnerty, Susan Halvey, Mr. Barry Holian, Shelagh Honan, Michael McLoughlin, Michelle Molloy, Rebecca Marsden, Michael McLoughlin, Michael Minnis, Michelle Molloy, Eleanor Moloney, Glen OSullivan, David Phelan, Owen Quinlan, Eamon Spelman, Gianna Tomasso, Fiona Woods	

3.0   FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1   Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed **Master of Art in Design (Specialist Pathways)** subject to the conditions in Section 3.2 and recommendations as specified in Section 3.3.

3.2   Conditions

1) Entry Requirements:
    I.   Clarify the requirement for a portfolio or equivalent for entry from non-cognate disciplines;
    II.   Develop an entry ranking criteria for eligible applicants.

2) Complete the Graduate Attributes Mapping for the programme to include module and assessment mapping.

3) Develop an embedded exit award of a **Post Graduate Diploma in Design (Specialist Pathways)** to ensure participants who don't complete the research component can exit with a major award. (Prepare documentation to support Learning Outcomes for the inclusion of this award).

4) Develop (during the first year) relevant and agile rubrics for assessment within the programme (rubrics that are made available to students in advance). These can be included in a programme appendix. Rubrics can be developed on an ongoing basis. They should ideally be developed before the modules are delivered in each cycle.

3.3   Recommendations

1) Clarify and make more explicit the access routes in the programme document (Reconsider expanding access and entry routeways for potential applicants, so that the programme is not dependant on TUS-LSAD undergraduate students).

2) Indicate clearly in the document, the opportunities for part-time learning.

3) Teaching & Learning:
    I.   Develop the learning, teaching and assessment strategies for each of the modules;

II. Clarify and make explicit the mode of access to studio facilities to enable learning;

III. Clarify where possible the nature of the blended learning provision.

4) Assessment: Specify the mechanism for communicating feedback to students during the programme (to include peer to peer feedback where appropriate).

5) Reconsider additional opportunities in the programme for industry and civic collaboration (including the policy for engaging teaching expertise from industry practitioners -indicate this in relevant module descriptors).

6) Clarify how existing 10 credit modules can be modified/scheduled for presentation as 5 credit electives in the programme (issues of: content, output and procedure for advance notification to students of key components to be studied).

7) Ensure that the theme of 'Sustainability' is made more explicit in the programme learning outcomes, with the potential inclusion of 'Sustainability' as a 'material' elective pathway.

8) Review the breadth of content in the broad 5 credit modules and where possible, include themes like 'the built environment' and 'biodiversity'.

9) Make some contemporary issues more explicit, including data misinformation, artificial intelligence, authenticity and ethics across relevant modules.

10) Review Curriculum Provision at the end of the first programme cycle (particularly the offering of elective modules).

11) Update module reading and resource lists.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

1) The panel commends the positive and collegiate engagement of the programme team during the validation visit.

2) The panel commends the modules that facilitate industry collaboration.

3) The ambition for encouraging entry from a broad range of disciplines is to be commended.

Stephen McManus.

Stephen McManus Chairperson.   Date: 24/04/2023