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

www.tus.ie

Department of Design (Limerick School of Art and Design)

Report of the External Panel Review External Panel

Programme

Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design Level 9

Wednesday, 20th of March 2024,

Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the Review Panel for the Department of Design at Limerick School of Art and Design and the findings and conclusions of the External Review Panel conducted on the 20th of March 2024. The external review session was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations. An External Review Panel makes an independent impartial judgement on the programme and associated critical self-study.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Provider	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Limerick School of Art and Design
Department	Department of Design
Date of Visit	20th of March 2024

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title	Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design
Award Title	Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design
Code	LC_AINST_M09
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	90
Award Class	Masters Degree (Taught)
Delivery Mode	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Proposed Starting Date	September 2024
Contact	Adam de Eyto

2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Mr John Vickery	Former Registrar, Institute of Technology, Tallaght (Chairperson)
Professor Teemu Leinonen	Professor of New Media Design and Learning, Aalto University, Finland
Dr Kellie Morrissey	Lecturer & Researcher in Applied Psychology & Human Computer Interaction, University College Cork
Paul McCormack	Lecturer in Interaction Design, University of Ulster
Rachel Meaney	Product Design Analyst – IT, Dell Technologies

Secretary to Panel: Dr Pat Donohue, Former Assistant Registrar, TUS (Midwest)

2.4 TU Staff

Name	Affiliation
Professor Vincent Cunnane	President of TUS
Mike Fitzpatrick	Dean, Limerick School of Art and Design
Adam de Eyto	Head of Department of Design
Programme Team: Gianna Tomasso, Glen O' Sullivan, Eleanor Moloney, Eamon Spelman, Gillian Barry, Lydia Korpan, Damien O' Connell, Susan Halvey	

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the following programmes and associated awards subject to the condition and recommendations as specified in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of this report.

MA in Instructional & Learning Design

3.2. Conditions

1. Include programme learning outcomes and associated documentation for the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma awards if it is intended to run these programmes.

3.3 Recommendations

1. Remove the word *expertise* across the programme document.
2. Update the documentation to show that there is no final exam in the modules.
3. Increase and embed indicative content on professional ethics across the programme and include a learning outcome for ethics where appropriate.
4. Review and update reading lists to include more high impact and well recognised HCI journals. Use the ACM Digital Library to provide higher quality research papers.
5. Remove the word ‘regulated’ from Page 10 of the document.
6. Use Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFRL) to support the minimum entry English language requirements.
7. Consider expanding the entry requirements to include appropriate Masters foundation programmes.
8. Formalise industry engagement on the programme.

9. Clearly specify the lecturing contact hours on the programme in the various tables provided.
10. Revise and update all modules to ensure that reading material is more comprehensive, recent and relevant.
11. Reduce the number of acronyms in the document.
12. Review the references in the documentation as to the availability of student accommodation and associated costs.
13. Review the use of the term soft skills when describing certain elements of the programme.
14. Update the documentation to correctly reflect the assessment processes (CA/final submission, etc).
15. Consider including interviews to confirm students' work.
16. Develop a nomenclature in the form of a glossary of terms that can be given to the students.
17. Remove weekly delivery content in the indicative syllabus where referenced.
18. Consider the pros and cons of implicating AI within the programme.
19. Consider diversifying the project team.

<u>Modules</u>

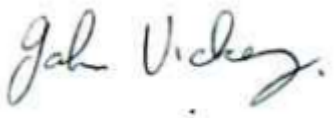
20. Review the module learning outcomes in the Foundations of Learning Theory and Instructional Design module, LO1 and LO2, for example the use of the word identify. Check learning outcomes in all modules (Bloom's Taxonomy).
21. Instructional Design Project Management Tools and Practices: LO1, removal of understand and possibly the inclusion of discuss. LO3: Reflect on project management, possibly use the wording in the assessment strategy section e.g. summarise reflections on a project, challenges etc. Reference examples of generic project management methodologies.
22. Consider including Design Systems in the Digital Media, Visualisation and Gamification for Instructional and Learning Design module. Update the book list to include design principles. Review the module learning outcomes to reflect the content. For example, design, effective instructional materials to utilise digital media etc., and include a learning outcome covering ethics.

23. Consider presenting User Experience (UX) Design for Mobile Learning earlier in the Mobile and Micro Learning: Designing for Devices module. Review LO1 – demonstrate an understanding.
24. Check the timeline around ethics delivery in the Learning Analytics and Data-Driven Instructional and Learning Design module. Clarify what statistical techniques will be used and provide an example of the statistical package that will be used. Include ethics in the learning outcomes. Amend LO1 – remove use of the word demonstrate an understanding.
25. Consider selection of the final project earlier in the programme. LO4: Exhibit leadership – ensure leadership is covered within the programme.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

1. The panel congratulates TUS on being awarded a QS* 5-star university rating.
2. The panel commends the leadership of the Faculty and Department and the collegiate engagement is evident.
3. The panel noted the enthusiasm and commitment of the programme team and strong engagement with the panel during the validation event.
4. The panel commends the programme team for the use of Articulate for the presentation.
5. The panel commends the inclusion of Laws of UX and Universal Principles of UX in the reading list.

Signature of Chairperson



Date: 20/03/2024