



**TUS**

**Technological University of the Shannon:  
Midlands Midwest**

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:  
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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**Dámh an Ghnó agus Fáilteachas  
Faculty of Business and Hospitality**

**An Roinn Gnó agus Bainistíochta  
Department of Business and Management**

**Report of External Validation Panel**

**External Validation Panel, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**for the**

**Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Law (Level 8)**

**and embedded**

**Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies (Level 7)**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the external validation visit for the proposed Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Law, with Exit Award at Level 7: Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies, and the findings and conclusions of the External Validation Panel on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022. 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      | Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest |
| Faculty       | Business and Hospitality                                  |
| Department    | Business and Management                                   |
| Date of Visit | 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022                             |

### 2.2 Programmes Evaluated

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Programme Title        | Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Law |
| Award Title            | Bachelor of Laws                  |
| Code                   | AL_MD LAW_H08 202300              |
| NFQ Level              | Level 8                           |
| ECTS Credits           | 240                               |
| Award Class            | Honours Degree Ab-initio          |
| Delivery Mode          | Full time                         |
| Duration               | 4 years                           |
| Proposed Starting Date | September 2023                    |
| Contact                | Dr Alison Sheridan                |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Programme Title        | Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies         |
| Award Title            | Bachelor of Arts                          |
| Code                   | AL_MDLEGA_G07                             |
| NFQ Level              | Level 7                                   |
| ECTS Credits           | 180                                       |
| Award Class            | Ordinary Bachelor Degree - Embedded Award |
| Delivery Mode          | Full time                                 |
| Duration               | 3 years                                   |
| Proposed Starting Date | September 2023                            |
| Contact                | Dr Alison Sheridan                        |

### 2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

| Name                               | Affiliation  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins (Chair) | Professor of Education, UL.                                      |
| Dr. Cliona Kelly                   | Vice Dean of the Law School UCD.                                 |
| Ms. Elaine Finneran                | Elaine Finneran B Law Library, Four Courts.                      |
| Dr. Deirdre McGowan                | Assistant Head of School of Languages Law & Social Sciences TUD. |
| Mr. J. P. Gilmartin                | Partner RDJ Galway.  |

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Brendan Murphy, TUS.

## 2.4 TUS Staff

| Name   | Role   |
|--|--|
| Prof. Vincent Cunnane  | President  |
| Dr. Terry Twomey   | Vice President Academic Affairs<br>& Registrar   |
| Ms. Michelle McKeon Bennett  | Dean of Faculty of Business and Hospitality      |
| Dr. Alison Sheridan  | Head of Department of Business and<br>Management |
| <u>Programme Development Team</u><br>Dr. Alison Hough, Audrey O' Beirne, Brendan McLarney, Claire Shaw, Cormac McCarthy, Elaine Walsh, Elsie Burgoyne, Eoin Conway, Geraldine Ward, Doireann O'Callaghan, Henry Joyce, Imelda Cooke, Imelda Fallon, Jarlath Nolan, Karen Costello, Karen Guest, Linda Reidy, Luke Fannon, Mairead Seery, Mary Corrigan, Marguerite Shanley, Orla O' Beirne, Peter Meehan, Sinead O'Connell, Teresa O'Hara. |  |

### **3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL**

#### **3.1 Main Findings**

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed *Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in Law* (Level 8) and embedded *Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies* (Exit Award at Level 7).

#### **3.2 Conditions**

No Conditions Apply.

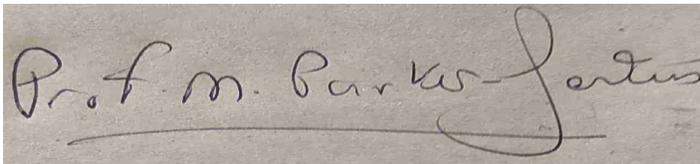
#### **3.3 Recommendations**

- 1) Ensure that there is adequate resourcing for the staff expertise and workload required to support the programme.
- 2) Review the level of elective choice and how the electives work in practice (scope of choice, resourcing and learner numbers, prerequisites, alignment of elective pathways with Programme Learning Outcomes). Consider making some of the electives created specifically for this programme mandatory (e.g. Stage 1 Module, *Innovation Entrepreneurship and Law*).
- 3) Communicate clearly to students about their elective pathways and choices and the impact of choosing particular modules during the early Stages of the programme on their options at a later Stage. Develop appropriate graphics to support this.
- 4) Specify the pre-requisites required depending on which electives are chosen in the earlier stages of the programme.
- 5) Explore, at institutional level, if there is scope for offering Electives across the NFQ levels.
- 6) Reconsider strongly the inclusion of a language elective in the programme. If a language is retained, include reference to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to clarify the level of language provision.
- 7) Clarify in the programme document that approval is not currently being sought for an Erasmus element as part of this programme approval. Remove reference to Erasmus on confirmation of this.

- 8) Consider how employers and students can be supported before and during Placement and further develop guidance and training as appropriate.
- 9) Amend the wording of the statement in the curriculum document with respect to eligibility of graduates to apply for examinations of the Law Society (Page 8) to reflect eligibility prior to graduation.

### **3.4 Commendations and Observations**

- 1) The panel commends the team for developing an excellent and innovative programme. The strong emphasis on the development of transversal skills is particularly noteworthy and strongly commended.
- 2) The panel commends the support of the Access agenda and provision of an offering that can widen access participation in law programmes in the region and nationally.
- 3) The panel commends the Workplacement and its management and particularly noted the appropriateness of the Preparation for Placement Module and preparation for working in a professional practice environment.
- 4) The panel commends the approach taken to teaching, learning and assessment and the emphasis on graduate attributes. The use of innovative and cross modular assessment is also noteworthy.
- 5) The panel commends the quality of the programme submission and documentation and noted its comprehensive and detailed nature.
- 6) The panel commends the positive and collegiate engagement of the programme team during the validation visit.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Prof. M. Parker-Jentus" and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

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**Signature of Chairperson**

**Date:** 23/11/2022