



**TUS**

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

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:  
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

**[www.tus.ie](http://www.tus.ie)**

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**Dámh an n-Nolaíochtaí Feidhmeacha agus na Teicneolaíochta  
Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology**

**Roinn na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta Feidhmeach  
Department of Applied Social Sciences**

**Report of Review Panel,  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Review of the**

**Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Applied Psychology (Level 8)  
Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology (Level 7)  
Higher Certificate in Applied Psychology (Level 6)**

**Embedded psychology conversion for graduates (Level 8)**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the external validation visit for the proposed Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Applied Psychology (Level 8) and the findings and conclusions of the External Validation Panel on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with Section 3 of the TUS document '*Academic Council Regulations and Procedures for Taught Programmes (ACRP): Academic Year 2021/2022*'. (The ACRP document is available on the TUS website.) An external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

## 2 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Higher Education Provider

Institute:	TUS: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Applied Sciences and Technology
Department:	Applied Social Science
Date of Visit:	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

### 2.2 Programmes Evaluated

<b>2.2.1 Programme Title:</b>	Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Applied Psychology
Award Title:	Bachelor of Science Honours
NFQ Level:	Level 8
ECTS Credits:	240
Format:	Honours Degree
Delivery Mode:	Full-time /ACCS/Part-time
Duration:	Four Years
Start Date:	Sept 2022
Contact:	Dr Lisa O'Rourke Scott
<b>2.2.2 Programme Title:</b>	Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology
Award Title:	Bachelor of Arts
NFQ Level:	Level 7
ECTS Credits:	180
Format:	Degree
Delivery Mode:	Full-time /ACCS/Part-time
Duration:	3 years
Start Date:	Sept 2022
Contact:	Dr Lisa O'Rourke Scott
<b>2.2.3 Programme Title:</b>	Higher Certificate in Applied Psychology
Award Title:	Higher Certificate
NFQ Level:	Level 6
ECTS Credits:	120
Format:	Degree

Delivery Mode: Fulltime/ACCS/Part-time  
Duration: Two Years

**2.2.4 Programme Title:** L8 embedded psychology conversion for graduates  
Award Title: Bachelor of Science Honours  
NFQ Level: Level 8  
ECTS Credits: 60  
Format: Degree (add-on)  
Delivery Mode: Full-time /ACCS/Part-time  
Duration: 1 year

### 2.3 External Programmatic Review Panel of Expert Assessors

Name: Mr Brian Bennett	Affiliation: Formerly Acting President & Registrar of IT Carlow (Chairperson)
Name: Ms Mary Dwyer	Affiliation: Chartered Counselling Psychologist
Name: Prof. Christopher Alan Lewis	Affiliation: Leeds Trinity University
Name: Dr Aine De Roiste	Affiliation: MTU Cork
Name: Garda Aidan Ivers	Affiliation: Crime Specialist and Operational Skills, Investigative Interviewing Section
Name: Ms Caitriona McMahon	Affiliation: Student Representative

### 2.4 Institute Staff

TUS President	Prof. Vincent Cunnane
Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar	Dr Terry Twomey
Dean of Faculty	Dr Maura Clancy
Head of Department	Dr Carole Glynn
Programme Leader	Dr Lisa O'Rourke Scott

### 2.5 Documentation

Self-evaluation Report - Faculty of Applied Science & Technology  
Department of Applied Social Sciences Bachelor of Science  
(Honours) Applied Psychology

## **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 Science (Honours) in Applied Psychology (Level 8), Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology (Level 7), Higher Certificate in Applied Psychology (Level 6), and a level 8 embedded Psychology Conversion for graduates (add-on) subject to the Conditions specified in Section 3.2 and Recommendation(s) as specified in Section 3.3.

### **3.2 Conditions**

- 3.2.1 Ensure the University provides an adequate level of resourcing for this programme in relation to both staffing (academic and technical) resources as well as physical laboratories, equipment and software licenses (including standardised test licenses).
- 3.2.2 Clearly outline and define the criteria for students gaining entry on the *L8 embedded psychology conversion for graduates (add-on.)* it is recommended that applicants with a minimum of a 2.1 Honours Degree or equivalent be eligible to apply.
- 3.2.3 Ensure all staff facilitating on the Personal Development sessions are trained in therapeutic facilitation.
- 3.2.4 In the absence of a physical tour of the campus, the Panel requires a full written description of the facilities to be circulated to all Panel members giving specific details around experimental space, attachment related space and personal development space.

### **3.3 Recommendations**

- 3.3.1 Consider the use of e-books throughout the curriculum and ensure that all students have access to relevant reading recommendations.
- 3.3.2 Be cognisant of the group size for the Personal Development sessions with a preference for smaller size groups.
- 3.3.3 Ensure that suitable support is available for students if issues arise during the Personal Development sessions. Outline to students what supports are available for them outside of the programme to ensure they stay on course.
- 3.3.4 Ensure adequate consent, confidentiality and boundary protocols are clearly outlined and adhered to in relation to the Personal Development sessions.
- 3.3.5 Update the documentation (typing error in The 4th year of the programme) Developmental Psychology module should be changed from 10 credits to 5 credits.

- 3.3.6 Consider changing the title of the module 'Individual Differences' to 'Advanced Individual Differences' in Year 4 of the programme.
- 3.3.7 Consider the assessment load across the modules in relation to over-assessment due to the percentage of modules without a final exam. Explore the potential of cross-modular assessment.
- 3.3.8 Schedule time and space to allow staff to continue to avail of CPD and research opportunities.
- 3.3.9 Consider how Trauma Informed Care can be embedded as a core area across relevant parts of the programme, as appropriate.
- 3.3.10 Consider incorporating Trauma Informed Care as a standalone module into the programme (or consider it as a core module and reduce the number of electives to 2).
- 3.3.11 Critically reflect on the aspirations of the programme, and explore potential areas for further development around cost, equipment, and licenses.
- 3.3.12 Include more details on how experimental psychology requirements will be incorporated into the programme, including details of how ethical standards are adhered to in relation to experimental laboratory work.
- 3.3.13 Review the psychological impact of Social Media and consider how this can be incorporated across syllabi as appropriate.

#### **3.4 Commendations and Observations**

- 3.4.1 The Panel commended the Programme Team for the positive engagement, enthusiasm, dedication, and team spirit exhibited during the validation visit.
- 3.4.2 The Panel appreciated the detailed discussions and clarifications provided by the Programme Team.
- 3.4.4 The Panel commended the inclusion of social justice/activism elements across the programme.
- 3.4.4 The Panel complimented the team on the comprehensive nature of the documentation provided.

  
Signature of Chairperson and Date