



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, 15th February 2022

for the

**Master of Arts in Enterprise in Creative Industries
and embedded award
Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Enterprise for Creative Industries**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the external validation visit for the proposed Master of Art in Enterprise in Creative Industries, and embedded award, Postgraduate Diploma in Art in Enterprise for Creative Industries, and the findings and conclusions of the External Validation Panel on 15th February 2022. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Council Regulations. An external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Institute:	TUS: Midlands Midwest
Faculty:	Limerick School of Art and Design
Department:	Design
Date of Visit:	15 th February 2022

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title:	Master of Art in Enterprise in Creative Industries
Award Title:	Master of Art
NFQ Level:	Level 9
Duration:	1.5 years Full-time
ECTS Credits:	90

Programme Title:	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Enterprise for Creative Industries
Award Title:	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts
NFQ Level:	Level 9
Duration:	1 year Full-time
ECTS Credits:	60

2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Dr. Andrew Power	IADT (Chairperson)
Mr. Con Kennedy	TU Dublin
Ms. Caroline Jackman	Crafts Council, UK
Mr. Alex Jiménez	Nut Creatives, Barcelona, Spain
Ms. Lynne Whelan	IT Carlow
Ms. Ellie Cullen	Student Representative

2.4 Institute Staff

Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar	Dr. Terry Twomey
Dean of Faculty	Mr. Mike Fitzpatrick
Head of Department of Design	Dr. Adam de Eyto

Programme Team

Eleanor Moloney
Fiona Quill
Gillian Barry
Marie A Walsh
Glen O'Sullivan
Eamon Spelman

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 Arts in Enterprise for Creative Industries
- Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Enterprise for Creative Industries

subject to the recommendations as specified in Section 3.3.

3.2 Conditions

3.2.1 No conditions apply.

3.3 Recommendations

3.3.1 Develop a guidance document for Students for the 30 ECTS Credit Module *Outline Business Plan*. This should include appropriate guidance on the characteristics of the main deliverables including structure, word counts and level of research, inter alia, as appropriate.

3.3.2 Make more explicit in the programme documentation and in the modules the learning associated with the following:

- grant funding applications - and associated skill development;
- sustainability and resilience;
- IP and copyright;
- export and e-commerce;
- costings;
- writing skills.

Include as appropriate in learning outcomes, indicative content and assessment strategies.

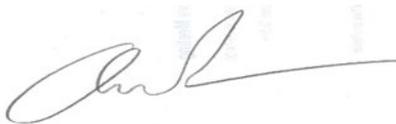
3.3.3 Make more explicit in the programme the evolution of the role of the Entrepreneur. Review and revise the reading list to include further references relating to *Entrepreneurship as a Designer*.

3.3.4 Ensure that programme content is both national and international in outlook and contexts, as appropriate, and does not overly rely on the Irish context only.

- 3.3.5 Add further reading/references on *Writing a Business Plan* to relevant modules as appropriate.
- 3.3.6 Continue the use of Guest Lecturers which is very important in supporting diverse perspectives at postgraduate level.
- 3.3.7 Further consider what mentoring and supports can be provided to students during the programme and the level of follow up and support that could be offered to students once they graduate.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

- 3.4.1 The panel commends the LSAD, Department of Design/Flexible Learning and the Programme team for the development of a further innovative offering that adds to the programme suite at Masters level providing progression and learning opportunities in the cognate area.
- 3.4.2 The panel welcomes the Springboard funding that supports the programme and also notes the strategy to mainstream and secure the programme in the longer term.
- 3.4.3 The panel commends the partnership and collaboration between the Departments of Design, Flexible Learning and the Enterprise and Acceleration Centre in the design and development of the programme.
- 3.4.4 The panel commends the comprehensive and robust documentation and notes the hard work of the team to get it to that level.
- 3.4.5 The panel commends the blended learning approach which supports programme access and assists in creating life-long learning opportunities.
- 3.4.6 The panel notes and commends the holistic skills mix and creative expertise of the Programme Team. The panel notes the very strong practice based dimension to this expertise.
- 3.4.7 The panel commends the evident enthusiasm and passion of the programme team and thanks the team for the open and constructive engagement during the validation visit.



Signature of Chairperson