



TUS

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

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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**Dámh an Ghnó agus Daonnachtaí
Faculty of Business and Humanities**

**An Roinn Spórt agus Luath-Óige
Department of Sport and Early Childhood**

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel, 29/02/2024

for the

**Bachelor of Arts of (Honours) in Physical Education with Business
Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education with Business
Higher Certificate in Physical Education with Business**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the external validation visit for the proposed:

Bachelor of Arts of (Honours) in Physical Education with Business
Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education with Business
Higher Certificate in Physical Education with Business

held on 29th Feb 2024. 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	Business and Humanities
Department	Sport and Early Childhood
Date of Visit	29 th February 2024

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title	Bachelor of Arts of (Honours) in Physical Education with Business
Award Title	Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
NFQ Level	8
ECTS Credits	240
Award Class	Level 8
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	4 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2025
Contact	Seoirse Bulfin/ Kelvin Harold

Programme Title	Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education with Business
Award Title	Bachelor of Arts
NFQ Level	7
ECTS Credits	180
Award Class	Level 7
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	3 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2025
Contact	Seoirse Bulfin/ Kelvin Harold

Programme Title	Higher Certificate in Physical Education with Business
Award Title	Higher Certificate in Arts
NFQ Level	6
ECTS Credits	120
Award Class	Level 6
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	2 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2025
Contact	Seoirse Bulfin/ Kelvin Harold

2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Damien Courtney - Chairperson	Fellow Emeritus CIT
Ms. Noreen O'Connell	University of Limerick
Ms. Vivienne Nee	LGFA

Prof. Michael Harrison	SETU
Mr. Alan Cunningham	St. Caimins School, Shannon
Ms. Annakate Cournane	Student Representative

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Micheal Francis Ryan, TUS.
Support to Secretary/Panel: Ms. Claire Frawley, TUS

2.4 TU Staff

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Terry Twomey	VP Student Affairs and Registrar
Mr. Donnacha McNamara	Dean of Limerick School of Art and Design
Dr. Amy McGuire/Dr. James Griffin	Head of Department of Sport and Early Childhood/ Head of Department of Marketing and Digital Communications
Programme Coordinators: Saoirse Bulfin/ Kelvin Harold Programme Team: Elaine Barry, Stacey Cahill, Craig Coffey, Marion Geary, Aaron Grant, Oliver Kirwan, Dermot Maleney, Joe Mulcahy, Amy McGuire, Any McNamara, Keith McNicholas, Eamon Nyhan, Gretanne O'Beirne, Declan O'Rahilly, Judith Ryan, Caroline Shanley, Niamh Whelan	

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 Arts of (Honours) in Physical Education with Business;
Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education with Business;
Higher Certificate in Physical Education with Business,

subject to the conditions in Section 3.2 and recommendations as specified in Section 3.3.

3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Carefully consider the proposed programme title and give strong consideration to a title such as: 'Physical Education Pathway with Business Studies' (A proposed new title should clarify for potential candidates the nature of the programme);
- 2) Include detail in the programme documentation regarding provisions in place for programme staffing; particularly the need for the relevant skill set to accommodate the introduction of new modules;
- 3) Include detail in the programme documentation regarding provisions in place for relevant resources and facilities;
- 4) Outline the teaching, learning and assessment strategies for the new modules in physical education and consider a 'commonality of approach' that might align with Physical Education for school settings (This commonality of approach could be co-ordinated via the Module 'Principles of Sports and Physical Education Pedagogy');
- 5) Review the proposed assessment load (predominance of continuous assessment with multiple 5 credit modules) and consider potential opportunities for further rationalisation in the number of assessments and opportunities for shared cross-modular assessments;)
- 6) Develop agreements with international partners regarding the Work Placement/Erasmus component (RUN-EU-Network);
- 7) If modules are being supported by external agencies who provide facilities, it is important that there is strong collaboration with relevant faculty staff;
- 8) Update and review the reading lists for consistency of presentation (some have included publishers, others not);
- 9) Present completed matrices for programme tables to include all modules: (e.g. page 12 - there is no reference to the final year project in semester 8; on page 65

- two PE modules from Semester 8 are omitted and; on page 77 there is a need to delete the duplication of 'Exercise For Special Populations');
- 10) Examine opportunities for a greater focus on 'health and safety protocols' in relevant sports and physical education module content (to equip graduate practitioners in a variety of employment contexts).

11) Modular Recommendations

Stages 1 & 2

- i. Consider whether content on 'Exercise Physiology' should be more visible in the programme;
- ii. Introduce additional input on academic writing in the first year of the programme (possibly within the 'Learning Skills & Information Technology' Module);
- iii. Explore potential for the introduction of a further continuation module on 'Sports Development' (as a follow on from introductory module Year 1- Semester 2), possibly an elective module in due course;
- iv. For The 'Introduction to Coaching Module' (stage 2 Semester 3), promote coaching to other groups (university sports teams) to replicate real life context and minimise peer coaching;
- v. In The 'Water Based Activity' Module (Stage 2 - Sem 3), consider assessment strategies for managing situations where participants are unable to swim, so as to meet the learning outcomes for the module;
- vi. Review the pre-requisite attendance requirement weighting (35%) for the 'Water Based Activity' module;
- vii. Enhance further opportunities for including relevant Sports contexts in the teaching of: Economics, Accounting, Business & Law Modules (using case studies, problem based learning and practical applications)

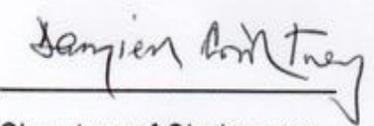
Stages 3 & 4;

- viii. Review Repeat Assessment Strategies to ensure that they accurately assess the learning outcomes - both knowledge and skills to ensure they are consistent with the initial module assessment strategies;
- ix. Review additional opportunities for earlier preparation towards the Final Year Project (completing literature reviews and participating in academic writing workshops during stages 3 and 4);

- x. Consider including 'Sportshall Athletics' in the Athletics Module (Stage four Sem 7).

3.4 Commendations and Observations

- 1) The panel commends the quality of the programme submission and documentation and noted its comprehensive and detailed nature;
- 2) The panel commends the development of the programme, its innovative diversity for the sector and particularly the 'theory-practice-application dynamic' within the programme;
- 3) The panel commends the structure of the programme: the three streams and the range of modules included in the programme; particularly the practical nature of many of the modules;
- 4) The panel commends the programme team for their engagement and discussion throughout the programme panel validation meeting;
- 5) The panel commends the business components of the programme;
- 6) The panel commended provision within TUS Research Policy for managing the ethical protocols in undergraduate research projects.



Signature of Chairperson

Date: 11/03/2024