Institute of Art, Design + Technology Dún Laoghaire

Programme Validation Report

Programme Validation Report for:

BA (Hons) in English & Equality Studies
Level 8, 180 ECTS

Date of Panel: 12 May 2023
Date of Report: 31 May 2023

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Part 1 Introduction

1.1 Evaluators

Name	Role	Affiliation
Dr Sheila Flanagan	Chair	Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Registrar, DKIT
Dr Adrian Paterson	Academic Expert	Lecturer in English, University of Galway
Prof. Pat Brereton	Academic Expert	Head of School of Communications, DCU
Ms Lisa Cunningham	Industry Expert	Managing Director, Vogue Business Development

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1.2 Overall Recommendations

Provider Name	Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT)
Date of Site Visit	Friday, 12 May 2023
Date of Report	Wednesday 31 May 2023

Principal Programme	**Title**	**BA (Hons) English and Equality Studies**
	Award	Bachelor of Arts
	Credit	180 ECTS
	ISCED code	0220
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Embedded Award	**Title**	N/A
	Award	N/A
	Credit	N/A
	Recommendation Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory	N/A

1.3   Principal Programme

Names of Centres where the programmes are to be provided	Maximum Number of Learners (per centre)	Minimum Number of Learners
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Kill Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	20	10

Enrolment Interval (normally 5 years)	**Date of First Intake**	September 2023
	Date of Last Intake	September 2027
Maximum number of annual intakes	1	
Maximum total number of learners per intake	20	
Programme duration (months from start to completion)	3 years	
Target learner groups	This programme is targeted at candidates who wish to pursue careers in public administration, community work, consultancy, teaching, journalism, the creative industries, development agencies, NGOs and international organisations.	
Approved countries of provision	Ireland	
Delivery mode – Full-time/Part-time	Full–time and part-time. The programme is delivered on a full-time basis; however, the Institute may decide to offer this programme on a part-time basis in the future.	
The teaching and learning modalities	Lecturers Industry Guest Lecturers Lab-based tutorials Case-based learning Self-directed study Site visits & field trips	
Brief synopsis of the programme (e.g. who is it for, what is it for, what is involved for learners, what it leads to)	This is a Level 8 BA programme with a joint honour in English Literature and Equality Studies. It introduces students to the study of English literature and complements this with the study of law and sociology focussed on equality and social justice.	

Summary of specifications for teaching staff	WTE[1]	Qualifications and Experience *Appropriate qualifications in the following disciplines:*
	6 (Shared provision with DL849)	English Literature
	2	Cultural Studies Gender Studies
	1 (Shared provision with DL849)	Sociology and Research

Summary of specifications for the ratio of learners to teaching staff	Staff to Learner Ratio	Learning Activity Type
	1:20 1:40 1:60	Seminars and Workshops Lectures for DL841 alone Lectures shared with DL849

1.4   Embedded Programme

N/A

1.5 Programmes being replaced

Programme being replaced (applicable to applications for revalidation)		
Code	Title	Last Enrolment Date
DL841	BA (Hons) English and Equality Studies (4 years)	September 2022

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[1] WTE is the whole-time equivalent number. The number 1 indicates a full-time person fully dedicated to the programme or a number of people whose time combined equals a full time person.

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Part 2 Evaluation against the Validation Criteria

2.1 Criterion 1

The provider is eligible to apply for validation of the programme	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel was an in-person meeting held on campus in IADT, in the Board Room, Róisín Hogan House, on Friday, 12 May 2023. The Panel met with the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs + Registrar, the Head of the Faculty of Enterprise and Humanities, the Head of the Department of Humanities and Arts Management and members of the Programme Team. The Panel members were issued the proposed Programme Document before the meeting. Following a review of the documentation provided and presentations and discussions with IADT Management and Programme Team members, the Panel were satisfied that IADT meets the prerequisites of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act, 2012 and is eligible to apply for validation of the **three-year BA (Hons) English + Equality Studies**. The Panel were satisfied to recommend this programme for validation with no conditions and some recommendations.

2.2 Criterion 2

The programme objectives and outcomes are clear and consistent with the QQI awards sought	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	Having considered and discussed the objectives and outcomes of the programme with the programme team, the Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the aims and objectives are clearly defined in the programme proposal document, and this programme is consistent with the Bachelor of Arts award sought. **Commendation #1** The Programme Validation Panel commended the programme document for being very well-written and showing clear evidence of wide consultation and research.

2.3   Criterion 3

The programme concept, implementation strategy, and its interpretation of QQI awards standards are well informed and soundly based (considering social, cultural, educational, professional and employment objectives)	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Team outlined the rationale for transitioning this programme from 4 to 3 years. This was based on market research and feedback from IADT students. The format is a 3 + 1 model, providing the option for students to do an additional year of Erasmus or Work Placement. The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the programmes met the criteria around the concept, implementation and interpretation of QQI standards. **Commendation #2** The Programme Validation Panel were impressed with the proposed programme, noting it has unique selling points, particularly in Equality Studies, with good transferable skills and ethical considerations.

2.4   Criterion 4

The programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied overall that the programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory. **Commendation #3** The Programme Validation Panel commended the programme, showcasing great employment opportunities through various sectors while integrating social enterprise.

2.5 Criterion 5

The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied with the curriculum structure. They felt there was a good mix and blend of modules that was reflective of the programme title. The Panel found the programme document was good; however, they felt in some cases, the richness of the modules was not articulated as well in the document as was demonstrated during discussions with the programme team.

The Programme Validation Panel thoroughly reviewed the programmes written curriculum, and discussed different aspects of the modules with the Programme Team.

Overall, the members of the Panel were satisfied that the written curriculum is well structured and fit for purpose.

Recommendation #1
The Programme Validation Panel recommended the reading lists are expanded and updated.

Recommendation #2
The Programme Validation Team felt there was a very strong lean on Law subjects, and there is a requirement to broaden the modules to broaden and integrate the areas of equality and inclusivity more.

Recommendation #3
The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team consider incorporating concepts such as sustainability and some other environmental areas/ climate issues from Year 2

Recommendation #4
The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team make applicable updates to expand module details as necessary in the programme document. |

2.6   Criterion 6

There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel considered the information provided in the Programme Document and the CVs of the staff. They met with some members of the Programme Team and enjoyed an engaging discussion about the programme. The Programme Validation Panel was satisfied that sufficient qualified and capable programme staff are available to implement this programme as planned. **Commendation #4** The Programme Validation Panel commended the Programme Team for their honesty, passion and enthusiasm and noted their engagement and the quality of the discussion.

2.7   Criterion 7

There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	Most of the Programme Validation Panel were already familiar with the campus, but a campus tour was also provided. They were advised of the developments of the new Digital Media building, currently under construction. The Programme Validation Panel was satisfied that sufficient physical resources are available to implement this programme as planned.

2.8 Criterion 8

The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied the learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners.

2.9 Criterion 9

There are sound teaching and learning strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel was satisfied that the Institute and Faculty Teaching and Learning strategies were of the required calibre to deliver the programme content. **Commendation #5** Programme Validation Panel commended the programme for bringing issues relating to citizenship and taking areas such as HR, business and law while integrating them with equality.

2.10 Criterion 10

There are sound assessment strategies	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	Comment
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel considered the mix of exams and continuous assessment was good.

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	The Programme Validation Panel considered the assessment strategies outlined in the programme documentation and discussed them with the programme team, and they were satisfied overall.

2.11 Criterion 11

Learners enrolled on the programme are well informed, guided and cared for	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Panel concurred that there are suitable arrangements in place to ensure learners are well informed, guided and cared for, and as discussed, they were satisfied with the mechanisms in place.

2.12 Criterion 12

The programme is well managed	
Satisfactory (Yes, No, Partially)	**Comment**
Yes	The Programme Validation Panel concurred they enjoyed really open and engaging discussions with the members of the programme team they met at the validation panel meeting. Following the review of the programme documentation and discussions with the Management and Programme Team, the Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that the programme will be professionally managed. **Recommendation #5** The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team continue to build and develop the shared module and cross-programme structure.

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Part 3 Overall Recommendation

3.1   Principal Programme

Select One	
X	**Satisfactory** (meaning that it recommends that IADT can be satisfied in the context of Unit 2.3 of [Policies and Criteria for the Validation of Programmes of Education and Training)](#)
	Satisfactory, subject to proposed special conditions (specified with timescale for compliance for each condition); these may include proposed pre-validation conditions, i.e. proposed (minor) things to be done to a programme that almost fully meets the validation criteria.
	Not satisfactory

3.1.1   Reasons for the Overall Recommendation

The Programme Validation Panel were satisfied that all the criteria were met, as demonstrated in the programme document and information provided by management and the Programme Team. The Panel recommend the **BA (Hons) English and Equality Studies** (3 years) for validation with no conditions and some recommendations.

3.2   Embedded Programme
N/A

3.3   Summary of Recommended Special Conditions of Validation
There were no conditions

3.4   Summary of Recommendations to the Provider

3.4.1   Recommendation #1
The Programme Validation Panel recommended the reading lists are expanded and updated.

3.4.2   Recommendation #2
The Programme Validation Team felt there was a very strong lean on Law subjects, and there is a requirement to broaden the modules to broaden and integrate the areas of equality and inclusivity more.

3.4.3   Recommendation #3
The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team consider incorporating concepts such as sustainability and some other environmental areas/ climate issues from Year 2

3.4.4   Recommendation #4
The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team make applicable updates to expand module details as necessary in the programme document.

3.5.5   Recommendation #5
The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team continue to build and develop the shared module and cross-programme structure.

3.5   Summary of Commendations to the Provider

3.5.1 Commendation #1
The Programme Validation Panel commended the programme document for being very well-written and showing clear evidence of wide consultation and research.

3.5.2   Commendation #2
The Programme Validation Panel were impressed with the proposed programme, noting it has unique selling points, particularly in Equality Studies, with good transferable skills and ethical considerations.

3.5.3   Commendation #3
The Programme Validation Panel commended the programme, showcasing great employment opportunities through various sectors while integrating social enterprise.
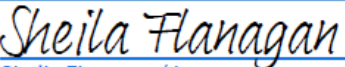
3.5.4   Commendation #4
The Programme Validation Panel commended the Programme Team for their honesty, passion and enthusiasm and noted their engagement and the quality of the discussion.

3.5.5   Commendation #5
Programme Validation Panel commended the programme for bringing issues relating to citizenship and taking areas such as HR, business and law while integrating them with equality.

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4   Signature of Chairperson

This report has been agreed by the evaluation panel and is signed on their behalf by the Chairperson.

Panel Chairperson Name	Sheila Flanagan
Panel Chairperson Signature	*Sheila Flanagan* Sheila Flanagan (Jun 22, 2023 15:12 GMT+1)
Date	Jun 22, 2023

5   Disclaimer

The Report of the External Review Panel contains no assurances, warranties or representations express or implied, regarding any aforesaid issues, or any other issues outside the Terms of Reference.

While IADT has endeavoured to ensure that the information contained in the report is correct, complete and up-to-date, any reliance placed on such information is strictly at the reader's own risk, and in no event will IADT be liable for any loss or damage (including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage) arising from, or in connection with, the use of the information contained in the Report of the External Evaluation Panel.

Programme Validation Report – Faculty Response

FACULTY OF ENTERPRISE AND HUMANITIES

RESPONSE TO

PROGRAMME VALIDATION REPORT

DL851 BA (Hons) ENGLISH AND EQUALITY STUDIES
3-year Level 8 Hons Degree

To: Dr Andrew Power, Registrar
From: Dr Josephine Browne, Head of Faculty
Date: September 22, 2023

CONDITIONS

There were no conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 5 recommendations. The response of the Faculty of Enterprise and Humanities to each recommendation is set out below.

Recommendation No.1

The Programme Validation Panel recommended the reading lists are expanded and updated.

Faculty response

The Faculty welcomes this recommendation full reading lists for all modules have been uploaded to the Hub (IADT's virtual learning environment) and will be added to the programme document – for noting at PVC and Academic Council.

Recommendation No.2

The Programme Validation Team felt there was a very strong lean on Law subjects, and there is a requirement to broaden the modules to broaden and integrate the areas of equality and inclusivity more.

Faculty Response

The Faculty welcomes this recommendation. This will be reviewed and addressed via the PVC and programmatic cycle in 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Faculty will investigate leveraging Institute expertise and initiatives in sustainability and some other environmental areas (including climate issues) as well as other areas of diversity and inclusion (*inter alia* disability) will also be examined.

Recommendation No.3

The Programme Validation Panel suggested the Programme Team consider incorporating concepts such as sustainability and some other environmental areas/ climate issues from Year 2

Faculty Response

As above, the Faculty welcomes this recommendation. This will be reviewed and addressed via the PVC and programmatic cycle in 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Faculty will investigate leveraging Institute expertise and initiatives in sustainability and some other environmental areas (including climate issues) as well as other areas of diversity and inclusion (*inter alia* disability) will also be examined.

Recommendation No. 4

The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team make applicable updates to expand module details as necessary in the programme document.

Faculty Response

The Faculty welcomes this recommendation. A schedule of assignments and an expanded module briefing document, that details the individual modules and their assessments, has been developed to address this and will be supplied to students. This will then be incorporated into the programme document and noted at the Programme Validation Committee, and Academic Council.

Recommendation No. 5

The Programme Validation Panel recommended the Programme Team continue to build and develop the shared module and cross-programme structure.

Faculty Response

The Faculty welcomes this recommendation. The Faculty sees that shared module and cross-programme structure has well and is committed to developing and reviewing it. It is also worth noting that a cross Faculty practice of joint- or co-assessment exists within the Faculty and it will be extended to the DL851 BA (Hons) English and Equality studies where appropriate.

COMMENDATIONS

The Faculty notes the commendations and thanks the panel for their thorough input and review.

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