TUS Policy and Procedure for Differential Validation of a Major Award
2024 - 2026

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Revision History	
Revision No	**Comments/Summary of Changes**
1.0	Approved by Academic Council

1.0   Differential Validation of New Major Award

Differential Validation involves the validation of a programme that is based on the modification of an existing validated TUS Programme. The TUS validation of the original programme informs the validation of the derived programme.

Examples of the application of the differential validation process include:
1. New Embedded Major Awards;
2. Changing of Award Titles;
3. Significant structural changes to Programmes (without significantly compromising the intended learning outcomes);
4. Significant change to directed learning hours;
5. Change to delivery mode.

2.0   Differential Validation Procedure

1. The decision to hold a differential validation panel is taken by the relevant Faculty in consultation with the VP Academic Affairs and Registrar.

2. A revised New Programme Document (Module Manager Extract) is prepared and presented to the Differential Validation Panel.

3. The revised programme document should be accompanied by the following:
    a) a short rationale for the differential validation; and,

    b) a summary/comparative mapping of existing approved programme structure versus the proposed new programme structure (ideally tabulated).

4. A differential validation panel is organized through the Offices of the VP Academic Affairs & Registrar/Quality and shall normally be held virtually.

5. A Differential Validation Panel is normally composed as follows:
    a) Chairperson (an academic with senior management experience in Higher education)
    b) One academic member of a Higher Education Institution;
    c) One industry/employer representative.
    d) An enrolled or formerly enrolled learner.

6. The original Validation Panel Report is made available to the Differential Validation Panel.

7. The Agenda for a Differential Validation Panel is structured to assess the differences in the proposed programme/award from the previously validated programme/award (See Appendix 1, Typical Agenda Template).

8. The duration of a Differential Validation Panel, shall be variable depending on the degree of proposed changes to the original validated programme. The typical duration shall be of up to a half day event (Appendix 1).

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AGENDA

PROPOSED: [Insert Programme Title]

Differential Validation Panel

[Insert Date)

Note: This is a typical schedule and may be modified depending on the particular context of the differential validation and nature of the proposed revision to the programme. The time durations indicated are indicative and may be shortened by Registry/Panel Chairperson, depending on the programme context.

1.0	**Private Meeting of Assessors**	**9.00am**

2.0 **Meeting with Senior Management** **9.30am**
- Strategic Focus/Context for Differential Validation
- Relevant Staffing, Facilities and Resource Issues.

3.0 **Meeting with Programme team** **10.00am**
- Rationale for Proposed Changes to Existing Programme
- Structure of the Programme and Proposed Programme Schedule
- Review of Changes from Existing Approved Programme.
- Proposed Programme Curriculum, Modules and Syllabi:
  - ✓ Module Learning Outcomes
  - ✓ Indicative Content
  - ✓ Assessment/Repeat Assessment Methodologies
  - ✓ Module Resources.

4.0 **Private Meeting of Assessors** **11.00am**

5.0 **Meeting with Senior Management** **11.45am**

5.0 **Conclusion of Panel** **12.00am**