



**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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Department of Design

Department of Flexible Learning

Differential Validation Panel, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

for the

Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (Part-time)

Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (Full-time, Part-time)

Certificate in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the differential validation visit for the proposed Postgraduate Diploma in Instructional and Learning Design, the Certificate in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (part-time) and the Masters add-on, and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The validation was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations. A differential validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Higher Education Provider

Institute	Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)
Faculty	Limerick School of Art and Design
Department	Design
Date of Visit	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

### 2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title	Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design-Project
Award Title	Master of Arts
NFQ Level	Level 9
Delivery	Part-time
ECTS Credits	90
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

Programme Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design
Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts
NFQ Level	Level 9
Delivery	Full-time, Part-time
ECTS Credits	60
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

Programme Title	Certificate in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (part-time)
Award Title	Certificate
NFQ Level	Level 9
Delivery	Part-Time
ECTS Credits	30
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

### 2.3 Differential Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins	Prof. Emeritus of Education (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Duffy	ATU
Ms Marianne Checkley	Kinia
Mr. Jos Gijbels	Student Representative
Dr. Brendan Murphy, Head of Quality, TUS- Secretary to the Panel	
Ms. Claire Frawley, Quality Officer, TUS	

### 2.4 University Staff

Seamus Hoyne	Dean of Flexible Learning
Mike Fitzpatrick	Dean of LSAD
Dr Adam DeEyto	Head of Department of Design
Programme Team	Gianna Tomasso, Glen O'Sullivan, Eleanor Moloney, Rebecca Marsden

### **3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL**

#### **3.1. Findings**

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed:

- Master of Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (Part-time) (90 ECTS)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (Full-time, Part-time) (60 ECTS)
- Certificate in Arts in Instructional and Learning Design (30 ECTS)

#### **3.2 Conditions**

No conditions apply.

#### **3.3 Recommendations**

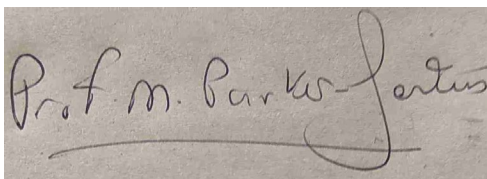
- 1) Include the full module manager versions of the following programme specification documents, in the final programme document suite:
  - a) the Part-time version of the Masters programme;
  - b) the Full-time version of the Postgraduate Diploma programme.
- 2) Ensure that industry standard tools and technology are available to enhance the educational experience of learners and that there are sufficient supports in place to assist learners with the back-end of such systems.
- 3) Ensure the tools being taught are built into the delivery of the programme and that their incorporation reflects effective practices, as appropriate.

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

The panel:

- 1) commend the focus on the development of embedded awards to ensure that learners have appropriate exit points and can have recognition of this learning;
- 2) commend the programme team for the work involved in the development of the Part-time programme offering presented, noting this will create significant opportunities for life-long learning;
- 3) thank the programme team for the detailed documentation, including the summary rationale for the programme changes and revised programme documents;

- 4) appreciated the detailed discussions and the helpful clarifications provided by Management and the Programme Team.

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Prof. M. Parko-Jentus" in a cursive script. The word "Prof." is written in a smaller, more formal hand, while "M. Parko-Jentus" is in a larger, more fluid cursive. A horizontal line is drawn under the signature.

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Signature

17/06/2025