



TUS

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

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie

Limerick School of Art and Design

Department of Digital Arts and Media

Differential Validation Panel, 10th March, 2025

for the

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Arts (Common Entry)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the differential validation visit for the proposed Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Arts (Common Entry), and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 10th March 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	Digital Arts and Media
Date of Visit	10 th March 2025

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Programme Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Arts (Common Entry)
Award Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	240
Format	Bachelor's Degree
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 Aidan Wall	Industry Representative
Ms Jackie Cartery	Laois Offaly ETB
Mr Jos Gijbels	Student Representative

2.4 University Staff

Mike Fitzpatrick	Dean of Limerick School of Art and Design
James Greenslade	Head of Department of Digital Arts and Media
Programme Team	Dr Marie Walsh, Andrew Crotty, Eamon Dalton, Paul Keating, Michael Kiely, Richard Gavin, John Hannafin.
Tertiary Manager	Dr. Sarah O'Toole

2.5 Documentation

1. Proposed Programme Document.
2. B.Sc. in Digital Arts (Common Entry Route) - Summary Comparative Mapping
3. TUS Policy and Procedures for Differential Validation Policy if a Major Award.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1. Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed: Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Arts (Common Entry)

3.2 Conditions

No conditions apply.

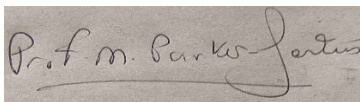
3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Ensure that programme information and promotional materials highlight entry requirements for the programme.
- 2) Add learning content on 'Ethics' to Stage 1 of the programme, permeating all modules in an appropriate manner. Additionally, include reference to ethics in the Student Handbook at the outset.
- 3) Align the expression of independent learning for the Digital Photography module to hours per week, in order to be consistent with the other modules.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

The panel commend the programme team for:

- 1) their collaboration with Tipperary ETB and their responsiveness in utilising the differential validation process as an opportunity to enhance access and progression via the tertiary education initiative.
- 2) presenting an innovative and attractive programme offering with clear progression pathways for students.
- 3) the excellent team approach to the programme and the comprehensive nature of the programme design, including a balanced approach to curriculum design and assessment.
- 4) the comprehensive and detailed documentation including the rationale for the programme changes, comparative mapping and revised programme document.
- 5) the enthusiasm of the programme team and the constructive discussions and helpful clarifications provided during the validation visit.



19/03/2025