



TUS

**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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Faculty of Continuing, Professional, Online and Distance Learning

Department of Lifelong Learning

Report of Differential Validation Panel

Differential Validation Panel, 25th November 2024

for the

Higher Certificate in Business (Level 6)

Bachelor of Business (Level 7, Add-on)

Bachelor of Business (Honours) (Level 8, Add-on)

Bachelor of Business (Honours)

Higher Certificate in Operations, Quality and Lean Management (Level 6)

Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management (Level 7, Add-on)

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management (Level 8 Add-on)

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the differential validation visit for the proposed:

- Higher Certificate in Business (Level 6)
- Bachelor of Business (Level 7, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours) (Level 8, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours)
- Higher Certificate in Operations, Quality and Lean Management (Level 6)
- Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management (Level 7, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management (Level 8 Add-on)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management

and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 25th November 2024. 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
Faculty: Business and Hospitality
Department: Accounting and Business Computing
Date of Visit: 25th November 2024

2.2 Programmes Evaluated

Programme	Higher Certificate in Business
Award Title	Higher Certificate
NFQ Level	Level 6
ECTS Credits	120
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	2.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Business
Award Title	Bachelor of Business
NFQ Level	Level 7
ECTS Credits	60

Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	1.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
Award Title	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	60
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	1.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
Award Title	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	240
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	5 years

Programme	Higher Certificate in Science in Operations, Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Higher Certificate
NFQ Level	Level 6
ECTS Credits	120
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	2.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Bachelor of Science

NFQ Level	Level 7
ECTS Credits	60
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	1.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management (Level 8 Add-on) (1.5 years)
Award Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	60
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	1.5 years

Programme	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management
Award Title	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	240
Delivery Mode	Part Time, online
Proposed Start Date	2025
Duration	5 years

2.3 Differential Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins (Chair)	Emeritus Professor of Education, UL.
Dr Michael Barrett	Head of Faculty of Business and Social Sciences (Retired) ATU Sligo
Breda Colgan	Managing Director Salutem Advisory and Training Ltd
Linda Redmond	Student representative
Dr Sarah O'Toole	Secretary to Panel
Cora Mc Cormack	Quality Officer

2.4 Institute Staff

Faculty of Continuing, Professional, Online
and Distance Learning
Head of Department of Lifelong Learning

Dr Michael Tobin
Declan Doran

Programme Team:

Kevin Farrell, Shona Stewart, Jim Gilchrist, Paul Doherty, Seadna Ryan

2.5 Documentation

1. Existing and Proposed Programme Documents.
2. Summary of Rationale for the Proposal.
3. Summary of Comparative Programme Changes.
4. Report of Original Programme Validation Panel.
5. TUS Policy and Procedures for Differential Validation Policy if a Major Award.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed:

- Higher Certificate in Business (Level 6)
- Bachelor of Business (Level 7, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours) (Level 8, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours)
- Higher Certificate in Operations, Quality and Lean Management (Level 6)
- Bachelor of Science in Quality and Lean Management (Level 7, Add-on)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management (Level 8 Add-on)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quality and Lean Management

3.2 Conditions

No conditions apply.

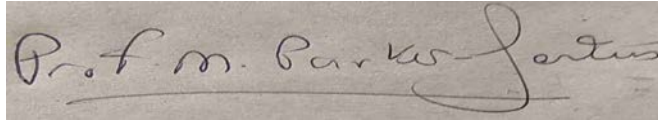
3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Consider how best to evaluate the pilot and provide feedback on this initiative.
- 2) Review the references throughout all modules to ensure recent and relevant literature is included.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

- 1) The panel commends the approaches used to ensure groupwork is managed effectively with a strong methodological approach.
- 2) The panel commends the approaches implemented in the delivery of blended learning and the use of learning gates and in-person events.
- 3) The panel commends the distribution of the ECTS that have been managed in a way that enhances the student experience.
- 4) The panel commends the success of achieving a 93% student retention rate.
- 5) The panel commends the flexibility within the programme to support students to move onto different pathways in the programme and increase accessibility.
- 6) The panel commends the programme team for the comprehensive way in which they engaged in programme changes and the supportive documentation that was provided.

- 7) The panel commends the programme management and programme team for the constructive and engaging manner in which they responded for this Differentiation event.

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Prof. M. Parker-Jones" in a cursive, flowing script. The name "Parker-Jones" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Prof. M." is written in a smaller, more compact hand to the left.

Signature of Chairperson

Date: 14/01/2025