



TUS

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

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie

**Dámh an Ghnó agus Daonnachtaí
Faculty of Business and Humanities**

Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel, 26/05/2025

for the

**Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business with Fashion Management
Bachelor of Business in Business with Fashion Management
Higher Certificate in Business with Fashion Management**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the external validation visit for the proposed:

Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business with Fashion Management

Bachelor of Business in Business with Fashion Management

Higher Certificate in Business with Fashion Management

held on 26th May 2025. The external validation visit was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations for the development of taught programmes. An external validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Provider	TUS: Midlands Midwest
Faculty	Business and Humanities
Department	Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness
Date of Visit	26 th May 2025

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Award Title	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
Programme Title	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business with Fashion Management
NFQ Level	8
ECTS Credits	240
Award Class	Level 8
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	4 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2026
Contact	Orla Fox-Colleran

Award Title	Bachelor of Business
Programme Title	Bachelor of Business in Business with Fashion Management
NFQ Level	7
ECTS Credits	180
Award Class	Level 7
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	3 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2026
Contact	Orla Fox-Colleran

Award Title	Higher Certificate in Business
Programme Title	Higher Certificate in Business with Fashion Management
NFQ Level	6
ECTS Credits	120
Award Class	Level 6
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	2 years
Proposed Starting Date	September 2026
Contact	Orla Fox-Colleran

2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
John Vickery - Chairperson	Former Registrar Tallaght IT
Dr John Carty	ATU

Ms. Triona Lynch	LCETB
Ms. Jennifer Dwyer	McGovern Fashions
Ms. Anne-marie Woods	House of Hofu
Mr Stefan Bolger	Student Representative

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Sarah O'Toole, TUS.

Support to Secretary/Panel: Ms. Claire Frawley, TUS

2.4 TU Staff

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Terry Twomey	VP Student Affairs and Registrar
Dr. James Griffin	Dean of Business and Humanities
Ms. June O'Byrne-Prior	Head of Department of Health, Tourism and Wellness
<p>Programme Coordinators: Orla Fox-Collaran</p> <p>Programme Team: Agnes Bouchier-Hayes, Kelly Browne, June OByrnePrior, Michael Dillane, Orla Fox-Collaran, Majella Golden, Margaret Hogan, Sara-Jane Kickham, Stephanie McGrath, Marie Mitchell, Catriona Murphy, Martin Neville, Sinead O'Leary., Karen O'Neill</p>	

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed

- Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business with Fashion Management
- Bachelor of Business in Business with Fashion Management
- Higher Certificate in Business with Fashion Management

subject to the conditions in Section 3.2 and recommendations as specified in Section 3.3.

3.2 Conditions

- 1) Review the programme learning outcomes of the three programmes to take cognisance of the Business Award Standard (what is being presented is the award standard in sections).
- 2) Review and update the programme documentation to ensure the employability of the students for the three programmes is clearly stated.

3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Update the programme documentation to remove any references to the LIT Teaching and Learning Strategy, BA Hons in Fashion Management and Marketing and other errors.
- 2) Consider the overall definition of Fashion and how the key areas covered within the programme will be clearly communicated to potential students.
- 3) Ensure consistency in relation to the entry requirements throughout the documentation and remove the reference to a third language.
- 4) Include the minimum entry requirements for those entering the programme whose first language is not English or Irish. Reference the minimum English language requirements which is B2+ or greater in the common European Framework for Languages (equivalent IELTS 6.0)
- 5) Update the book list and online resources throughout to ensure the most relevant and recent version is included.
- 6) Review the teaching and learning strategy of the individual modules to reflect what elements of the TUS strategy is being applied e.g. flipped classroom, projects, groupwork, self-reflection, sustainability etc.

- 7) Review and update the repeat assessment strategies across the modules to ensure clarity in relation to the assessment.
- 8) Ensure that tutorials throughout the modules are focused on Fashion Management Industry.
- 9) Consider how best to incorporate the positive uses of AI throughout the programme.
- 10) Review the programme documentation to be fully inclusive e.g. terminology.
- 11) Update the module learning outcomes for pre-approved modules to take account of Blooms taxonomy.

Module Recommendations

Stage 1

Culture and History of Fashion

- Review Learning outcomes within this module, LO2 and LO3.

Textiles Fashion and Design

- Consider purchasing a subscription from WGSN to cover forecasting for this module.
- Update the weblinks in the online resources section.
- Review the learning outcomes within the modules, LO1,3,4,5,6.

Business Decision-Making and Applications

- Consider how this can be applicable to the Fashion Industry.

Visual Merchandising

- Review the learning outcomes within the module, LO2,3,5.
- Update the teaching and learning strategy to include reference to site visits and group work.

Fashion and Personal Styling

- Review the Learning outcomes within the module LO1 and LO2.
- Consider how the assessments can be reflective of minority groups, gender neutral groups or a person with a disability to challenge students' creativity.

Microeconomics for Business

- Update the document to remove errors and consider how the context will be reflective of the Fashion Industry.

Stage 2

Management Information Systems for Fashion

- Consider new apps that are becoming available that use AI to manage fabric systems and minimise waste.

Buying and Range Planning for Fashion Retail

- Review learning outcomes LO1 and LO4.
- Remove reference to Understand in the Indicative Syllabus.
- Consider how students can demonstrate each stage of the buying process.
- Incorporate opportunities for students to conduct sample approvals into CA.
- Consider incorporating student presentations within this module to develop student communication and presentation skills.

Fashion Supply Chain Management

- Review the learning outcomes LO1 and LO6.
- Consider the use of cross modular assessment into the project within this module and the Buying and Range Planning for Fashion Retail.

Fashion Sales Practice

- Update the learning outcomes LO1 and LO3.
- Remove reference to the term *Introduction to* in the indicative Syllabus for this module as it is at the end of the 2 year programme.

Stage 3

Merchandising on a Mission : The Charity Shop Challenge

- Update the learning outcome LO6.
- Amend the wording on the assessment strategy to clarify that Industry are not assigning marks.

Stage 4

Sustainable Fashion

- Review LO2, change 'Consider' to 'Discuss'.

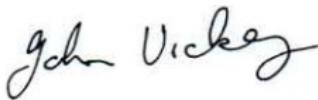
- Consider the use of Irish companies for the Case studies e.g. B Corp.
- Update the links within the documents to the resources.

Fashion Futures: Global Issues And Trends

- Review the LO1 and LO2.
- Consider reference to fashion across different cultures into the syllabus.

3.3 Commendations and Observations

- 1) The panel commends the team for the development of this innovative and creative programme to address the need in industry for graduates.
- 2) The practical nature of the programme and the application of theory is notable and will enhance the learner experience.
- 3) The combination of guest speakers and reference to live projects is commended.
- 4) This programme presents opportunities for TUS to be a market leader in this important and growing fashion industry.
- 5) The panel commends the team for their willingness to upskill to provide the best delivery of this programme in a changing society.
- 6) The panel thank the programme team for the comprehensive documentation including the rationale for the programme changes and their willingness to embrace feedback during the panel discussion.
- 7) The panel appreciated the detailed and rigorous discussions and the helpful clarifications provided by Management and the Programme Team.



Signature of Chairperson

Date: 02/06/2025