TUS

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne: Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie

Faculty of Applied Sciences & Technology

Department of Information Technology

Differential Validation Panel, 9th May 2025

for the

Master of Science in Applied Computer Networks and Security (Cybersecurity)
(Part-time)

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Applied Network Security (Cyber Security)
(Part-time)

Certificate in Applied Computer Networks (Cyber Security) (Part-time)

1.0   INTRODUCTION

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

- Master of Science in Applied Computer Networks and Security (Cybersecurity) (Part-time)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Applied Network Security (Cyber Security) (Part-time)
- Certificate in Applied Computer Networks (Cyber Security) (Part-time)

and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 9th May 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
Faculty: Applied Science and Technology

Department: Department of Information Technology

Date of Visit: 9th May 2025

2.2   Programmes Evaluated

Programme	Master of Science in Applied Computer Networks and Security (Cybersecurity) (Part-time)
Award Title	Master of Science
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	90
Delivery Mode	Part-time
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

Programme	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Applied Network Security (Cyber Security) (Part-time)
Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Science
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	60 ECTS
Delivery Mode	Part-time
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

Programme	Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Computer Networks (Cyber Security) (Part-time)
Award Title	Postgraduate Certificate
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	30
Delivery Mode	Part-time
Proposed Start Date	September 2025

2.3   Differential Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins (Chair)	Emeritus Professor of Education, UL.
Ms. Jaqueline Berhout	NHL Stenden
Mr. Colin Cummings	Workday
Mr. Damien Kowalik,	Student Representative
Dr. Sarah O'Toole	Secretary to Panel
Ms. Claire Frawley	Quality Officer

2.4   University Staff

Seamus Hoyne, Maura Clancy, Janice O'Connell, Niall Corcoran, Seamus O Ciardhuain, Michael Winterburn.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed:

- Master of Science in Applied Computer Networks and Security (Cybersecurity) (Part-time)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Applied Network Security (Cyber Security) (Part-time)
- Certificate in Applied Computer Networks (Cyber Security) (Part-time)
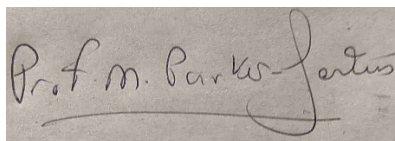
3.2 Conditions

No conditions apply.

3.3 Recommendations

1) Create a table with supporting documentation to outline the delivery of the programme in the different proposed delivery modes: Full time, Part time and Part time for Springboard.
2) Revise the programme schedule to allow 60 credits to be delivered over a 12 month period to keep in line with emerging Springboard criteria. (Semester 1, 20 credits, Semester 2, 20 credits, Intensive weeklong programme 20 credits)
3) Maintain an ongoing awareness of 'threat actors' manipulation' in industry and the wider Cyber Security context.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

1) The panel commends the team for the development of this programme to address the need in industry for graduates with a knowledge and understanding of Cyber Security.
2) The panel commends the programme team for the innovative delivery of the programme to support work life balance.
3) The panel appreciated the detailed and rigorous discussions and the helpful verbal clarifications provided by Management and the Programme Team

Prof. M. Parker-Jartis

Signature of Chairperson   Date: May 16,2025.