



**TUS**

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

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**Faculty of Science & Technology**

**Department of Applied Science**

**Report of Validation Panel**

**Differential Validation Panel, 23rd February 2026**

**for the**

**Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environment and Sustainability**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

- **Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 8**
- **Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 7**
- **Higher Certificate in Science (Full-time) Level 6**

**Embedded Awards: Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 7; Higher Certificate in Science (Full-time) Level 6.**

and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 23rd of February 2026. 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: Science and Technology  
Department: Applied Science  
Date of Visit: 23rd of February 2026

### 2.2 Programmes Evaluated

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environment and Sustainability</b>
Award Title	Honours Degree
NFQ Level	Level 8
ECTS Credits	240
Delivery Mode	Full time
Proposed Start Date	September 2027
Duration	4 years

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability</b>
Award Title	Ordinary Degree
NFQ Level	Level 7
ECTS Credits	180

Delivery Mode	Full time
Proposed Start Date	September 2027
Duration	3 years

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Higher Certificate in Science</b>
Award Title	Certificate
NFQ Level	Level 6
ECTS Credits	120
Delivery Mode	Full time
Proposed Start Date	September 2027
Duration	2 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.
Steve Tonroy	ATU
Austin Commene	Murphy Geospatial
Senator Malcolm Noonan	Member of Oireachtas
Tara Foley	Student Representative
Dr Sarah O'Toole	Secretary to Panel

### 2.4 Institute Staff

Dean of Faculty of Science & Technology	Dr. Maura Clancy
Head of Department of Applied Science	Dr. Peter Downey
Programme coordinator	Dr. Bridget Kirwan

#### **Programme Team:**

Abimola Ikoyi, Laura Curtin, Brigid Doyle, Clifford Guest, Elisha McGrane, Kevin Healion, Martin McCormack, Michael Maunsell, Pauline Ryan, Peter Downey.

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

#### **3.1 Main Findings**

The Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed:

- **Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 8**
- **Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 7**
- **Higher Certificate in Science (Full-time) Level 6**

**Embedded Awards: Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability (Full-time) Level 7; Higher Certificate in Science (Full-time) Level 6.**

#### **3.2 Conditions**

1) Review the programme and module learning outcomes for newly drafted modules. Ensure they are in line with Bloom's taxonomy and that they are measurable in the assessment strategy, while remaining consistent with the programme's practice-based and interdisciplinary pedagogical approach.

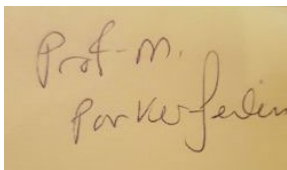
#### **3.3 Recommendations**

- 1) Consider the addition of habitat development in the module 'Fieldwork Skills and Safety'.
- 2) Update the Indicative Syllabus across the modules to ensure that there is adequate reference to the relevant content.
- 3) Review the references and reading resources to ensure the most recent and relevant references are included.
- 4) Update the literature within the module 'Community Engagement & Consultancy' to include more reference to multi species engagement.
- 5) Review where Life Cycle Assessment and greenhouse gas accounting can be further incorporated across the modules where relevant.
- 6) Consider changing the name of the module 'Climate Science' to 'Climate Action' in Stage 4.

- 7) Consider how the use of AI generated Data Collection such as Convolutional Neural Networks and the ethics of AI can be incorporated within the programmes as this is a key skill for potential graduates.
- 8) Conduct a thorough final edit of all module descriptors and the programme documentation and review the grammar and spelling throughout.
- 9) Consider where appropriate how software such as the ESRI ArcGIS Suite can be incorporated into modules.
- 10) Review and incorporate where feasible, best practice modern environmental technologies and their application.

### **3.4 Commendations and Observations**

- 1) The panel commends the programme team on the timely development of this innovative programme which is needed for the sector.
- 2) The panel commends the team for the clear rationale for the programme.
- 3) The panel commends the programme team for the engaging discussion and the responses to questions from the panel.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "Prof. M. Parker-Jones".

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Signature of Chairperson Date: 10/03/2026