



TUS

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

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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Limerick School of Art and Design

Department of Digital Arts and Media

Report of External Validation Panel

External Validation Panel, 22/04/2026

for the

Master of Arts in Digital Arts and Media – MADAM

**Embedded Awards:
Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Arts and Media**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings and findings of the external validation visit for the proposed: **Master of Arts in Digital Arts and Media – MADAM**

Embedded Awards:

MA in Digital Arts and Media

Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Arts and Media

held on 22nd April 2026. 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	Limerick School of Art and Design
Department	Digital Arts and Media
Date of Visit	22 nd April 2026

2.2 Programme Evaluated

Award Title	Master of Arts
Programme Title	Master of Arts in Digital Arts and Media – MADAM
NFQ Level	9
ECTS Credits	90
Award Class	Level 9
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	1 year
Proposed Starting Date	September 2026
Contact	Mr James Greenslade

Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma
Programme Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Arts and Media
NFQ Level	9
ECTS Credits	60
Award Class	Level 9
Delivery Mode	Full-time
Duration	1 year
Proposed Starting Date	September 2026
Contact	Mr James Greenslade

2.3 External Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

Name	Affiliation
Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins - Chairperson	Prof Emeritus UL
Asst. Prof. Judith Aston	University West of England
Ms. Valerie Renehan	MTU
Mr. Conor Buckley	Piquant
Mr. Peadar King	Black Gate Productions
Mr. Alan Devins	Student Representative

Secretary to Panel: Dr. Sarah O'Toole, TUS.
Support to Secretary: Ms. Claire Frawley, TUS

2.4 TU Staff

Name	Affiliation
VP Academic Affairs and Registrar	Dr. Maria Kyne
Prof. Anthony Caleshu	Dean of Limerick School of Art and Design

Mr. James Greenslade	Head of Department of Digital Arts and Media
Programme Coordinators: Eamon Dalton, James Greenslade, Stefano Odorico Programme Team: Caitriona NiChasaide, Marie Walsh, Tomas Mulcahy, Michael Gavin, Malachy Ronan, Patrick Duffy, Simon McGuire, Adrian Fielding, Colin Fardey, Muireann DeBarra	

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The External Validation Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed **Master of Arts in Digital Arts and Media – MADAM**

Embedded Awards:

Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Arts and Media

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

3.2 Conditions

- 1) Ensure that the relevant and necessary resources are put in place before the commencement of the programme or aspects of it.
- 2) Review the modules learning outcomes throughout the programme to ensure they are in line with a level 9 standard.

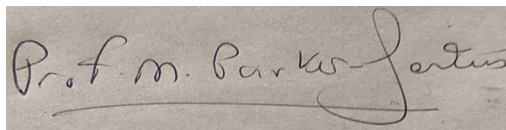
3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Clarify in the programme and its positioning that it is has been designed to allow for flexibility around the need to run all four streams in an academic year.
- 2) Clarify from a recruitment perspective in the programme document how a student would navigate the programme and choose strands of specialisation. Elaborate visually with a flow chart to show the different pathways that student might take.
- 3) Explicitly outline the details of how groupwork is addressed in the relevant modules (e.g. Advanced Film Production Techniques).
- 4) Define more specifically how interdisciplinary collaboration is achieved throughout the programmes.
- 5) Clarify that the programme will include guidance on pathways to support the development and funding of creative projects.
- 6) Review and update the documentation to ensure all assessment descriptors outline the timeline for assessments.
- 7) Review the module Rigged Animation Techniques with particular reference to the assessment type.
- 8) Highlight the assessment criteria for entry into the programme (e.g. portfolio project description) in the Entry Requirements of the programme to ensure student entry is at the right level.
- 9) Review and update the reading resources to ensure the most recent and relevant resources are referenced where appropriate.

- 10) Review the journal resources in the module on *Leadership In The Digital Industries* to ensure the most relevant articles are signposted.
- 11) Conduct a final review of the full documentation for spelling and grammatical edits, missing dates, incomplete assessment breakdowns etc.
- 12) Consider how to strengthen links with key industry stakeholders on a local, national and international level, e.g. through affiliation and a guest lecture programme.
- 13) Setup an advisory panel to support the ongoing strategic development of the programme.
- 14) Ensure there is ongoing support for staff CPD.
- 15) Create a document outlining how the major project will run through the programme including a planner with key milestones, deadlines and supervisory support in Semester 2 and Semester 3.

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 the sector and the region for such an offering.
- 2) The panel were impressed by the commitment of the team in the development of the programme.
- 3) The panel thank the programme team for the documentation including the rationale for the programme changes and their willingness to embrace feedback during the panel discussion.
- 4) The panel appreciated the discussions and the helpful clarifications provided by Management and the Programme Team.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature reads "Prof. M. Parker-Jarvis" in a cursive script.

Signature of Chairperson

Date 13/05/2026