QQI
Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Independent Evaluation Report on an Application for Validation of a Microcredential Programme

1.   Provider details

Provider name	Dublin Business School
Date of report	14 January 2020

Section A.   Overall recommendations

Programme	Code	PG24444
	Title	Certificate in Data Analytics
	Award Class	Special Purpose Award
	Credit	10 ECTS
	NFQ Level	8
	Recommendation *Satisfactory OR Satisfactory subject to proposed conditions OR Not Satisfactory*	Satisfactory

Section B.   Expert Panel

Name	Role	Affiliation
Martin McKinney	Subject Matter Expert & Chair	Professor Emeritus – Ulster University
Sarah Jane Delany	Subject Matter Expert	Professor – Technology University Dublin

Section C.   Programme Profile Information (as supplied by provider)

Brief synopsis of the programme

The Data Analytics (10 ECTS, Level 8) programme introduces learners to the fundamentals concepts of data analytics. Learners will identify Big Data problems and learn how to extract value from an organisation's internal data. They will explore open data sources and utilise current technologies, tools and methodologies in the development of data solutions. Learners will understand how to interpret and manage data sets - acquiring knowledge of the key elements in planning, managing, and executing individual data analysis undertakings - and develop skills in the effective management of a portfolio of data analytics projects. These skills and abilities are central to a career as a trainee Data Analyst or to commence study in Data Analytics or Financial Technology (FinTech). Through this programme, learners will acquire knowledge and understanding relating to data analytics and develop industry-aligned skills to support them in future career ambitions.

Target learner groups

The Data Analytics micro-credential programme is targeted towards learners who wish to gain essential knowledge of data analytics. The programme is aimed at learners who wish to gain knowledge and understanding of data analytics and are considering upskilling or re-skilling in this area. It is anticipated that this programme may particularly appeal to individuals employed in non-computing related sectors who wish to develop their knowledge and skills in this area, or are considering a career in which foundational knowledge of data analytics would be useful.

The minimum entry requirements for the Data Analytics micro-credential programme are:

?   A Level 8 primary undergraduate honours degree with a minimum Pass classification from a recognised third level institution in a non-cognate area.

Or

*   A minimum Level 7 Ordinary Bachelor's degree in a cognate area such as computer science, technology, networking, information systems, engineering, general science, mathematics, statistics, data science.

Or

*   Applicants who do not have a Level 8 qualification and who have at least 3 years' work experience may also be considered through the college's normal RPL procedures. Relevant professional experience may be taken into account and individuals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis through DBS RPL procedures.

Minimum language proficiency requirements

*   Applicants whose first language is not English and who have not previously undertaken a relevant qualification taught in English must provide evidence of proficiency in English language equivalent to B2+ or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This must be evidenced through a recognised English Language test such as IELTS, Cambridge Certificate or DBS English assessment. Test certificates should be dated within the last two years to be considered valid.

 Minimum maths proficiency requirements

*   Candidates will be required to have at minimum of Ordinary-Level Leaving Certificate mathematics, or be able to demonstrate competency at an equivalent level.

Rationale for Programme
The rationale for the programme was interesting and the Panel is happy that the case has been made.

Evidence of learner demand
The Panel is happy that there will be sufficient demand across the various modes of delivery identified in the submission.

Duration and Enrolment

	First Intake Date	Duration (months)	Cohorts / Intakes per Annum	Enrolment i.e. learners per Intake	
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Full-Time	N/A				
Part-Time	Jan 2021	3 months	3	5	100

PROGRAMME RATIONALE
Following clarification, the Panel is happy that there is a solid rationale for the programme.

PROGRAMME ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & ADMISSIONS
Following clarification, the Panel is happy that the programme entry requirements are appropriate for the programme. In relation to its query regarding the level of English Language expertise required for entry, the Panel welcomes the response that the provider, that they:

> "continuously conduct analyses of outcomes and as part of an upcoming review of Admissions by the Registrar, English Language at point of entry will be included as a consideration."

MAPPING MIPLOS AGAINST QQI STANDARDS (§3)
Following clarification, the Panel is happy that the mapping is appropriate.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT:
Following clarification, the Panel is happy that the programme management is appropriate.

Section D.   Programme Content, Delivery and Assessment

Summary of specifications for teaching staff

The summary specifications provided are appropriate for the delivery of the programme.

Mode(s) of Delivery
Following assurances from the providers, the Panel is content that the modes of delivery identified are appropriate.

Assessment Strategy

The Panel welcomes the clarifications received in relation to the Assessment strategy and is now content that it is appropriate for this programme.

Panel Commentary on Section D: Programme Content, Delivery and Assessment

This should set out the panel's views on the programme content, mode(s) of delivery and assessment, human and ICT resources. If the parent programme is more than a year old, the currency of module content and supporting technology should be checked.

The following Validation Criteria as they apply to this programme should be borne in mind, while also recognising that the programme of which this microcredential is a module, has already been deemed to have met these criteria.

Criterion 5:   *The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose.*

Criterion 6:   *There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned*

Criterion 7:   *There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned*

Criterion 8:   *The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners*

Criterion 10:   *There are sound assessment strategies*

The Panel is happy that, following discussions and the provision of further details (as appropriate):

- The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-for-purpose.
- There are sufficient qualified and capable programme staff available to implement the programme as planned
- There are sufficient physical resources to implement the programme as planned
- The learning environment is consistent with the needs of the programme's learners
- There are sound assessment strategies.

The clarifications presented were important and the Panel commends the professional manner in which they were dealt with by the provider.

Part 1.   Overall recommendation to QQI

1.1   Programme:

Select one	
✓	**Satisfactory** (meaning that it recommends that QQI can be satisfied in the context of unit 2.3) of Core policies and criteria for the validation by QQI of programmes of education and training;
	Satisfactory subject to proposed special conditions (specified with timescale for compliance for each condition; these may include proposed pre-validation conditions i.e. proposed (**minor**) things to be done to a programme that almost fully meets the validation criteria before QQI makes a determination);
	Not satisfactory.

Reasons for the overall recommendation

As a Pilot scheme, the assessors recognise the difficulties in responding to a call for engagement and participation at relative short notice. However, it is important that all proposals are appropriately scrutinised and reviewed to ensure the best possible programme for the learners.

In relation to this proposal, the Panel is satisfied that the provider has reflected upon their initial comments and provided appropriate clarification and amendments.

The Panel would like to thank the provider for their professional approach to this engagement.

Special Conditions of Validation (directive and with timescale for compliance)

NONE

As an aside, the initial conditions (prior to further clarification and amendment) were expressed as follows:

All of the following conditions should be addressed as soon possible (and prior to commencement of the programme).

1. *Revisit the proposed delivery modes and timeframes, providing justification and evidence for the chosen alternative(s).*

2. *Revisit the MIPLOs and provide assurance that they are commensurate with a 10-credit programme at Level 8 for the proposed target market.*

3. *Following 2. ensure that the exemplar assessment is suitably aligned with the (revised) MIPLOs.*

4. *Clearly state what software will be used on this MCP to deliver the practical skills referenced frequently in the learning outcomes and evidence.*
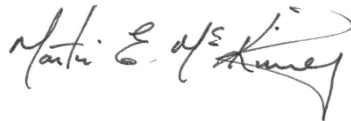
Each of these have been fully addressed to the satisfaction of the Panellists.

Declarations of Evaluators' Interests

This report has been agreed by the evaluation panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.

Panel Chairperson: **PROFESSOR MARTIN MCKINNEY**   **Date: 14 JANUARY 2020**

Signed:

1.2   Disclaimer

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