



Academic Quality Framework

Digital Badges Policy

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1. Policy Framework for TU Dublin Endorsed Digital Badges

1.1 Aim

This Digital Badges Policy is intended to provide strategic and structured approach to implementation of TU Dublin Digital Badge schemes. It is to enable enhancement of existing schemes in the university, and also allow for exploration of new and/or longer-term opportunities; specifically, to set overarching objectives aligned with the University Mission and Strategic Plan and provide a framework for development of procedures for sustainable implementation with underpinning quality standards.

1.2 Scope

The policy document provides the guiding principles for development and awarding of any TU Dublin endorsed Digital Badges, in recognition of competencies and skills achieved in any aspect of training and/or continuing professional development. This includes the recognition of co-curricular and extracurricular activities (e.g., partnership in Quality Enhancement processes, clubs and societies) and work-orientated competences (e.g., leadership skills, mentoring, etc.). The scope covers the entire contexts of achievement by students, staff and external stakeholders in higher education contexts.

1.3 Alignment with University Mission and Strategic Plan

TU Dublin endorsed digital badges shall provide opportunities for engaging and motivating learners, implementing new assessment approaches that recognise alternative achievement, tracking learning progress, scaffolding learning, recognising learning, encouraging behaviours that contribute towards learning (including effective engagement with the community and other external stakeholders) and sharing of accomplishments; therefore, alignment of scheme with the university mission will provide a natural pathway to effective and sustainable implementation.

1.4 Governance and Operation

Implementation of TU Dublin Digital Badges shall be founded on coherent governance and operational processes and procedures from the development to issuance of the badges. These shall clearly define the requisite roles and responsibilities for each stage and assign processes to appropriate personnel under agreed implementation plan. To ensure rigour, the process shall be underpinned by appropriate quality control measures alongside the operation processes, including the criteria for development of the digital badges and validation of their designated awards.

1.5 Quality Standard

Key quality criteria for development of TU Dublin endorsed digital badges shall include:

- Alignment to the University vision and strategy, and alignment with the Educational Principles Characterising the TU Dublin Education Model, thereby contributing to student experience, delivered in partnership with staff and/or external stakeholders such as civic society, industry collaborators/benefactors etc.
- Reflective of a robust and evidenced learning/accomplishments.
- Communication of credibility and value of competences and/or accomplishments.
- Periodic review of performance and fitness-of-purpose in meeting digital badge objectives, upon which action plan for quality enhancement may be determined.

1.6 Monitoring of the Digital Badge Scheme

The lifetime of the TU Dublin digital badge shall be indefinite, while the date of issuance shall be stamped on the badges and the information verifiable. There shall be monitoring and/or periodic review of the Digital Badge schemes as part of quality assurance and enhancement. Measuring the impact of digital badges for all stakeholders shall be an integral part of the monitoring process. Analyses will be carried out to ensure the digital badges add value to the respective holders.

1.7 GDPR Compliance

TU Dublin digital badges scheme shall be GDPR compliant.