



# Technological University Dublin Tallaght Campus

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## EXTERNAL VALIDATION REPORT FOR:

Minor Award: Certificate in Web Application  
Development -Level 7

Special Purpose Award: Certificate in Information  
Security -Level 8

Update to Existing Minor Award: Certificate in Cloud  
Provisioning Management & Security – Level 7

Update to Existing Minor Award: Certificate in  
Networking Security and Scripting – Level 7

**School of: Science & Computing**

**Department of: Computing**

Panel Meeting date:	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	
Decision:	Recommended	
<i>tick one only</i>	Recommended subject to modification	√

	Not recommended	
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Proposed Commencement Date:	September 2019
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Period of Validation:	5 years
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# EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL REPORT

## PART 1:

### 1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>School</b>	Science and Computing
<b>Department</b>	Computing
<b>Date of panel visit</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b>Programme evaluated</b>	Certificate in Web Application Development - Level 7 (Minor Award)  Certificate in Information Security -Level 8 (Special Purpose Award)  Certificate in Cloud Provisioning Management & Security – Level 7 (Minor Award)  Certificate in Networking Security and Scripting – Level 7 (Minor Award)
<b>Programme approved title</b>	Certificate in Web Application Development -  Certificate in Information Security –  Certificate in Cloud Provisioning Management & Security  Certificate in Networking Security and Scripting –
<b>Delivery Mode(s)</b>	Full-time, Part-time, On-line, Distance, Blended
<b>Panel</b>	Chair: Killian Logan, School of Informatics, DKIT Michael Scott, MIRACL  Secretary: Sinéad O'Neill, Quality Manager, IT Tallaght

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## 1.2 INSTITUTE STAFF

Name	Grade / Responsibility
Barry Feeney	Head of Department
David Whyte	Programme Leader
Eamon Hyland	Programme Leader
Enda Lee	Programme Leader
Ben Walsh	Programme Leader
Pearse McCarthy	Programme Leader
Jelena Vasic	Lecturer
Kevin Bayliss	Lecturer

## PART II COMMENDATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & CONDITIONS

The External Review panel recommends the validation of the programmes and awards:

Certificate in Web Application Development -Level 7 (Minor Award)

Certificate in Information Security -Level 8 (Special Purpose Award)

Certificate in Cloud Provisioning Management & Security – Level 7 (Minor Award)

Certificate in Networking Security and Scripting – Level 7 (Minor Award)

Subject to the conditions and recommendations set out below:

### 2.1 Commendations:

Points of note commended by the panel:-

1	The Panel commends the Programme Team on their flexible approach to responding to and meeting Industry needs.
2	The Panel commends the team on their responsiveness to student feedback and incorporating this into the Programme design.
3	The Panel commends the team on their successful application for Springboard funding.

## 2.2 Conditions:

The evaluation panel requires that the Programme Development Team should take note of the following conditions and that a satisfactory response to those conditions shall be received before the validation is considered by Academic Council of the Institute.

**NONE**

## 2.3 Recommendations:

Recommendations are suggestions made by the Programme Evaluation Panel in the spirit of improving the proposed Programme. While these are not binding, the reasons for not incorporating a recommendation have to be clearly stated by the Programme Development Team in its response to the Evaluation Report.

1	Outline the Entry Requirements for each new Award so that it is clear for prospective students what is required for entry onto the Programmes.
2	Outline the potential progression pathways for each new Award so that is clear for prospective students what their future options might be on completion.
3	With regard to the subject Agile Project Management Principles (Certificate in Information Security), it is recommended that the generic CAs are designed specifically for Information Security students.
4	With regard to the subject Certificate Information Security for Business (Certificate in Information Security), it is recommended that topics such as GDPR, data retention, legal requirements be reflected in the content.

### 2.3.1 Responses to Recommendations:

1	<p>Outline the Entry Requirements for each new Award so that it is clear for prospective students what is required for entry onto the Programmes.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> <i>As part of developing promotional material for the programme, the department will work to ensure that public information contains explicit statements on entry criteria and any pre-requisites for the programme. These have been incorporated into each submission document</i></p>
2	<p>Outline the potential progression pathways for each new Award so that is clear for prospective students what their future options might be on completion.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> <i>The department will ensure that public information contains explicit statements to set the correct expectations for participants with regard to potential transfer and progression avenues..</i></p>
3	<p>With regard to the subject Agile Project Management Principles (Certificate in Information Security), it is recommended that the generic CAs are designed specifically for Information Security students.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> <i>This has been done.</i></p>
4	<p>With regard to the subject Certificate Information Security for Business (Certificate in Information Security), it is recommended that topics such as GDPR, data retention, legal requirements be reflected in the content.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> <i>These topics are in fact covered in the module but the Syllabus text will be made more explicit in this regard.</i></p>

## PART III FINDINGS OF THE VALIDATION PANEL

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The panel was welcomed to the Institute by the Head of School and Head of Department. The panel used the external review template as per the Quality Assurance Manual to assist in their deliberations. The panel met in advance of the meeting to discuss the submission document and plan for the meeting with management and staff of the department.

### **3.2 MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT AND STAFF**

The Panel was given an overview of the rationale for the New Awards as well as the rationale for the updates to existing Awards. The Head of Department gave an overview of the Industry consultation, the successful application for Spring board funding and an overview of the updates to existing awards.

### **3.3 Programme Title and Award Title.**

The Panel was satisfied that the Programme and Award titles are justified and appropriate.

### **3.4 Justification for the Programme**

The justification for the proposed Programmes was discussed and the panel was satisfied that the Programme fulfils skills requirement of employers within industry catchment area. In relation to the new awards, the Panel noted the extensive stakeholder consultation that took place with Industry and the springboard + 2019-20 call for proposals which are an indicator of the need for skills these awards offer. In relation to the updates to the existing awards, the Panel noted that the addition of a module was a result of student consultation and feedback.

### **3.5 Conformance with Institute's Mission and Strategy**

The panel was satisfied that the proposed Programme is in keeping with the Institute's strategic objectives with regard to the widening of participation in higher education, creation of career ready graduates for industry, providing comprehensive lifelong learning opportunities for the region, and educational supports to industry.

### **3.6 Access, Transfer and Progression Arrangements**

The panel was satisfied with the stated arrangements for access, transfer and progression. The Panel makes a recommendation in regard to ATP, see no. 1 above.

### **3.7 Programme Structure and Design**

The Programme structure and design were well documented and the panel was satisfied with the information supplied. The Panel noted that the new

awards are based on the BSc Hons in Computing that is currently being delivered.

### **3.8 Programme Learning Outcomes and Award Standards.**

The panel was satisfied that the learning outcomes of the Programme were compliant with the Award Standard.

### **3.9 Teaching and Learning Strategy**

The proposed approaches to teaching and learning were indicated and justified. The Panel noted that the learning and teaching strategy is designed to provide flexible delivery that can accommodate a diversity of learners.

### **3.10 Learner Assessment**

The overall assessment strategy incorporates use of a variety of assessment tools.

### **3.11 Quality Assurance**

The procedures in developing the Programme were outlined to the panel as per the Institute's quality assurance procedures. The panel was satisfied with the procedures that were applied to the development of the proposed Programme and that the quality assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure its provision, monitoring and review.

### **3.12 Information Provision**

The panel was satisfied with the proposed information that would be available to learners and potential learners. The Panel makes a recommendation regarding information regarding ATP, see recommendations 1 and 2 above.

### **3.13 Library and Physical Facilities / Resources**

The panel was satisfied that the library and physical resources available to deliver the proposed Programme are adequate to the task.



### **3.14 Academic Staff and Qualifications**



The panel was satisfied that the lecturing and support staff is available within the Institute to deliver the content of this Programme.

## **PART IV: PROGRAMME SCHEDULES**

Amended Programme Schedules for each stage of each Programme to incorporate the conditions and recommendations set out in under points 2.2 and 2.3, and all Programme Abstracts, must be submitted with the Response to this Panel Evaluation Report.

## Part V: Approval

Programme Evaluation Report Approved by:

<i>Signature:</i> 	<i>Signature:</i> 
<i>Print name:</i> Kilian Logan	<i>Print name:</i> Sinéad O'Neill
<b>Chairperson to Panel</b>	<b>Secretary to Panel</b>
<i>Title:</i> Lecturer in Computing, DKIT	<i>Title:</i> Academic Quality Manager
Date: 11-June-2019	Date: 11 June 2019

