



Date of Meeting: 3rd May 2016

Named Award: Master of Science

Programme Title: Master of Science in Information Design and Development

Award Type: Master of Science

Award Class: Major Award

NFQ Level: 9

Intakes Commencing: September 2016

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 90

Named Award: Postgraduate Diploma

Programme Title: Postgraduate Diploma in Information Design and Development

Award Class: Major Award

NFQ Level: 9

Intakes Commencing: September 2016

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 60

Named Award: Certificate

Programme Title: Certificate in Information Design and Development

Award Class: Minor Award (linked to MSc in Information Design and Development)

NFQ Level: 9

Intakes Commencing: September 2016

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 30

PANEL MEMBERS

Name
Dr Barry Feeney (Chairperson), Head of Department, Department of Computing, IT Tallaght
Mr Paul Dunne, Lecturer, Department of Electronic Engineering, GMIT
Mr Nathan Cullen, Development Manager, IBM
Mr John O Ríordán, Senior Technical Trainer at AlienVault
Dr Barry O'Connor, Registrar & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, CIT
Dr Catherine Frehill, Module Moderator, Office of Registrar & Vice-President for Academic Affairs, CIT



Name
Mr Tim Horgan, Head, Department of Computing
Dr Donna O’Shea, Lecturer, Department of Computing
Mr Nelson Abbey, Principal Information Developer, Tyco Business Systems Group.
Dr Aisling O’Driscoll, Lecturer, Department of Computing
Dr Ted Skully, Lecturer, Department of Computing
Dr Sean McSweeney, Lecturer, Department of Computing
Dr Paul Davern, Lecturer, Department of Computing
Mr Larkin Cunningham, Lecturer, Department of Computing

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The proposal seeks validation for a Master of Science in Information Design and Development which will be delivered online. The programme has been designed to run in both full time and part time mode. The proposal also seeks validation for a 60 credit embedded award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development and a 30 credit embedded award of a Certificate in Information Design and Development.

In developing this new level 9 Masters programme the School of Science and Informatics and the Department of Computing is creating the first Master’s degree programme in Ireland focused on supporting and growing the professional community of information developers. Through detailed research and extensive employer consultation the Department has identified the skills deficits of graduates and have designed a programme based on the role of the information developer as a modern day practitioner and expert in their field. In recent years, an increasing number of companies have located their information development teams in Ireland, and as a result there is an increasing demand for information developers with specialist technical and communication skills.

This proposal supports and underpins the Institution’s strategic plan in a number of ways and this Masters programme responds to the strategic requirement of the Institute to further develop its role as a provider of continuing professional development opportunities, by adding to, and extending, the portfolio of programmes available to students. Applicants who hold a level 8 award from any discipline are eligible to apply for the MSc and embedded awards. Applicants who do not hold a level 8 award but have significant industrial experience will be considered on a case by case basis.

Due to demand and following industry consultation, two modules SOFT9020 XML in Technical Communications and MMED8025 Multimedia Production have ran this academic year to meet continuing professional development requirements of industry - these two modules form the first 15 credits of semester 1 of the proposed programme.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

*NOTE: In this report, the term “**Requirement**” is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the Panel **must** be undertaken prior to commencement of the Programme. The term “**Recommendation**” indicates an item to which the Institute/Academic Council/Course Board should give serious consideration for implementation at an early stage and which should be the subject of ongoing monitoring.*

The Panel would like to **commend** the programme development team for the quality of the proposal. The enthusiasm of the proposers for the programme was clearly evident on the day of the validation panel itself.

The Panel has considered the documentation provided and has discussed the programme with the proposers. Based on this, the Panel has arrived at a number of Findings, Requirements and Recommendations as follows.

1. Programme-Level Findings

1.1 NEED FOR THE PROGRAMME

Validation Criterion: Is there a convincing need for the programme(s) with a viable level of applications?

Overall Finding: Yes

1.2 AWARD

Validation Criterion: Are the level and type of the proposed awards appropriate?

Overall Finding: Yes.

1.2.1 The programme designation as a Master of Science in Information Design and Development is appropriate. A detailed discussion regarding the proposed title of the programme took place and the panel **recommends** that programme promotional and marketing literature includes a detailed description of the exit graduate profile.

1.2.2 The proposers included the appropriate documentation for the award of Postgraduate Diploma as an exit strategy should participants in the programme not be in a position to complete the third semester which includes the project element. The programme designation as a Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development is appropriate.

1.2.3 As part of the consultation process the industry stakeholders requested the creation of a Minor Award to allow for upskilling of employees and graduates into the specialised area of Information Design and Development. The entry requirements are identical to those proposed for the Master of Science. The programme designation as a Certificate in Information Design and Development is appropriate for the 30 credit proposed programme.

1.3 LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Validation Criterion: Is the learning experience of an appropriate level, standard and quality overall?

Overall Finding: Yes

1.4 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Validation Criterion: Is the programme structure logical and well designed (including procedures for access, transfer and progression)?

Overall Finding: Yes, subject to certain Requirements and Recommendations

The Programme Outcomes as proposed to the panel on 3rd May 2016 are in Appendix 1. Findings, requirements and recommendations concerning individual modules (if any) are recorded in section 3 below.

1.4.1 Recommendation: The Panel recommends that the Free Choice module should be considered as an addition to the elective list in semester 2 given the number of advanced and expert level modules available within the School and Institute.

1.5 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Validation Criterion: Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes, subject to certain Requirements.

1.5.1 Requirement: An assessment matrix for the programme should be developed so as to guide the learners.

1.5.2 Requirement: A Research Project handbook should be developed to include e.g. project guidelines, indicative project milestones, research and report writing guidelines. The panel is aware that such guidelines exist for the MSc in Cloud Computing and wish to view these guidelines while the specific guidelines are under development for the MSc in Information Design and Development.

1.6 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Validation Criterion: Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes.

1.7 IMPACT ON THE INSTITUTE

Validation Criterion: Will the impact of the programme on the Institute be positive?

Overall Finding: Yes

2. Module-Level Findings

The Panel notes that 8 modules on the proposed programme as presented to the panel are new modules. The panel was informed that the new draft modules have been subject to the internal scrutiny by the CIT module moderator (Ms Anne Crowley).

In exercising its brief to consider the overall standard and appropriateness of modules, the Panel wishes to add the following findings, requirements and recommendations.

2.1 ALL MODULES

2.1.1 Requirement: Any revisions to Module Descriptors or Semester Schedules made to address the recommendations and requirements in this report require sign-off from the CIT Module Moderator and the Registrar's Office prior to approval by the CIT Academic Council.

2.1.2 Requirement: Reading lists including journals and texts should be updated to ensure currency of content.

2.1.3 Requirement: The coursework breakdown across the module descriptors should be reviewed and revised where necessary to clarify the actual assessment deliverables.

2.2. MODULES

2.2.1 Information Experience

The proposers informed the panel that this was an expert level module rather than an advanced level module.

Recommendation: The assessment of the module should be reviewed as the panel suggest that the written report is a critical review of information science domain rather than a literature review. Research should be applied to a

specific real work situation. If the assessment is a literature review then the panel recommends a reduction of the weighting for this assessment.

2.2.2 Emerging Technological Trends

Recommendation: The indicative content of the module should be reviewed to expand the indicative content to include invited speakers. The proposers should review the learning outcomes and assessment for this module to speakers to ensure constructive alignment of the module learning outcomes, speaker's topics and assessment.

2.2.3 COMP8037 Scripting for System Admins

Recommendation: The requirement under pre-requisite learning should be reviewed. The assessment descriptions should be revised and at least one text should be recommended.

2.2.4 Info Dev Research Project

2.2.4.1 Requirement: Elements of Document Project Management techniques should be implemented by the learner throughout the Research Project.

2.2.4.2 Requirement: The panel wishes see a list of sample projects, one for each specialist area.

2.2.4.3 Requirement: The coursework breakdown should be revised to elaborate on the research project marking scheme. The panel recommends that consideration be given to inclusion of a reflective journal to assess student learning throughout the module.

Other Findings

At the validation meeting the panel were very supportive of the programme due to the constructive engagement during the panel sessions. The panel supported and encouraged further development of the programme in line with discussions, requirements and recommendations made by the panel.

The panel wishes to commend the staff and management on their energy, teamwork and enthusiasm and dedication in putting together the programme proposal.

The additional documentation and module revisions has been reviewed and the updated submission meets all the requirements as set out previously. The approved semester schedules are shown in Appendix 3.

4. Conclusion

Based on the above findings, the Panel has arrived at the following Conclusions:

- The Master of Science in Information Design and Development and the Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development meet the required standards for an award in the Science field of study at Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications.
- The Certificate in Information Design and Development meets the required standards for an award at Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications.
- The Programmes meet the criteria for validation of new programmes adopted by the Academic Council of Cork Institute of Technology.

The Panel therefore recommends that the three Programmes be validated for five academic years, or until the next programmatic review, whichever is soonest, subject to implementation of the Requirements above, and with due regard to the Recommendations made.

Implementation of Requirements and Recommendations
Requiring Registrar's Office Sign-Off:
1.4.1 Recommendation: FREE6001 has been added to the list of electives.
1.5.1 Requirement: Complete
1.5.2 Requirement: Complete
2.1.1 Requirement: Complete
2.1.2 Requirement: Complete
2.1.3 Requirement: Complete
2.2.1 Recommendation: In progress
2.2.2 Recommendation: Complete
2.2.3 Recommendation: Pre-requisite learning requirement has been removed. Book resources updated.
2.2.4.1 Requirement: Complete
2.2.4.2 Requirement: Complete
2.2.4.3 Requirement: Complete

APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Programme Outcomes – Master of Science in Information Design and Development

Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme the graduate will be able to demonstrate... :

PO1	Knowledge - Breadth	
	(a)	A systematic understanding and knowledge of the advanced rhetorical, compositional theories, project management and technical skills in producing technical documentation for a broad range of industries and workplaces, in particular the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.
PO2	Knowledge - Kind	
	(a)	An ability to critically appraise emerging issues with regard to information development research, development and practice; discuss challenges and research activities relevant to their field of practice; and apply appropriate methodologies to investigate topics that form part of the documentation.
PO3	Skill - Range	
	(a)	An advanced level of skills in designing, composing, managing and editing content using a standardised methodological approach for diverse audiences; and critically evaluate documentation using a range of quality practices.
PO4	Skill - Selectivity	
	(a)	An ability to select and develop, in a professional manner, emerging technologies in the field of information development and methodologies to address the needs of the audience and various stakeholders in producing technical documentation.
PO5	Competence - Context	
	(a)	An ability to operate in a professional and self-initiating manner in a range of teams and contexts across a broad range of industries and workplaces.
PO6	Competence - Role	
	(a)	An ability to contribute significantly to and, as appropriate, take lead role in the design, development and management of technical documentation solutions in multi-disciplinary teams; research of topics that form part of the document, with due consideration for the intended audience; and participate in peer review and evaluation of projects.
PO7	Competence - Learning to Learn	
	(a)	An ability to reflect critically on one's own practice and development and to direct their own continuing professional development requirements.
PO8	Competence - Insight	
	(a)	Act in a manner consistent with the best interests of clients, colleagues and other stakeholders and the general public, maintain integrity and independence in professional judgement.

Proposed Programme Outcomes – Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development

Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme the graduate will be able to demonstrate... :

PO1	Knowledge - Breadth	
	(a)	A broad knowledge of the advanced rhetorical, compositional theories, project management and technical skills in producing technical documentation for a broad range of industries and workplaces, in particular the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.
PO2	Knowledge - Kind	
	(a)	An ability to critically appraise emerging issues with regard to information development research, development and practice; and apply appropriate methodologies to investigate topics that form part of the documentation.
PO3	Skill - Range	
	(a)	An advanced level of skills in designing, composing, managing and editing content using a standardised methodological approach for diverse audiences and critically evaluate documentation using a range of quality practices.
PO4	Skill - Selectivity	
	(a)	An ability to select emerging technologies that support information development using a structured methodological approach for diverse audiences and stakeholder groups.
PO5	Competence - Context	
	(a)	The ability to act as a professional practitioner in a variety contexts within their discipline area.
PO6	Competence - Role	
	(a)	An ability to act as champion in the design, development and management of technical documentation solutions in multi-disciplinary teams; research of topics that form part of the document, with due consideration for the intended audience; and participate in peer review and evaluation of projects.
PO7	Competence - Learning to Learn	
	(a)	The ability to apply continuing professional development principles to improve their modules, programmes and practice in information development.
PO8	Competence - Insight	
	(a)	Act in a manner consistent with the best interests of clients, colleagues and other stakeholders and the general public, maintain integrity and independence in professional judgement.

Proposed Programme Outcomes – Certificate in Information Design and Development

Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme the graduate will be able to demonstrate... :

PO1	Knowledge - Breadth	
	(a)	A knowledge of the advanced visual, compositional theories and technical skills in producing technical documentation for a broad range of industries and workplaces, in particular the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.
PO3	Skill - Range	
	(a)	An advanced level of skills in designing, composing and editing content using a standardised methodological approach.
PO5	Competence - Context	
	(a)	The ability to act as a professional practitioner in a variety contexts within their discipline area.
PO7	Competence - Learning to Learn	
	(a)	The ability to apply continuing professional development principles to improve their modules, programmes and practice in information development.
PO8	Competence - Insight	
	(a)	Act in a manner consistent with the best interests of clients, colleagues and other stakeholders and the general public, maintain integrity and independence in professional judgement.

Appendix 2 – Semester Schedules – Master of Science in Information Design and Development

Stage 1 / Semester 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Strategy (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Info Design & Development (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production (Approved)	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 2

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Experience (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	10.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Emerging Technological Trends (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Document Project Management (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
Elective								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Analytics (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
COMP8037	Scripting for System Administr (Approved)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 3

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Info Dev Research Project (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	30.0	1.00	1.00	100.0	0.0

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development

Stage 1 / Semester 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Strategy (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Info Design & Development (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production (Approved)	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 2

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Experience (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	10.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Emerging Technological Trends (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Document Project Management (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
Elective								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Analytics (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
COMP8037	Scripting for System Administr (Approved)	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0

Certificate in Information Design and Development

Stage 1 / Semester 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
No Code Yet	Information Strategy (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
No Code Yet	Info Design & Development (Pending Approval)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production (Approved)	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication (Draft)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0

Appendix 3 – Approved Semester Schedules – Master of Science in Information Design and Development CR_KINDD_9

Stage 1 / Semester 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP9041	Information Strategy <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9042	Info Design & Development <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production <i>(Approved)</i>	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 2

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP9043	Information Experience <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP8045	Emerging Technological Trends <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9044	Document Project Management <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
Elective								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP8037	Scripting for System Admins <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
FREE6001	Free Choice Module <i>(Approved)</i>	PAUL GALLAGHER	N/A	5.0	4.00	0.00	50.0	50.0
COMP8046	Information Analytics <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 3

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP9045	Info Dev Research Project <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	30.0	1.00	1.00	100.0	0.0

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Information Design and Development CR_KIDDE_9

Stage 1 / Semester 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9041	Information Strategy <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9042	Info Design & Development <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production <i>(Approved)</i>	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0

Stage 1 / Semester 2

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP9043	Information Experience <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP8045	Emerging Technological Trends <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9044	Document Project Management <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
Elective								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
FREE6001	Free Choice Module <i>(Approved)</i>	PAUL GALLAGHER	N/A	5.0	4.00	0.00	50.0	50.0
COMP8046	Information Analytics <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
COMP8037	Scripting for System Admins <i>(Approved)</i>	TIM HORGAN	Advanced	5.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0

Certificate in Information Design and Development CR_KINDE_9

Stage 1

Mandatory								
Mod Code	Module Title	Co-ordinator	Level	Credits	FT Contact Hours	PT Contact Hours	Course Work	Formal Exam
COMP9041	Information Strategy (Approved)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	5.0	3.00	3.00	100.0	0.0
COMP9042	Info Design & Development (Approved)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	4.00	4.00	100.0	0.0
MMED8025	Multimedia Production (Approved)	ROSE MC GRATH	Advanced	5.0	3.00	0.00	100.0	0.0
SOFT9020	XML in Technical Communication (Approved)	TIM HORGAN	Expert	10.0	5.00	5.00	100.0	0.0