



CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

New validation

Validation Process: **Extended**

Provider Name	National College of Ireland
Date of Validation	24-Jun-21

	Code	Title	Award	Exit
Principal Programme	PG21687	Higher Certificate in Science in Business Computing	Higher Certificate in Science (Higher Certificate at NFQ Level 6) 6M18342 120 credits	N/A
Embedded Programme	N/A			

	First Intake	Last Intake
Enrolment Interval	01-Sep-15	31-Aug-23

Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
Maximum Intakes per Annum:	2	0	Full Time
Minimum Learners per Intake:	10	0	
Maximum Learners per Intake:	50	0	
Duration (months)	24	N/A	

Target Learner Groups

The programme is aimed at learners who have their Leaving Certificate complete and who wish to pursue a career in the I.T industry. Learners who are currently working in the IT sector and don't have the relevant academic experience and are looking for a progression path in their current working environment or are looking to move to a new job.

Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The Higher Certificate in Science in Business Computing is designed to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue a professional career in the ICT sector in both Irish and multinational companies. It seeks to produce industry-ready graduates who possess the appropriate combination of conceptual and practical skills in the relevant technical subjects as well as a range of supporting application and business modules. It is hoped that the HCBC programme will be successful in producing graduates capable of problem-solving and technical communication and of working in the area of technical and business support. The new programme will produce graduates, with the requisite technical/business skills in the areas of ICT applications and Business Computing. Specifically, on the applications side, they will have a good knowledge of both software applications as well as currently used applications packages. This applications knowledge is complemented with appropriate expertise in supporting software technologies, such as software development, data networking and web design. The programme will produce a graduate capable of entering the area of business/customer support within the ICT sector. In addition, to having the required technical skills graduates of this programme will also have knowledge in the areas of Business skills (e.g. Organisation Behaviour, Accounting and Human Resource Management). Learners, who successfully complete the Higher Certificate in Science in Business Computing, will be able to progress to the BSc (Hons) in Technology Management.



Teaching and Learning Modes	1. Lectures / Classes 2. Practical Sessions 3. Tutorials
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Approved Countries	Ireland
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Physical Resource Requirements

The programme requires appropriate learning spaces to facilitate the teaching, learning & assessment strategy of the programme. Learning spaces should accommodate traditional classrooms, spaces for collaborative learning and access to appropriate technologies as required by individual module curriculum (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint or similar products and programming languages,).

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Programme Coordinator	Programme Coordinator with experience in relationship management and programme coordination.	1
Programme Director	Programme Director who is responsible for the academic management of the programme and may also be a lecturer on the programme. The programme director will have at least a Masters or PhD qualification in computing or a related discipline.	1
Lecturer	Lecturers with a Masters or PhD level qualification in computing or a related discipline with academic experience delivering modules in ICT, Programming.	2

Approved Centres	Centre	Minimum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre	Maximum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre
	42522R National College of Ireland	10	50

Additional Locations	Location Name	Minimum Enrolment per Annum	Maximum Enrolment per Annum
	N/A		

Learner Teacher Ratios	Learning Activity	Ratio
	Lecture	1:100
	Tutorials/Labs	1:25

Programme being replaced by this Programme	Prog Code	Programme Title	Validated
	N/A		



Conditions of Validation of the Programmes Covered by this Certificate of Validation

Part 1: Statutory Conditions of Validation

The statutory (section 45(3) of the 2012 Act) conditions of validation are that the provider of the programme shall:

1. Co-operate with and assist QQI in the performance of QQI's functions in so far as those functions relate to the functions of the provider,
2. Establish procedures which are fair and consistent for the assessment of enrolled learners to ensure the standards of knowledge, skill or competence determined by QQI under section 49 (1) are acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by enrolled learners,
3. Continue to comply with section 65 of the 2012 Act in respect of arrangements for the protection of enrolled learners, if applicable, and
4. Provide to QQI such information as QQI may from time to time require for the purposes of the performance of its functions, including information in respect of completion rates.

Part 2 Conditions of Validation Established by QQI Under section 45(4)(b) of the 2012 Act

Part 2.1 Condition of Validation Concerning a Change in the QQI Award or Award Standard

1. Where QQI changes an award title, an award specification or an award standard that a programme depends upon, the provider shall not enrol any further learners on the affected programmes unless informed otherwise in writing by QQI (e.g. by the issue of a revised certificate of validation). The programme is considered validated for learners already enrolled on the affected programme.

Part 2.2 Condition of Validation Concerning the Duration of Enrolment

1. The duration of enrolment is the interval during which learners may be enrolled on the validated programme.

Validation is determined by QQI for a specified number of years of enrolment appropriate to the particular programme as indicated on the certificate on validation subject to unit 9.2.1. It is a condition of validation that the programme does not enrol any new learners outside this interval. A typical duration would be five years.

If a provider wishes to continue to enrol learners to the programme beyond this interval the provider must arrange in good time for it to be validated again by QQI, or exceptionally the provider may apply for extension of the duration of enrolment (unit (14)). In this context the provider may apply for validation of the programme from first principles or, alternatively, the provider may avail of the process for revalidation (unit (13)) by QQI.

Part 2.3 General Condition of Validation

The provider of the programme shall:

1. Ensure that the programme as implemented does not differ in a material way from the programme as validated; differing in a material way is defined as differing in any aspect of the programme or its implementation that was material to QQI's validation criteria.
2. Ensure that the programme is provided with the appropriate staff and physical resources as validated.
3. Implement in respect of the programme its written quality assurance procedures (as approved by QQI).
4. Make no significant change to the programme without the prior approval of QQI. (See unit (8)).
5. Unless otherwise agreed by QQI in writing, start implementing the programme as validated and enrol learners within 18 months of validation.
6. Continue in respect of the validated programme to comply with section 56 of the 2012 Act in respect of procedures for access, transfer and progression.
7. Implement the programme and procedures for assessment of learners in accordance with the Approved Programme Schedule and notify QQI in writing of any amendments to this arising from changes to the programme; see unit (9).
8. When advertising and promoting the programme and awards, use the programme title as validated, and the correct QQI award title(s), award type(s) and award class(es) indicating the level of the award(s) on the National Framework of Qualifications.



9. Adhere to QQI regulations and procedures for certification.

10. Notify QQI in writing without delay of: a. Any material change to the programme; a. Anything that impacts on the integrity or reputation of the programme or the corresponding QQI awards; b. Anything that infringes the conditions of validation; or c. Anything that would be likely to cause QQI to consider reviewing the validation.

11. Notify QQI in writing to determine the implications for the provider's validated programmes, where the provider is likely to, or planning to, merge (amalgamate) with another entity or to acquire, or be acquired by, another entity (see unit (12.5)) .

12. Report to QQI, when required or requested, on its implementation of the programme and compliance with the conditions of validation.

Part 2.4 General Condition of Validation Arising from Specialised Validation Policy and Criteria

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Part 2.5 Special Conditions of Validation