QQI
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

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	PG22547	Higher Diploma in Science in FinTech	Higher Diploma in Science (Higher Diploma at NFQ Level 8) 8M20303 60 credits	N/A
Embedded Programme	N/A			

	First Intake	Last Intake
Enrolment Interval	01-Sep-16	01-Sep-22

Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time
Maximum Intakes per Annum:	1	0
Minimum Learners per Intake:	10	0
Maximum Learners per Intake:	50	0
Duration (months)	12	N/A

Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time	Full Time

Target Learner Groups

The HDip in FinTech is aimed at the full time and part time learner markets. All modules have been identified as being deliverable in a blended mode7 thus increasing access for learners on a national level and adhering to the College's mission statement. A number of different categories of potential learners have been identified, such as learners graduating from a STEM degree that would like to consolidate their existing academic knowledge and progress into the emerging FinTech market; learners that have graduated from a social science with strong numerical skills and are looking to migrate into a new discipline to increase their employment potential; learners that have graduated from a Finance or Computing background and seek to professionally mediate the two domains; and learners who are currently working in the Financial sector and do not have the relevant academic or IT experience but have an appropriate RPEL application 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 major focus of the HDip in FinTech is towards the technical aspects of Financial Technologies. Graduates will have a set of core competencies in architecting, developing strategies and implementing technical solutions in the Financial Technologies space. They will have skills and capabilities to re-commend suitable research methodologies to investigate and develop solutions for financial computing environments. Learners will acquire an in-depth, expert knowledge of financial technologies, such as extensive competencies with regards to the technical and related processes (e.g., business processes, compliance, legal, professional standards) underpinning Financial Technologies Computing; integrating this knowledge of related technologies and computing principles to success-fully plan and develop FinTech products, services, and business artifacts; and being responsive to leading developments in the FinTech area through analysis and practical application of current technological advancements and approaches. Through investigation, analysis, problem solving, and implementation of solutions, learners will have expertise in addressing the current challenges in FinTech such as data analytics, data governance, manageability, provenance, cryptocurrencies, modelling & simulation, and security.

Teaching and Learning Modes	1. Lectures / Classes 2. Practical Sessions 3. Tutorials

Approved Countries	Ireland

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.

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Lecturer	Lecturers qualified to a minimum Masters Level (Level 9 NFQ or equivalent) in a relevant computing and/or numerate discipline with experience delivering modules in data analytics, financial markets and blockchain technologies at Level 9.	3
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 an appropriate discipline.	1
Programme Coordinator	Programme Coordinator with experience in relationship management, academic support and programme delivery.	1

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
	Tutorials	1:25
	Lecturers	1:100

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 writting, 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 certfication.

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

1.

Part 2.5 Special Conditions of Validation