



CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

New validation

Validation Process: **New**

Provider Name	Dublin Business School
Date of Validation	15-Oct-20

	Code	Title	Award	Exit
Principal Programme	PG24327	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity	Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Postgraduate Diploma at NFQ Level 9) 9M21010 60 credits	N/A
Embedded Programme	N/A			

	First Intake	Last Intake
Enrolment Interval	01-Jan-21	31-Dec-25

Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
Maximum Intakes per Annum:	2	2	Full Time, Part Time
Minimum Learners per Intake:	5	5	
Maximum Learners per Intake:	60	30	
Duration (months)	12	18	

Target Learner Groups

This programme is aimed at learners with a minimum second-class second-division (2.2) Level 8 honours bachelor's degree or Higher Diploma in a cognate area who wish to specialise in the field of cybersecurity with a view to entering industry. Cognate subjects include computer science, technology, networking, information systems, engineering, general science, mathematics, statistics, data analytics or related discipline. Learners with a minimum second-class second-division (2.2) Level 8 honours bachelor's degree in a non-cognate area plus 3–5 years' professional experience in a related field and who require a qualification in this area in order to progress professionally. Such applicants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. On completion of this programme, learners will have appropriate expertise to contribute in professional environments and effectively integrate their skills into cybersecurity solutions appropriate in their company.



Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity is an embedded award in the Master of Science in Cybersecurity. The Postgraduate Diploma is offered as a separate entrance and exit award and will be of interest to those who wish to complete the taught component only of this programme. This programme aims to develop learners within the Cybersecurity discipline with applied skills in technology, communication information management and related processes, in order to enable assured business operations in the context of threat identification and mitigation. Learners develop advanced practical skills in essential areas such as programming, advanced databases, networks and systems administration while also offering theoretical knowledge of cryptography and digital forensics. The programme also offers applied skills in contemporary topics such as software development, communications and networking security, and organisational and societal cybersecurity. The programme also incorporates professional development for learners to enhance their employability options. This will enable the learner to integrate seamlessly into an organisation by addressing skills such as awareness to social media, leadership, self-management, teamwork and academic writing that are essential for a Level 9 graduate. The duration of the postgraduate programme is two semesters full-time and three semesters part-time and is comprised of four taught modules of 5 ECTS along with four taught modules of 10 ECTS each.

Teaching and Learning Modes

1. Lectures / Classes
2. Practical Sessions
3. Practical/workshop/Laboratories/studio sessions
4. Tutorials

Approved Countries

Ireland

Physical Resource Requirements

Lecture rooms with multimedia resources and physical resources suitable for working in breakout groups. Classroom / computer room with requisite software required for the delivery of the programme are detailed in each of the module descriptors and also in Section 8.

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Lecturer	Lecturing staff will have a minimum of a Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma or Masters and/or PhD in the following areas: Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, Software Development, Computer Security, Information Systems, Data Analytics, and Database Development, Networks, Enterprise Information Systems, etc. In modules where industry experience is desirable, holders of Level 8 honours degrees in the above disciplines, who are exceptionally qualified by virtue of significant senior industry experience may also be considered.	7

Approved Centres	Centre	Minimum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre	Maximum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre
	38628L Dublin Business School	5	90

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



Learner Teacher Ratios	Learning Activity	Ratio
	Lecture classroom-based sessions	1:60
	Workshops	1:25
	Practical lab sessions	1:35
	Online class (broadcast live)	1:50
	Online tutorial (interactive)	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

1.

Part 2.5 Special Conditions of Validation