

## CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

New validation

Validation Process: **New**

<b>Provider Name</b>	Dublin Business School
<b>Date of Validation</b>	25-Apr-24

	Code	Title	Award	Exit Only
<b>Principal Programme</b>	PG25451	Master of Science in Trading and Investing	Master of Science (Masters Degree at NFQ Level 9) 9M22415 90 credits	N/A
<b>Embedded Programme</b>	PG25452	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Trading and Investing	Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Postgraduate Diploma at NFQ Level 9) 9M22417 60 credits	Yes

	First Intake	Last Intake
<b>Enrolment Interval</b>	Sep-24	Aug-29

### Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
<b>Intakes per Annum:</b>	3	2	Full Time, Part Time
<b>Minimum Learners per Intake:</b>	5	5	
<b>Maximum Learners per Intake:</b>	150	150	
<b>Duration (months)</b>	12	24	

### Target Learner Groups

The MSc in Trading and Investing is aimed at graduates of Level 8 programmes in both cognate and non-cognate disciplines, such as BA (hons) in Accounting and Finance or those from business, computer science, mathematics or economics undergraduate courses who wish to engage in study, or a career, in this field. Applicants are required to hold a minimum of an upper Second-Class Honours degree from a recognised University/College course.

As such, the profile of learners for this programme are those who meet the entry requirements\* and have a deep level of interest in this subject area. As the programme aims to develop learners' knowledge of the theory and practice of trading and investing, the design of the programme fosters and develops skills necessary for them to perform at postgraduate level and to secure employment in the areas of finance, trading and investing, or as an independent markets' trader. Thus, the learners enrolling in this programme should be equipped with the competencies and skills to understand individual, organisational, social and cultural influences on trading and investing on a global scale and the ability to relate theory to practical applications and skills.

Due to the practical nature of this programme, this programme may also be desirable for working professionals in adjacent industries, such as Finance, Economics, IT, or Business, who wish to begin working in the trading and investing profession. As such, the programme has been designed for the growth of existing, transferable industry and professional skills, while also supporting the development of new, fundamental skills and requirements necessary for a career in trading and investing.

## Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The DBS Master of Science in Trading and Investing programme aims to produce individuals with the specialised skills and attributes necessary to meet the demands of a professional career in Trading and Investing. Learners will understand the core principles of Trading and Investing, as well as advanced analytical skills, they will be equipped with understanding the regulatory environment both nationally and internationally; possess an integrated understanding of asset classes and financial markets; and be able to rationalise and justify stances and recommendations.

Learners will develop advanced critical thinking, writing and research skills through the completion of the Investment Portfolio Research and Preparation module along with the completion of a Capstone Module (Applied Trading and Investing Capstone).

The taught component of this programme comprises core modules in Securities Markets Structure and History, Financial Econometrics, Technical Analysis and Financial Visualisation, and Financial Reporting and Fundamental Analysis (semester one). Portfolio Planning, Risk Management and Valuation, ESG, Ethics and Regulation in Trading and Investing, Applied Financial Market Analytics and Investment Portfolio Research and Preparation (semester two).

All modules will facilitate the exploration of new ideas and technologies with learning focused on emerging industry trends as well as best practice. Learners will be able to apply their knowledge to specific issues within a real-world context. The programme will incorporate a multi-modal blended approach to delivery across modules including face-to-face classroom, online synchronous and asynchronous deliveries. This programme will accommodate a wide audience of learners from a broad spectrum of industries whose specific learning requirements lie in the area of Trading and Investing. Admission to the programme will require a Level 8 honours bachelor's degree (minimum 2:2) in a cognate area. Cognate subjects include business, computer science, IT, science, mathematics, statistics, finance, economics, engineering and information systems or related areas. The Master of Science in Trading and Investing is a 1 year full-time/ 2-year part-time programme consisting of eight taught modules, four 10 ECTS modules, four 5 ECTS modules, and a 30 ECTS capstone. For learners who cannot continue, for personal or professional reasons, to the research component of this programme, there is an embedded exit award titled, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Trading and Investing (Level 9, 60 ECTS).

## Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of this programme the learner will be able to:

1. Critically synthesise learning to plan, design, and develop an investment portfolio that demonstrates competencies and technical ability.
2. Evaluate the impact of Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance requirements on investing, trading, and company performance.
3. Develop the advanced competencies required to apply machine learning to trading and investing scenarios.
4. Appraise and apply the appropriate research methods to generate insights in a variety of trading and investing strategies.
5. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of alternative assets classes to design strategies that are well-rounded and include non-standard investments.
6. Integrate advanced skills in the application of portfolio management using data and analytics
7. Devise efficient and appropriate solutions independently or as per client specifications and develop verbal and oral professional presentation skills
8. Evaluate regulatory and financial markets nationally and internationally and define an optimal trading and investing strategy, with consideration given to these differing regulatory requirements.
9. Critically analyse financial accounts and evaluate how they impact and influence performance
10. Evidence critical awareness and application of tools, techniques, and technologies in financial analysis that demonstrates an ability for decision-making and risk analysis.
11. Critically appraise and apply theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the development of a trading and investing strategy.

<b>Teaching and Learning Modes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directed Learning</li> <li>2. E-learning (directed)</li> <li>3. E-learning (self-directed)</li> <li>4. Group Discussions</li> <li>5. Group Discussions/Interactions</li> <li>6. Laboratory / Studio</li> <li>7. Lectures / Classes</li> <li>8. One-on-One Sessions</li> <li>9. Practical Sessions</li> <li>10. Practical/workshop/Laboratories/studio sessions</li> <li>11. Self Directed Learning</li> <li>12. Tutorials</li> <li>13. Tutorials/One on one supported learning</li> <li>14. Webinars</li> <li>15. Workshops</li> </ol>
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<b>Approved Countries</b>	Ireland
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### Physical Resource Requirements

Learners are required to have ongoing access to a computer, related software, and a reliable internet connection. Learners will be provided with a full online induction which introduces the College generally as well as an IT induction and sessions on learning online. This means that for learners their laptop or desktop computer will require a minimum of a supported version of a Windows operating system and 8GB RAM. They will be expected to participate in lectures, workshops, use software and open access online tools in the completion of the learning and assessment associated with this programme. There is no programme-specific technology required for the programme.

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Subject Matter Expert	The Subject Matter expert for this programme will have a minimum of an NFQ Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma or Masters qualification in a relevant trading, investing, accounting, finance or business discipline with relevant and significant industry experience and/or PhD. Holders of level 8 honours business degrees in a relevant discipline, who are exceptionally qualified by virtue of significant industry experience will also be considered.	0.1
Academic Director	The Academic Director for this programme will have a minimum of an NFQ Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma or Masters qualification in Trading and Investing, Business, Computing, Technology, or a related field or related areas along with programme management/ academic leadership experience.	0.1
Lecturer	Faculty delivering this programme will have a minimum of a Level 9 Masters degree in Business, Trading and Investing, Technology, Computing, Accounting, Finance or a relevant discipline. Additionally, experienced practitioners within the fields of, for example, investment and trading, or advanced quantitative analysis, and those with research supervision experience are required to deliver the programme. They will have relevant academic and specialist knowledge and experience in fields related to Trading, Investment and Finance. Holders of Level 8 honours Bachelor's degrees in a relevant discipline, who are exceptionally qualified by virtue of significant experience in the field, will also be considered.	1.2
Administration & Support Staff	Such as Library, Admissions, Student Experience, Finance etc. Experience and qualifications relevant to the role.	0.64

Approved Centres	Centre	Minimum Enrolment per Annum	Maximum Enrolment per Annum
	38628L Dublin Business School	10	750

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

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

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

## Embedded Programme

Validation Process: **New**

Code	Title	Award	Exit Only
PG25452	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Trading and Investing	Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Postgraduate Diploma at NFQ Level 9) 9M22417 60 credits	Yes

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
Duration (months)	9	18	Full Time, Part Time

### Target Learner Groups

As per the principal programme, however the Postgraduate Diploma is available to learners who are unable to undertake or complete the research capstone component of the Master of Science programme.

### Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Trading and Investing (Level 9, 60 ECTS) is an embedded exit award in the Master of Science in Trading and Investing. The Postgraduate Diploma is not offered as a separate exit award. The programme shares the 60 ECTS taught components of the Masters programme.

The Postgraduate Diploma can be completed in one academic year by full-time learners and eighteen months by part-time learners. The overall aim of the programme is to provide graduates with the opportunity to attain a Level 9 award if they cannot complete the research component of this programme for personal or professional reasons. Therefore, the Postgraduate Diploma in Science award (60 ECTS, NFQ Level 9) is offered only as an exit award from the Masters programme.

### Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of this programme the learner will be able to:

1. Critically appraise and apply theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the development of a trading and investing strategy.
2. Evidence critical awareness and application of tools, techniques, and technologies in financial analysis that demonstrates an ability for decision-making and risk analysis.
3. Critically analyse financial accounts and evaluate how they impact and influence performance
4. Evaluate regulatory and financial markets nationally and internationally and define an optimal trading and investing strategy, with consideration given to these differing regulatory requirements.
5. Devise efficient and appropriate solutions independently or as per client specifications and develop verbal and oral professional presentation skills
6. Integrate advanced skills in the application of portfolio management using data and analytics
7. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of alternative assets classes to design strategies that are well-rounded and include non-standard investments
8. Appraise and apply the appropriate research methods to generate insights in a variety of trading and investing strategies
9. Develop the advanced competencies required to apply machine learning to trading and investing scenarios.
10. Evaluate the impact of Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance requirements on investing, trading, and company performance

<b>Teaching and Learning Modes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directed Learning</li> <li>2. E-learning (directed)</li> <li>3. E-learning (self-directed)</li> <li>4. Group Discussions</li> <li>5. Group Discussions/Interactions</li> <li>6. Lectures / Classes</li> <li>7. One-on-One Sessions</li> <li>8. Other</li> <li>9. Practical Sessions</li> <li>10. Practical/workshop/Laboratories/studio sessions</li> <li>11. Self Directed Learning</li> <li>12. Tutorials</li> <li>13. Tutorials/One on one supported learning</li> <li>14. Webinars</li> <li>15. Workshops</li> </ol>
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<b>Approved Countries</b>	Ireland
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### Physical Resource Requirements

Learners are required to have ongoing access to a computer, related software, and a reliable internet connection. Learners will be provided with a full online induction which introduces the College generally as well as an IT induction and sessions on learning online. This means that for learners their laptop or desktop computer will require a minimum of a supported version of a Windows operating system and 8GB RAM. They will be expected to participate in lectures, workshops, use software and open access online tools in the completion of the learning and assessment associated with this programme. There is no programme-specific technology required for the programme.

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Administration & Support Staff	Such as Library, Admissions, Student Experience, Finance etc. Experience and qualifications relevant to the role.	0.64
Lecturer	Faculty delivering this programme will have a minimum of a Level 9 Masters degree in Business, Trading and Investing, Technology, Computing, Accounting, Finance or a relevant discipline. Additionally, experienced practitioners within the fields of, for example, investment and trading, or advanced quantitative analysis, and those with research supervision experience are required to deliver the programme. They will have relevant academic and specialist knowledge and experience in fields related to Trading, Investment and Finance. Holders of Level 8 honours Bachelor's degrees in a relevant discipline, who are exceptionally qualified by virtue of significant experience in the field, will also be considered.	1.2
Academic Director	The Academic Director for this programme will have a minimum of an NFQ Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma or Masters qualification in Trading and Investing, Business, Computing, Technology, or a related field or related areas along with programme management/ academic leadership experience.	0.1
Subject Matter Expert	The Subject Matter expert for this programme will have a minimum of an NFQ Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma or Masters qualification in a relevant trading, investing, accounting, finance or business discipline with relevant and significant industry experience and/or PhD. Holders of level 8 honours business degrees in a relevant discipline, who are exceptionally qualified by virtue of significant industry experience will also be considered.	0.1

Approved Centres	Centre	Minimum Enrolment per Annum	Maximum Enrolment per Annum
	38628L Dublin Business School	0	0

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

Learner Teacher Ratios	Learning Activity	Ratio
	Lecture classroom-based sessions	1:50
	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**

#### **Part 2.5 Special Conditions of Validation**