

CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

New validation

Validation Process: **Revalidation**

Provider Name	Dublin Business School
Date of Validation	10-Jun-25

	Code	Title	Award	Exit Only
Principal Programme	PG26473	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (Honours Bachelor Degree at NFQ Level 8) 8M22908 180 credits	N/A
Embedded Programme	PG26482	Certificate in Social Science	Certificate (Minor Award at NFQ Level 6) 6H22906 60 credits	Yes

	First Intake	Last Intake
Enrolment Interval	Sep-25	Aug-30

Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
Intakes per Annum:	2	2	Full Time, Part Time
Minimum Learners per Intake:	10	10	
Maximum Learners per Intake:	100	100	
Duration (months)	27	36	

Target Learner Groups

This programme is aimed at learners with the following qualifications:

Leaving certificate applicants must apply through the CAO system and have achieved 2 H5s + 4 O6/H7s, to include Mathematics and English or another language. Using the old pre-2017 grading scheme, applicants must have obtained a minimum of grade C3 in 2 higher level subjects and a minimum of grade D3 in 4 Ordinary Level subjects (to include Maths, English and a language). Or,

A full FETAC award at Level 5 on the NFQ and which includes a Distinction grade in at least three modules. Or,

Mature Learners who do not meet the minimum entry requirements will be assessed on the basis of age, work experience, general education standard, motivation and commitment to the programme for which they are applying. Mature learners are those who are 23 years of age by January 1st of the year of admission.

Throughout the programme, learners will acquire academic knowledge and practical skills in the interdisciplinary field of social science and will draw on their personal and practical experience in order to make a significant contribution to society and/or academic research. It may be of interest to those who wish to study the interdisciplinary field of social science with a view to entering the industry, or progressing to further education in a related field.

In addition to registered learners on the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science, the programme welcomes and caters for the learning needs of study abroad learners on a modular basis. These learners, through the RPL process, spend either a semester or a full academic year at DBS. They choose modules related to the sending college's degree needs and are a welcome addition academically, culturally, and socially to the learning environment. These learners provide diversity, new approaches, and different perspectives to the discipline and are likely to be from one of ninety-six partner colleges in the USA, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, or Italy.

Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary education grounded in six key knowledge pillars: Social Policy, Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Research, and Professional Skills and Social Innovation. This unique blend empowers learners to understand society from multiple perspectives—psychological, sociological, political, and criminological—while developing the research skills essential for real-world impact. Its key strength is in its variety. Some learners come to this programme with a clear idea of what their career path will be, but the majority have not made a decision and benefit from the variety of interrelated disciplines in the programme which provides a choice of routes that are not tied to a narrow path.

What sets this degree apart is its integrated approach to contemporary social issues. Learners will explore how policy decisions shape communities (Social Policy and Sociology modules), how human behaviour influences societal structures (Sociology and Psychology modules), and how justice systems operate within broader social contexts (Criminology, Psychology and Social Policy modules). Criminology modules also allow learners to examine crime and justice critically; through Psychology, motivations behind individual and group behaviour may be examined. Research modules tie the programme together, teaching learners to gather, analyse, and present evidence effectively.

This programme is ideal for individuals who are curious, analytical and passionate about making a difference. The degree prepares learners for a wide variety of careers in service, community development, education, research and equips them with the knowledge, adaptability, and critical thinking to make a contribution in a complex, changing world.

Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes

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

1. Synthesise knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and historical trends in social science.
2. Critically evaluate the practices, behaviours and mental processes of groups and other social agents.
3. Critically reflect on the concept of social justice in the context of intersectionality, inequalities and poverty.
4. Use appropriate research methodology, analytical skills and tools to develop evidence-based solutions to contemporary issues, trends and real-world social problems.
5. Evidence personal and professional development through the application of skills and competencies relevant to the field of Social Science.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of the professional ethics and ethical issues entailed in social science research and practice.
7. Work effectively, independently and in groups, to communicate to a variety of audiences within different contexts and formats.

Teaching and Learning Modes

1. Directed Learning
2. E-learning (directed)
3. E-learning (self-directed)
4. Group Discussions
5. Group Discussions/Interactions
6. Laboratory / Studio
7. Lectures / Classes
8. Practical Sessions
9. Practical/workshop/Laboratories/studio sessions
10. Self Directed Learning
11. Tutorials
12. Webinars
13. Workshops

Approved Countries

Ireland

Physical Resource Requirements

Appropriately equipped computer work area.

Lecture rooms of sufficient size for work in breakout groups/with appropriate multimedia resources including audiovisual recording equipment for recording live classes

Appropriate software resources to be used in the teaching and learning of all modules, including Zoom Room software that is synced to moodle for the automatic uploading of class recordings .

Learners are also required to have ongoing access to a computer, related software, and a reliable internet connection. This means that for learners their laptop or desktop computer will require a minimum of a supported version of a Windows operating system and 4GM RAM.

Staff Profiles	Qualifications and Experience	WTE
Lecturer	There are currently 7 full-time and 2 part-time members of staff employed in the Discipline in social science. Many lecturers are also module leaders for their corresponding modules and are responsible for any modules allocated to them. The primary function of a Module Leader is therefore to prepare and deliver module material, assessing learners on designated subjects or modules at programme level. Duties and responsibilities include those matters that relate to teaching, assessment, and completion of the module. Additionally, programme staff are engaged as supervisors of final year research projects. In addition to the staff specific to the social science discipline, psychology staff also augment the teaching on the programme when required.	9
Academic Director	The AD is responsible for the overall management and development of the discipline, the coordination of the organisation and delivery of programmes in the discipline.	1
Assistant Academic Director	The AAD works alongside the AD across many of their duties, including the management and development of the discipline, the coordination of the organisation and delivery of programmes in the discipline, and the management and support of learners in the discipline. The AAD also works in a learner-facing capacity, through teaching and supporting students more generally throughout their time as DBS.	1
Programme Level Manager	The PLM provides professional leadership and management for an allocated subject area in order to facilitate teaching and learning and to secure effective use of resources. The key responsibility of the PLM is the management and delivery of the programme(s) for which they hold responsibility. This includes undertaking teaching duties as appropriate to the requirements of a programme and consistent with the area(s) of expertise, keeping up to date with teaching and learning developments and being alert to best practice, providing guidance to colleagues on content, methodology and resources regarding the subject area and answering subject specific queries from students.	1

Approved Centres	Centre	Minimum Enrolment per Annum	Maximum Enrolment per Annum
	38628L Dublin Business School	10	400

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

Learner Teacher Ratios	Learning Activity	Ratio
	Online Lectures	1:100
	Classroom sessions	1:100
	Workshops	1:25
	Practical Sessions	1:25
	Social Science Research Project	1:25

Programme being replaced by this Programme	Prog Code	Programme Title	Validated
	PG24400	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science	10-Sep-20

Embedded Programme

Validation Process: **New**

Code	Title	Award	Exit Only
PG26482	Certificate in Social Science	Certificate (Minor Award at NFQ Level 6) 6H22906 60 credits	Yes

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

Target Learner Groups

The Certificate in Social Science is an embedded exit award for those who cannot complete the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science.

Brief Synopsis of the Programmes

The Certificate in Social Science is an embedded exit award for those who cannot complete the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Science.

Stage 1 lays the groundwork for the programme and encompasses modules that focus on providing a solid and comprehensive understanding of the foundational concepts of Research, Sociology, Criminology, Social Policy and Psychology whilst also providing development in Academic Skills.

Minimum Intended Programme Learning Outcomes

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

1. Synthesise knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and trends in social science.
2. Critically evaluate the practices, behaviours and mental processes of groups and other social agents.
3. Critically reflect on the concept of social justice in the context of intersectionality, inequalities and poverty.
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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
	Online Lectures	1:100
	Classroom sessions	1:100
	Workshops	1:25
	Practical Sessions	1:25
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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