



## CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

New validation

Validation Process: **Extended**

<b>Provider Name</b>	National College of Ireland
<b>Date of Validation</b>	24-Jun-21

	Code	Title	Award	Exit
<b>Principal Programme</b>	PG22519	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Cybersecurity	Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Postgraduate Diploma at NFQ Level 9) 9M20283 60 credits	N/A
<b>Embedded Programme</b>	N/A			

	First Intake	Last Intake
<b>Enrolment Interval</b>	01-Sep-16	31-Aug-23

### Principal Programme

	Full Time	Part Time	Delivery Mode: full-time / part-time
<b>Maximum Intakes per Annum:</b>	2	1	Full Time, Part Time
<b>Minimum Learners per Intake:</b>	10	10	
<b>Maximum Learners per Intake:</b>	50	20	
<b>Duration (months)</b>	12	24	

### Target Learner Groups

The PGDip in Cyber Security is aimed at the full time and part time learner markets. All modules have been identified as being deliverable in a blended mode, thus increasing access for learners on a national level and adhering to the College's mission statement. There are a number of different categories of potential learners that have been identified as suitable candidates for this course such as learners graduating from a Computing/Computer Science degree who would like to consolidate their existing academic knowledge and progress into the emerging Security market; learners that have graduated from a cognate area and are looking to migrate into a new discipline to increase their employment potential; and learners who are currently working in the IT sector and don't have the relevant academic experience but have an appropriate RPL 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 overall goal of this PGDip is to provide graduates with essential research and development skills in Cyber Security. Through its innovative teaching and learning strategies, the programme develops an in-depth expertise of core technical disciplines within the area of Cyber Security such as Information Security, Secure Programming, IT Law and Ethics, Network Security and Penetration Testing that pertains to the security environment. The programme offers a set of elective modules that provide specialization in one of the following areas: Forensics and Cloud Security as well as one industry (or company) specific designed elective module named Domain Context that addresses specific industry/company needs which may be coupled (where possible) with industry certification. The programme emphasizes the development of research and development skills in the security area through analysis, investigation, requirements elicitation, problem solving, and team work. In addition, emphasis is placed on the study of the latest appropriate technology and techniques necessary for the cultivation of advanced investigative skills.



<b>Teaching and Learning Modes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lectures / Classes</li> <li>2. Practical Sessions</li> <li>3. Tutorials</li> </ol>
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<b>Approved Countries</b>	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.

<b>Staff Profiles</b>	<b>Qualifications and Experience</b>	<b>WTE</b>
Lecturer	Lecturers qualified to a minimum Masters Level (Level 9 NFQ or equivalent) in a relevant computing discipline with experience delivering modules in security fundamentals, advancing security and networking 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

<b>Approved Centres</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Learners per Intake per Centre</b>
	42522R National College of Ireland	10	70

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

<b>Learner Teacher Ratios</b>	<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
	Tutorials	1:25
	Lectures	1:100

<b>Programme being replaced by this Programme</b>	<b>Prog Code</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	<b>Validated</b>
	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**