



# CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Provider name</b>      | National College of Ireland |
| <b>Date of validation</b> | 28-September-17             |

|                           |                     |                    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                           | <b>First intake</b> | <b>Last intake</b> |
| <b>Enrolment interval</b> | 01-September-17     | 01-September-21    |

|                            | Code    | Title                                 | Award                      | Duration | Annual intakes |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Principal programme</b> | PG23425 | Higher Diploma in Business in Finance | Higher Diploma in Business | 1 year   | 2              |
| <b>Embedded Programme</b>  | N/A     |                                       |                            |          |                |

## Principal Programme

|                        | Name  | Minimum number of learners | Maximum number of learners |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Approved centre</b> | National College of Ireland, Mayor Square, IFSC, Dublin 1 | 10                         | 30                         |
| N/A                    |   |                            |                            |

| Proposed first year (i.e. new learner) enrolment over five years |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| <b>Minimum intake into first year</b>                            | 10     | 10     | 10     | 10     | 10     |
| <b>Maximum intake into first year</b>                            | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 30     |

| Detail any articulation arrangements involving advanced entry | Maximum number of learners involved | Stage of entry |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| None  |                                     |                |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Target learner groups</b> | NCI's Higher Diploma in Business in Finance is aimed particularly at those non-cognate degree holders who wish to attain the intellectual rigour and skills appropriate to allow them gain employment within |
|------------------------------|--|



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | the international financial services sector and/or progress to specialist postgraduate degrees within the field of finance.  |  |
| <b>Total number of learners per intake (Maximum and Minimum)</b>  | <b>Max</b>   | <b>Min</b>   |
|   | 60   | 10   |
| <b>Approved countries for provision (i.e. where enrolled learners will be based)</b>  | Ireland  |  |
| <b>Delivery mode: Full-time/part-time</b>   | Full-time (weekdays 9-5pm) and part-time (weekday evenings and/or Saturdays)   |  |
| <b>List the teaching and learning modes<sup>1</sup></b>   | There will be a range of learning approaches including traditional classroom teaching, practicals and computer-based sessions. The learning emphasis regardless of setting is upon problem based learning. Online materials will be used to support learning. Please refer to section 5.6 for an overview of the Programme Teaching and Learning Strategy, as well as individual module descriptors.   |  |
| <b>Does the blend of modalities predominantly involve remote e-learning (Yes/No)</b>  | No   |  |
| <b>Brief synopsis of the programme (e.g. who it is for, what is it for, what is involved for learners, what it leads to.)</b> | The Higher Diploma in Business in Finance provides a pathway for those students who have a general business, social science or other degree but wish to gain exposure to the domain of Finance and Economics and do not wish to undertake an MSc in these domains. Given the technical/quantitative nature of the NCI MSc Finance, the entry requirements necessitate prospective students to have an honours degree in a cognate field of study such as Finance, Economics or Accounting. For those students, who are from a noncognate background but who wish to pursue the MSc Finance, the Higher Diploma will provide the necessary articulation path. The programme comprises of six ten-credit modules which together provide a comprehensive understanding of the financial, regulatory and economic components of the financial services sector. |  |
| <b>Summary of staffing requirements (the details are provided in the module descriptors)</b>                                  | WTE <sup>2</sup>   | Qualifications and experience  |
|   | 1  | Lecturing staff must have a master’s qualification in a relevant field of study. Practical experience working in Financial Services is recommended but not mandatory with the exception of Law and Governance, where experience working within these areas in Finance is required. |
|   | 1  | Programme Director who is responsible for the academic management of the programme and is also a lecturer on the programme.  |
|   | 1  | Programme Administrator who is responsible for the day to day  |

<sup>1</sup> Defined later in this document.

<sup>2</sup> WTE is the whole-time equivalent number. The number 1 indicates a fulltime person fully dedicated to the programme.



|  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
|  |  | administration of the programme |
| <b>Outline the physical resource requirements (the details are provided in the module descriptors)</b> | The programme requires appropriate learning spaces to facilitate the teaching, learning and 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 e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint or similar products.<br>Learners must also have access to appropriate personal study space. Access to appropriate recreation and dining spaces and functions are also required. |                                 |
| <b>Outline specifications for the ratio of learners to teaching staff</b>                              | Staff to learner ratio   | Learning activity type          |
|  | 1:30   | Classroom/Lab Based Learning    |
|  |  |                                 |

| <b>Programmes being replaced</b> |                                       |                               |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Code</b>                      | <b>Title</b>                          | <b>Estimated closure date</b> |
| <b>PG20047</b>                   | Higher Diploma in Business in Finance | September 2016                |



# 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. N/A

#### **Part 2.5 Special Condition of Validation**

1. There are no Special Conditions of Validation



Approved Programme Schedule(s)

| <b>Name of Provider:</b>                               |   | National College of Ireland           |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>Programme Title</b>                                 |   | Higher Diploma in Business in Finance |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| <b>Award Title</b>                                     |   | Higher Diploma in Business in Finance |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| <b>Stage Exit Award Title</b>                          |   | n/a                                   |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| <b>Modes of Delivery (FT/PT):</b>                      |   | FT, PT                                |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| <b>Teaching and learning modalities</b>                |   |                                       |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| Award Class  | Award NFQ level   | Award EQF Level                       | Stage (1, 2, 3, 4, ..., or Award Stage): |                      | Stage NFQ Level                     | Stage EQF Level                | Stage Credit (ECTS) | Date Effective                | ISCED Subject code         |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| Higher Diploma   | 8   | 8                                     | Award                                    |                      | 8                                   | 8                              | 60                  |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
| Module Title<br>(Up to 70 characters including spaces) | Semester no where applicable.<br>(Semester 1 or Semester 2) | Module                                |  | Credit Number        | Total Student Effort Module (hours) |                                |                     |                               |                            | Allocation of Marks (from the module assessment strategy) |                      |                     |                          |         |
|  |   | Status                                | NFQ Level where specified                | Credit Units<br>ECTS | Total Hours                         | Class (or equiv) Contact Hours | Directed e-learning | Hours of Independent Learning | Work-based learning effort | C.A. %  | Supervised Project % | Proctored practical | Proctored written exam % | Total % |
| Financial Markets and Institutions                     | Semester 1  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 39                             |                     | 211                           |                            |   | 40                   |                     | 60                       | 100     |
| Economics  | Semester 1  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 39                             |                     | 211                           |                            |   | 40                   |                     | 60                       | 100     |
| Statistical Methods for Finance                        | Semester 1  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 52                             |                     | 198                           |                            | 50  | 50                   |                     |                          | 100     |
| Financial Accounting and Reporting                     | Semester 2  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 52                             |                     | 198                           |                            | 30  |                      |                     | 70                       | 100     |
| Law and Governance                                     | Semester 2  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 39                             |                     | 211                           |                            | 40  |                      |                     | 60                       | 100     |
| Corporate Finance                                      | Semester 2  | M                                     | 8  | 10                   | 250                                 | 52                             |                     | 198                           |                            |   | 30                   |                     | 70                       | 100     |
| <b>Special Regulations</b> (Up to 280 characters)      |   |                                       |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |
|  |   |                                       |  |                      |                                     |                                |                     |                               |                            |   |                      |                     |                          |         |