



## Micro-credential Validation Report

### Report of the External Review Panel

<b>Micro- credential Reference Number:</b>	MC045-MC051
<b>Faculty/School(s):</b>	Faculty of Business and Social Sciences
<b>Department(s):</b>	Business
<b>Type of Review:</b>	Micro-credential validation
<b>Date</b>	15 October 2024

#### Details of Micro-credential (s) Reviewed:

<b>Title:</b>	<b>NFQ Level:</b>	<b>ECTS:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	<b>Proposed Student Intake:</b>	<b>Proposed Start Date:</b>
Motor Insurance	8	10	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Liability Insurance	8	10	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Commercial Property & Business Interruption	8	10	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Climate Risk for Financial Services Professionals	7	10	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Commercial General Insurance (CIP-04)	7	5	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Healthcare Insurances (CIP-05)	7	5	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025
Personal General Insurance (CIP-03)	7	5	Semester	Part Time	20	Jan 2025

#### Review Panel

<b>Panellist Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Chair	Seamus Lennon	ATU Galway	HoS Business
Academic Expert	Micheal Gill	ATU Mayo	HoD of Organisational Development
Industry Rep	Ide O'Keeffe	FBD Insurance	Branch Manager
Academic Secretary	Simon Stephens	ATU Donegal	Assistant Registrar

All external members of the panel have declared that they are independent of ATU (Atlantic Technological University), and all have declared that they have no conflict of interest.

## **Programme Design Team**

The panel met the staff listed below during the review process.

Breda McTaggart, Rosa Whitfield, Emma Casserly, Dara McGoldrick, Stephen Dunne, Brendan OMahony, Anne McGlynn

### **Rationale for Programme(s)**

With rapid transformations in the insurance industry impacting on how it operates, continuing professional development has assumed a pivotal role in shaping professional growth. Shorter forms of learning opportunities than traditional qualifications are being developed rapidly across Europe and the world. These opportunities are made available by a wide variety of public and private providers in response to the demand for more flexible, learner-centred forms of education and training. Micro-credentials can be particularly useful for people who want to upskill or reskill to meet labour market needs or to develop professionally after starting work.

See Appendix for Entry Requirements, Programme Learning Outcomes and Approved Programme Schedule.

## Validation Criteria

ATU's Micro-credentials Policy specifies that new programmes must comply with the following criteria for validation:

1. The rationale for the micro-credentials is well informed and justified. **Clear Industry need based on changing demographics and labour force age profile.**
2. There is demand for the micro-credential from industry partners/professional bodies/voluntary sector. In-demand knowledge and skills are addressed, and content is relevant. **Yes, the move to MCs will add valuable additional interest/participation in professional body approved training.**
3. The micro-credential is appropriately structured and fit for purpose. The teaching and learning strategy is flexible and appropriate to the needs of the intended students. **Yes.**
4. The aims and learning outcomes (LOs) of the micro-credential are clear and aligned with the relevant NFQ level. The micro-credential is designed to ensure students can successfully achieve the LOs. **Yes.**
5. The learning environment and mode of delivery are consistent with the needs of the intended students of the micro-credential. Teaching, learning and assessment practices and associated activities and resources provide every student with an equitable, fair, and realistic opportunity to achieve the intended learning outcomes. **Yes.**
6. Assessment techniques are fair, valid, reliable, consistent and provide a credible mechanism to measure the academic standard required. **Yes.**
7. The planned resources, including administrative infrastructure, staffing, physical, online, and library sufficiently support the teaching, learning and assessment strategy for the micro-credential. **Yes, excellent existing resources and systems exist.**
8. The micro-credential facilitates lifelong learning for a diverse student population by setting out clear entry requirements and opportunities for 'stacking' (where relevant), progression and RPL. **Yes, excellent existing resources and systems exist.**
9. Students will be well informed on the requirements of the micro-credential, guided to relevant resources and supported in their studies. **Yes, excellent existing resources and systems exist.**

## Findings

### Overall Finding

Validated without changes	
<b>Validated subject to condition(s) and/or recommendation(s)</b>	<b>YES</b>
Rejected	

### Reason for Overall Finding

A strong presentation by the Programme team who have extensive knowledge of the industry and extensive experience of the TLA requirements of these modules. The programme team have an excellent record of working collaboratively with industry stakeholders and ATU.

### Commendations

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council of the following commendations.

1. The Programme team are to be commended for their innovative approach to maximising the take-up of these existing modules and expanding ATUs portfolio of micro-credentials.
2. The Programme team are to be commended for their innovative approach to assessment with an emphasis on variety.

### Conditions

The Validation Panel advises Academic Council that subject to satisfying any condition(s) detailed below, the panel is satisfied that the proposed programme(s) meets the validation criteria as set out in Atlantic Technological University's Developing and Validating New Programmes Policy.

**N/A**

### Recommendations

The panel advises Academic Council that the Programme Development Team and/or the Department should take cognisance of any recommendations outlined below.

1. Review the entry requirements to ensure they align with AQAE037 *ATP Policy* and remove and legacy entry requirements that no longer apply.
2. Review the Entry requirements for all modules to align with AQAE009 *RPL Policy*.
3. Clarify the progression (stackability) opportunities from Climate Risk for Financial Services Professionals.
4. Amend the online resources sections(s) to include videos and podcasts.
5. In consultation with [programmames@atu.ie](mailto:programmames@atu.ie) update the "*Special Regulations*" section of the module descriptors (L8 modules) to capture the previously approved derogations.
6. In modules where data is referenced, please update the citations.

## Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the review panel and is signed on their behalf by the chairperson.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Seamus Dunne'.

Validation Panel Chair

15.10.2024