

New Micro-credential Validation Report

Reference Number: MC028 - 34
Faculty/School(s): Faculty of Business and Social Science
Department(s): Department of Business

Details of Micro-credential(s) Reviewed

	NFQ Level:	ECTS:	ISCED:	Duration:	Proposed Student Intake:	Proposed Start Date:	Delivery Mode(s):	Parent Programme Code (if relevant)
Sustainable Finance	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	Online	SG_BFINS_S09
DC Pension Scheme Trustee Principles	7	5	Finance	Semester	30	2024	Distance	SG_BDCPE_S07
Retirement Planning	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	PT, Online	SG_BFINA_S09
Investment Management	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	PT, Online	SG_BFINA_S09
Tax and Estate Planning	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	PT, Online	SG_BFINA_S09
Risk Management and Insurance Planning	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	PT, Online	SG_BFINA_S09
Client Management	9	10	Finance	Semester	30	2024	Online	SG_BFINS_S09

Date of Review: 7th June 2024

Review Panel

Panellist Role	Name	Role and Department
Chair	Dr Seamus Lennon	Head of School of Science
Quality Office Representative (Secretary)	Carmel Brennan	Assistant Registrar
Faculty Academic	Michael Gill	Head of Department of Organisational Design
Industry Representative	Pauric Oates	Director, Oates Breheny Group Financial Services

Programme Development Team

Dr Breda McTaggart

Valerie McTaggart

Sandra Hallinan

Maria Scanlon

Geraldine Gorman

William Hannan, Chief Academic Officer,

LIA <https://atlantictu.sharepoint.com/sites/PoliciesProcedures/SitePages/Approved-Policies.aspx>

Grainne Henry, Education Manager, LIA

Eva Lavin, Head of Education, LIA

Rosaleen Rooney

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-credential is well-informed and justified.
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.
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.
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.
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.
6. Assessment techniques are fair, valid, reliable, consistent and provide a credible mechanism to measure the academic standard required.
7. The planned resources, including administrative infrastructure, staffing, physical, online, and library sufficiently support the teaching, learning and assessment strategy for the micro-credential.
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.
9. Students will be well informed on the requirements of the micro-credential, guided to relevant resources and supported in their studies.

Overall Finding

Validated (without changes)

Validated, subject to conditions and/or recommendations X

Rejected (outlining reasons)

Commendations

The development of micro-credentials will enhance flexibility and allow for upskilling for those working in the industry.

The inclusion of a micro-credential on sustainable finance was welcomed as it reflects the importance of sustainability.

Conditions

None.

Recommendations


1. Review the teaching and learning strategy for each micro-credential, ensuring that the teaching and learning strategies are appropriate to the online delivery mode.
Response: All relevant modules T&L strategy has been reviewed and this is highlighted in each module
 - LIA07009 DC Pension Scheme Trustee Principles
 - LIA09004 Tax and Estate Planning p.4
 - LIA09002 Retirement Planning p.5
 - LIA09003 Investment Management p.4
 - LIA09005 Risk Management and Insurance Planning p.5
2. Ensure that independent learning is included in all modules for all delivery modes in line with ATU Programme Design Policy. All modules have been updated inline with the required policy.
3. Use full title rather than acronyms in Learning outcomes 3 and 4 of Sustainable Finance. Same changed as followed. Changes made as requested p.3.
4. Update syllabus for Tax and Estate Planning to mention stamp duty as it is included in the module learning outcomes LIA09004 Tax and Estate Planning – Syllabus has been updated to mention stamp duty (p.4)
5. IFRS S1 and S2 should be explicit in the syllabus for Sustainable Finance. Included as requested p3.
6. Review syllabus for Risk Management and Insurance to remove reference to ‘walkthrough of exam’. This can be included in the teaching and learning or assessment strategy as formative assessment. LIA09005 Risk Management and Insurance Planning – Reference to walkthrough of exam removed from Syllabus and is now included in Teaching and Learning Strategy under In Class Discussion p.4.
7. Review repeats assessment strategies for all modules ensuring that the methodology is articulated explicitly. Updated to what the repeat requirements are expected to be. Highlighted in each as module in blue.
8. Tick the relevant box on Academic Module Manager to ensure that it is clear that Investment Management is a stackable micro-credential. This has been complete. LIA09003 Investment Management – It is now clear that Investment Management is a stackable micro-credential.
9. As part of Programmatic Review consider whether there should be consistency between the contact hours for modules on the same programme. We will consider this at the next PR

Note: The team used the opportunity of the panel to propose a minor modification to FINA09003 Financial Sustainability i.e. removal of the use of technology as an enabler as a syllabus item. This was driven by feedback from students who valued focus on investment decisions and sustainable sources of finance. The validation panel approved this change.

Report Approval

This report has been agreed by the validation panel.

Signed:



Date: 7th June 2024

Name: Dr Seamus Lennon
Validation Panel Chair

Quality Enhancement Plan Approval

Compliance with conditions have been verified and responses to recommendations have been considered as appropriate.

Signed:

Name
Quality Office

Date