Ms Jan Cairns  
Quality Assurance Officer  
Quality Assurance and Academic Programme Records  
Dublin Institute of Technology  
143-149 Rathmines Road  
Dublin 6  

12th August 2014  

Dear Jan,  

Further to our recent validation event on Thursday, 24th July 2014, Digital Skills Academy is delighted the panel has recommended the approval of the two programmes, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Technology, Design and Innovation and the Higher Certificate in Digital Technology and Design to the Academic Council. I herewith enclose updated validation documents, amended to incorporate the recommendations and observations of the panel. In regards to these observations and recommendations, we would like to draw attention to the following points for each programme:

BSc (Honours) in Digital Technology, Design and Innovation (WebInnovate)  

With reference to the Report on Programme Validation (Draft Q3) for the BSc (Honours) in Digital Technology, Design and Innovation, we have taken on board all recommendations in the document. These are as follows:

1. Digital Skills Academy will consider internal moderation processes for assessments and also intends to request the external examiner to review a sample of coursework. In addition, we will ensure the Programme Committee review coursework/assignments across the programmes.

2. In reference to the evolving needs of the digital technology and content sectors, Digital Skills Academy currently has an active policy to build and maintain current links with industry. As recommended, we will also consider further opportunities for collaborative research with industry.

3. Digital Skills Academy is committed to developing lifelong learners. This is reflected in our current approach and methodology which is focused on group dynamics and portfolio/evidence based assessments. As recommended, we will further consider the potential to engage and collaborate through communities of practice and interest, social media, etc.

4. Digital Skills Academy has successfully adopted components of the flipped classroom model and, as recommended, we will actively continue to assess the potential of other student-centered approaches to learning.

5. Digital Skills Academy acknowledges the recommendation to work towards providing both quantitative and qualitative feedback in a timely manner, in line with DIT norms, and we are keen to work closely with colleagues in DIT to further develop this in the coming months. We also intend to make this an agenda item at future monthly operational review meetings with DIT.
6. Digital Skills Academy actively encourages staff to participate in staff development, and supports their attendance at industry conferences, such as the annual Dublin Web Summit and the Digital Marketing Summit. We are keen to work with DIT to identify suitable workshops and CPD/APD modules offered by LTTC to support development of our staff, and also propose to add this to the agenda for future monthly operational meetings with DIT starting in September.

7. With regard to the recommendation to include agile methodologies to the Product/Project Development Stream, we wish to highlight that we currently include agile methodologies in the module ‘Agile Methodology and Technical Project Management’ within this stream (please see page 57 of the amended programme document).

In relation to the observation regarding the title of ‘International BSc’, Digital Skills Academy intends to seek approval of the award title at a future date and intends to address and demonstrate the international content in seeking approval for this award title.

Higher Certificate in Digital Technology and Design (WebActivate and TechElevate)

With reference to the Report on Programme Validation (Draft Q3) for the Higher Certificate in Digital Technology and Design, we have taken on board all recommendations in the document. These are as follows:

1. Digital Skills Academy has included reference to DIT Guidelines on Good Practice on Structured Work Placements in the documentation. We further intend to utilise these guidelines developed by DIT, including utilising resources contained therein, such as the sample template included in the validation document (please see page 5 of the revised programme document).

2. Digital Skills Academy will consider internal moderation processes for assessments and also intends to request the external examiner to review a sample of coursework. In addition, we will ensure the Programme Committee review coursework /assignments across the programmes.

3. In reference to the evolving needs of the digital technology and content sectors, Digital Skills Academy currently has an active policy to build and maintain current links with industry. As recommended, we will also consider further opportunities for collaborative research with industry.

4. Digital Skills Academy is committed to developing lifelong learners. This is reflected in our current approach and methodology which is focused on group dynamics and portfolio/evidence based assessments. As recommended, we will further consider the suggestion to engage and collaborate through communities of practice and interest, social media, etc.

5. Digital Skills Academy has successfully adopted components of the flipped classroom model and, as recommended, we will actively continue to assess the potential of this and other student-centered approaches to learning.

6. Digital Skills Academy acknowledges the recommendation to work towards providing both quantitative and qualitative feedback in a timely manner, in line with DIT norms, and we are keen to work closely with colleagues in DIT to further develop this in the coming months. We also intend to make this an agenda item at future monthly operational review meetings with DIT.

7. Digital Skills Academy actively encourages staff to participate in staff development, and supports their attendance at industry conferences, such as the annual Dublin Web Summit and the Digital Marketing
Summit. We are keen to work with DIT to identify suitable workshops and CPD/APD modules offered by LTTC to support development of our staff, and also propose to add this to the agenda for future monthly operational meeting with DIT starting in September.

8. With regard to the recommendation to include agile methodologies to the Product/Project Development stream, we intend to include these in the Digital Technology Management and Marketing module (please see page 60 of the revised programme document).

In relation to the observation regarding the title of ‘International Higher Certificate’, Digital Skills Academy intends to seek approval of the award title at a future date and intends to address the Panel’s observations on this matter and demonstrate the international content and demand for this programme.

In relation to the observation regarding the approval of CPD awards comprising modules/components as part of the Higher Certificate, Digital Skills Academy does intend to seek approval of CPD awards as part of the Higher Certificate programme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Validation Panel for their valued support, advice and recommendations throughout the validation process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if further clarification is needed.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Dunne, CEO