

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/20/21g)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

22 October 2020

Agenda Item 8.7

DEPARTURES AND VARIATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK:

MSc Business in Technology

COVER SHEET

To note that Chair's action has been taken to approve a request from the Ulster University Business School to have different exit award titles to that of the parent award.

**EVALUATION of MSc BUSINESS IN TECHNOLOGY and related PgC and PgD Awards - Case to ASQEC for different exit award titles to that of the parent award**

The Faculty is seeking ASQEC approval to formalise the two differently named PgCert and PgDip awards, alongside the ‘parent’ MSc Business in Technology award. To note, the proposed discrete awards and subsequent titles had been included within the CA1 and were approved by APAG. They were then approved via a very successful Course Evaluation event last Tuesday 30 June 2020, with the panel noting:

- i. The strong links with industry and employers and that the curricula had been informed by a wide range of sources ranging from Industry Case Studies to key employers and leading practice in the HE sector
- ii. The currency and relevance of the provision to local, regional and global needs
- iii. The clear evidence of passion and enthusiasm of the Course Team
- iv. The ‘scaffolding’ of awards, structure of the provision and in particular the ‘Block’ delivery which provided benefits to the students, employer and University
- v. The quality of the documentation.

The overall programme structures and award titles are presented in Fig B1.3 below (extract from the Course Document):

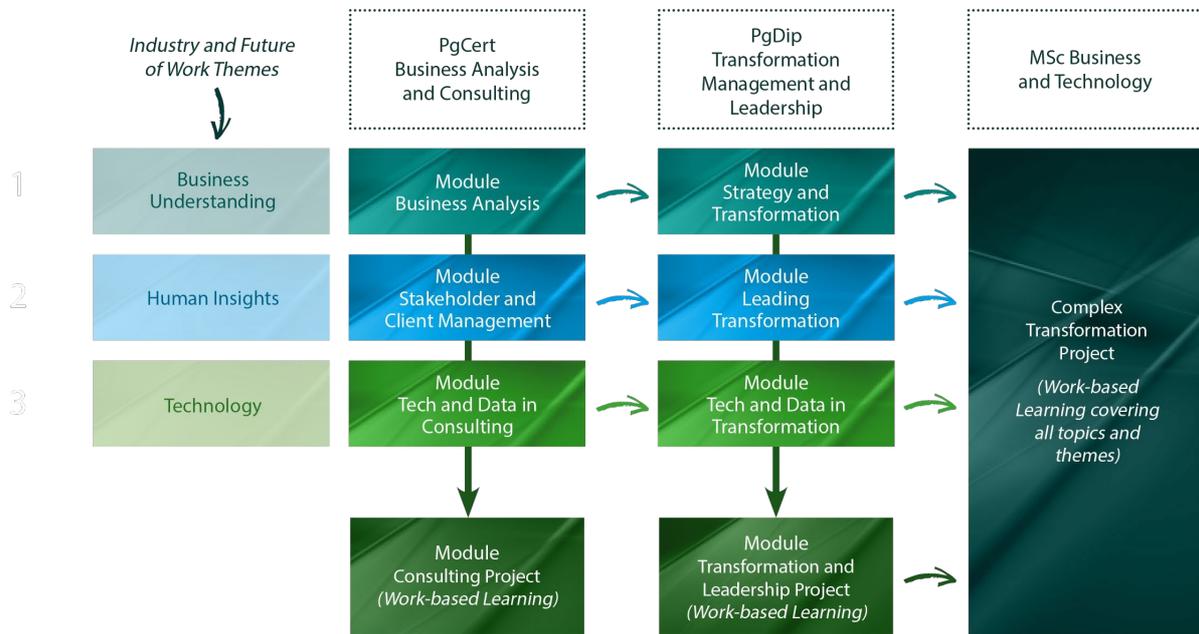


Fig: B1.3 Fig: MSc Business in Technology, PgDip Transformation Management and Leadership, PgCert Business Analysis and Consulting

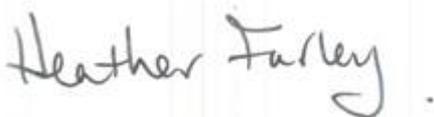
## Rationale

The overall MSc programme design supports the completion of discrete awards to suit different future of work themes and levels of application (the awards can also be exit awards from anyone who wishes to exit early from the MSc programme). Through an extensive, four-stage consultation process, involving an immersive case study with a strategic partner; engagement with key employers; an international HE best practice visit in the US; and a detailed review of current literature in the area, it was evident that a series of discrete awards that address various industry and future of work themes was required (referred to in relevant future of work research<sup>1</sup> as an increasing requirement for “stackable certificates and accreditation”). The awards have therefore been developed around coherent module bundles (or academic subject themes) and essentially provide career development opportunities aligned to different career stages. Thus, as a starting point, the PgCert in Business Analysis and Consulting enables students to develop an in-depth understanding of the principles of business analysis and consulting, both theoretical and applied. The PgDip in Transformation Management and Leadership then builds on this foundation, to allow students to further focus on and develop their understanding, appraisal and application of the principles of business transformation management and leadership. Finally, the overall aim of the MSc Business in Technology programme is to enable students to develop the advanced business and leadership skills required for successful tech led transformation and business innovation and the final 60 credits involves completion of a 60 credit project. The collaborative partnership design approach utilised between UUBS, CEBE and the technology and professional services sector ensures curricula designs that are innovative, relevant and ensure dynamic learning experiences for students. The combination of research, academic and professionally informed teaching provides a unique learning experience and provides life-long learning and career progression (and retention) for managers within these priority sectors within the region.

The material is still delivered logically and appropriately whilst also ensuring flexibility for the fast moving professional and technology services sectors and optimal attractiveness in the marketplace for UUBS. The programme structure has been commended by DfE and Invest NI and has recently been used to support a DfE skills initiative (July 2020) on upskilling and reskilling for priority sectors, for those impacted by Covid-19.

**Professor Gillian Armstrong 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (Business Engagement Unit)**

**Faculty Approval: Heather Farley (ADE)      09/07/2020**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Farley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a white background.

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<sup>1</sup> Deloitte (2020) Future of Business Education Desk Based Review.