

BA Product Design and Interaction Design Quality Improvement Plan Update 1

QIP No.	High Level Action	Timeline	Responsible	Progress Update	RAG status
1	BOLD AND CURIOUS LEARNING AT OUR CORE				
1.1	Programme Aims & Structure				
1.1.1	Engage with evolving design landscape, and emergent themes in the fields of Product Design and Interaction Design, as part of our annual programme planning processes.	Annual	HoD	The BA Interaction Design programme team conducted a workshop to review programme aims with a specific focus on graduate attributes in relation to evolving industry needs and emergent themes. A similar workshop is planned for the BA Product Design.	
1.1.2	Supports for supporting learners transitioning from year 1 to year 2, and between subsequent years of the programmes will be explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> through discussions and workshops between Year 1 and Year 2 staff As part of annual programme planning 	Q4 2022	HoD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As part of annual programme planning the PD and IxD taught content in Year 1 Trimester 1 has been tweaked to offer stronger links to content in Year 2. We have developed a series of presentations and studio visits for Year 1 direct entry students to help them contextualise their Year 1 learning in relation to PD and IxD. The above initiatives are led by Year 1 staff member Tara Whelan. There would be benefit in engaging further Year 1 staff to explore in general terms how Year 1 links to Year 2. 	
1.1.3.a	The Programme/Unit Review Schedule beyond 2023 is being finalised but it is expected that the Department of First Year Studies will take place in 2024.	2024	HoAA & HoD for First Year Studies	N/A	
1.1.3.b	This will be considered as part of the annual programme planning process			Not progressed yet - forum needs to be put in place to facilitate this. May be more effective as a pan design forum.	
1.2	Nomenclature				
1.2.1	As part of our annual programme review and planning process we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertake an investigation into the current and future needs of industry (and wider society) explore what final year and alumni think. Gather input from the Creative Futures Academy Industry Council. 	Annually	HoD with HoS	<p>Not progressed yet - will form part of our annual planning process for the subsequent academic year.</p> <p>Ongoing feedback from Industry Council will be formally addressed by programme as part of school and departmental annual review process</p>	
1.3	Learning Outcomes & Assessment				

1.3.1.a	Review and revise module descriptors to make connections between module, stage and programme outcomes more explicit	Q4 2022	HoS with HoD in Design	Year 2 and Studio+ modules have been reviewed. Final year BA modules to be reviewed this trimester.	
1.3.1.b	Ensure that learning outcomes in project briefs are explicitly connected to module, stage and programme learning outcomes as appropriate	Ongoing	HoD	Project briefs are updated to align with module learning outcomes. Work on recommendation 1.3.1.a needs to take place to revise alignment to stage and programme LO's where required.	
1.3.2	Update module brief templates	Q3 2022	HoD	Module briefs updated in line with new year 2 and studio+ developments. Project briefs include learning outcomes that align with module learning outcomes. Deliverables are included in the project brief but not mapped to learning outcomes as many relate to multiple learning outcomes. Level of achievement is defined in connection with an assessment matrix.	
1.3.3	Review existing and in development curriculum to ensure consistent and legible language and approaches.	Q3 2022	HoD	Requires 1.3.1a to be completed.	
1.4	Curriculum				
1.4.1	Enhance collaborative opportunities through the Creative Futures Academy	Ongoing	HoS with HoD and Department team	Collaborative projects between BA IxD and BA PD introduced for Year 2. Addressed through introduction of CFA modules in Studio+.	
1.4.2	Develop and deliver a range of CFA electives that enable students to focus on a diverse range of professional scaffolds and 'research/practice' lens and methods	Ongoing	HoS with HoD and Department team	New creative futures electives introduced this trimester. 6 electives offered. A second tranche will be offered next trimester. College will review these at end of year.	
1.4.3	Develop and deepen knowledge and experience of the Business of Design through the Creative Futures Academy.	Ongoing	HoS with HoD and Department team	New creative futures elective in creative enterprise under development for introduction in trimester 2.	
1.4.4	Emerging technologies & future needs will continue to be reviewed and developed through our annual programme review and planning processes.	Annually	HoD	Integrated as part of our ongoing programme development process	
1.4.5	Full participation in Erasmus+ has resumed, including internships/placements.	Complete 09/2021	Erasmus Office		
1.5	Studio+ Year				
1.5.1	Formal consideration will be given to the question of whether or not to make the Studio+ year mandatory on the basis of a range programme reviews taking place over the next two years.	2024	Director & HoAA	Ongoing with consideration for subsequent programme reviews.	

1.5.2.a	This suggestion will be reviewed against future developments in the Creative Futures Academy modules currently being piloted in Studio+.	Annually	HoS with HoD's in Design	Ongoing. Discussions to be informed by other programmatic reviews.	
1.5.3.b	All students are actively encouraged to do the Studio+ year.	Ongoing	HoD, HoS	Ongoing as part of the programme structure. Expanded taught offering as part of the Studio+ Scaffolding workshops. However, there is a limit to what can be done in this space without Studio+ as a compulsory year.	
1.5.3	The introduction of new bridging structures to support students not undertaking the studio+ year will be considered as part of the annual review of briefs, curriculum and content.	Annual	HoD	Not progressed yet - will form part of academic year planning for 2023.	
1.6	Year 1				
1.6.1	The Programme/Unit Review Schedule beyond 2023 is being finalised but it is expected that the Department of First Year Studies will take place in 2024.	2024	HoAA & HoD for First Year Studies	Not currently applicable.	
1.7	Teaching & Learning				
1.7.1	A programme specific Teaching & Learning working group to consider the issues identified under Key Findings will be convened, reporting into the Department's annual programme planning process.	Q4 2022	HoD	A teaching and learning working group has been formed for the coming year to explore recommendations under key findings	
	Teaching and Learning is the focus of a key Strategic Project through which NCAD's Strategy is being delivered. An important strand of work within this Project is focused upon developing a Teaching & Learning Enhancement Implementation Plan. Enabling cross-disciplinary learning and workshop access is a key strand of this work.	Q2 2024	HoAA & T&L Project Team	Update from HoAA and T&L project team?	
1.7.2	Understanding the breadth and depth of existing workshop provision and developing a plan to deliver inter-disciplinary learning opportunities linked to the breadth of that provision are a strand of work within this Teaching & Learning Strategic Project. Delivering an action plan in this regard is key facet of this project.	Q2 2023	HoAA & T&L Project Team	Update from HoAA and T&L project team?	
1.8	Learning Resources				
1.8.1	Recommendations addressed, implementation due to be completed by Q4 2022	Q4 2022	HoD with HoS and CMT	New workshop space has been opened to support equitable and open access primary workshop facilities for all students.	
1.8.2	There are two projects underway in the College whose outcomes have bearing on this recommendation:				
	a. the Teaching & Learning Strategic Project will provide some context to support effective decision making through its development of a Digital Learning Strategy;	Q2 2023	HoAA & T&L Project Team	Update?	

	b. the Digital Environment Enabling Project through which the College is reviewing and developing our digital infrastructure.	Q4 2023	Head of Corporate Services / Registrar	Update?	
1.8.3	An ongoing programme of work to upgrade existing spaces and equipment as well as to provide for and create new spaces for supporting Learning and Teaching at NCAD is underway and is expected to continue for several years.	Ongoing	Head of Corporate Services / Registrar	Ongoing.	
1.9	Research				
1.9.1	Research is the focus of a key Strategic Project through which NCAD's Strategy is being delivered. A key objective of this Strategic Project is develop a fully-functioning research infrastructure for the College.	Q4 2024	David Crowley & Supporting Research Project Team	Ongoing	
1.10	Monitoring & Evaluation				
1.10.1	Engage with CFA Industry Council as part of ongoing programme development processes	Ongoing	HoS with HoD's of Design	Currently seeking new external examiners and will seek from different institutes as recommended. Potential for industry advisor (or external input) via CFA building on industry council being explored	
1.10.2	This report will be shared with External Examiners in future to better account for departmental responses to recommendations received each January.	Annually	HoD		
1.10.3	Consideration will be given to how best to approach future programmatic reviews.	Q3 2022	QASC		
2	CONNECT AND BE CONNECTED				
2.1	Industry Engagement				
2.1.1	This recommendation is addressed across all years of the programmes. No additional action required.	Ongoing	Ongoing		
3	AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION				
3.1	Workload				
3.1.1	Improving working processes, communications and infrastructure across NCAD to support efficient and effective operation is the focus of a key Strategic Project through which NCAD's Strategy is being delivered. A key strand of work within the Working Together Better Strategic Project is focused upon the College's organisational design and how best to support	Q4 2024	Director and Working Together Better		

	the smooth operation of all of our programmes and the wider work of the College.		Project Team		
3.1.2	A refined operational structure for NCAD, aligned with the strategy and delivering institutional clarity on roles and responsibilities within the organisation is the focus of a key Strategic Project through which NCAD's Strategy is being delivered. Appropriate structures to review and manage workload will be addressed as part of this process.	Q2 2024	Director and Working Together Better Project Team		
3.2	Programme Management				
3.2.1	The College organises regular staff meetings at a programme, departmental, school and college level to ensure communication between academic staff, technical officers and student representatives.	Annually	HoD / HoS	Ongoing.	
3.2.2	A refined operational structure is being developed through the Working Together Better strategic project. This will support the effective management of programmes, including in respect of programme coordination.	Q2 2024	Director and WTB Project Team		
3.2.3	The College has recently appointed several permanent and two year contracts for staff teaching within Studio+ to help ensure stability and continuity	Complete	September 2021		
3.2.4	Review current interactions and levels of integration in collaboration with Head of Department of First Year Studies.	Q4 2022	HoD	See response in 1.1.2. Review in partnership with the Head of Year 1 has not yet happened.	
3.3	Career Progression				
3.3.1	While security of roles for part-time staff is addressed through compliance with legislation in respect of contracts of indefinite duration, the College is working to improve resource planning and associated recruitment processes.	ongoing	Head of Corporate Services/Registrar, Head of Department, HR		
3.3.2	The constraints upon recruitment into the Irish Higher Education sector do not permit change in recruitment practices in this regard.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3.3.a	Progress has made in respect of developing staff career paths with the recent approval and implementation of an Assistant Lecturer-to-Lecturer progression policy.	Complete March 2022	Director, WTB Project Team		
3.3.3.b	An academic staff development and progression model to allow for and support the professional development of our academic staff is being	Q3 2024	Director, WTB		

	developed as part of the College's Working Together Better strategic project.		Project Team		
3.4	Communication				
3.4.1	We will explore the potential for doing an earlier briefing to year 1 students.	Q1 2023	HoD	We have developed a series of presentations and studio visits for Year 1 direct entry students to help them contextualise their Year 1 learning in relation to PD and IxD.	
3.4.2.a	We will review our internal communications to better convey the nature of the programs.	Q4 2022	HoD	See previous row. We have yet to review Website text content to better communicate Year 1 Common Entry to Direct Entry.	
3.4.2.b	The process of scoping a new website for NCAD was completed in January 2022. The process of developing and issuing a tender for building a new website is underway.	Sept 2023	Director, Beyond NCAD Project Team		