

COLÁISTE NÁISIÚNTA EALAÍNE IS DEARTHÁ
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
A RECOGNISED COLLEGE OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Preliminary Response to the Peer Review Group (PRG) Report of the Faculties of Design, Fine Art and Visual Culture

The College firstly wishes to thank the Review Group and to acknowledge the professional approach, insight and courtesy with which the Group conducted its business which provided a very positive contribution to the work of the College and the Faculties.

The College decided that it should complete this first cycle of reviews by holding a combined review of the three remaining Faculties to be reviewed (Design, Fine Art and Visual Culture). This would provide a collective and consistent quality improvement plan across the faculties. The review would be both a capstone to, and a bridge between, the first Quality Review cycle and the second cycle which is currently being mapped out in tandem with the 3+2(+3) process. The combined review could also be viewed as a precursor to the institutional review which will be instigated shortly by UCD.

The College and the Faculties welcome the PRG report which has coincided with a particularly intense period of change within NCAD. The College is pleased that the report endorses these major changes within NCAD as well as the process whereby we are achieving our aims, in particular with regard to the new academic alliance with UCD and the shift to a 3+2(+3) programme format.

The thrust of the PRG report is strongly affirmative of the work of the Faculties and the staff and students of the College. It recommends that this work should continue to engage all levels of the academic community (staff and students) in the 3+2(+3) implementation process to ensure successful and timely implementation.

The report also suggests that the timing is right for a review and revision of College structures in order to foster links and encourage collaborative work across and between disciplines. The Faculties support this opportunity to reconsider the historical organisational structure and resource allocation of NCAD, particularly in light of the changes in national higher education policy including economic realities.

The PRG noted the growth in research activity and postgraduate programmes in NCAD in recent years. In particular they recognised provision for research students across the college and made a range of useful and thought-provoking suggestions for further development. These are important issues for the Faculties in terms of evaluating benefits for students all round.

In conclusion, the Heads of Faculty Group will be preparing a Quality Improvement Plan guided by the set of recommendations contained within the PRG report which conveys a significant statement of validation and an important point of reference for the continuing process of professional reflection and improvement within the NCAD.

Heads of Faculty Group
January 2012