

Micro-Credentials

Information Sheet and Descriptor

Definition (working)

A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards. The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards (working definition approved by HCI Steering, 11 February 2021**).**

Micro-credentials – range of credits from 2.5* ECTS, 5 ECTS, 10 ECTS.

*Note: for the 2021/22 academic year micro-credentials will consist of 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS.

Micro-credentials:

- Consist of credit offered for continuing/professional development purposes.
- Are specifically designed to upskill the workforce.
- May be stackable.
- Offer flexible delivery to meet the needs of industry, business and employees.

MC = Micro-Credential

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HCI Pillar 3

Micro-Credentials: Descriptor

HCI Cluster and Work Package for the proposed micro-credential:	Cluster 1: Work-package 1
To whom will the micro-credential be offered?	<p>Specify the <i>specific industry/profession targeted</i>:</p> <p>This MC will be offered to a wide range of health, social care and policing professionals working in the area of child protection and welfare. It would also be relevant to other professionals, advocates and activists engaged in child protection and welfare, or aspiring to work in these areas.</p>
Micro-credential title:	Legal Training for Child Protection & Welfare Practitioners
Is the proposed micro-credential a new or existing module (repurposed)?	New module/MC
(For Existing Modules Only)	
Existing module detail	<p><i>If this is an existing module to be repurposed as a micro-credential, please respond to the questions below.</i></p> <p><i>If not, proceed to the next section.</i></p> <p>State the name of the module and programme (<i>and enclose module descriptor if available</i>): Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Is the module shared with another discipline/School? If so, name the discipline/School: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Existing Module details: Select UG or PG.</p> <p>State year group.</p> <p>No. of ECTS of module: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>NFQ level: Click or tap here to enter text.</p>



	<p>School (owner and discipline): Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Module coordinator: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Code in SITS: Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p><i>If changes are required to the existing module so that it can exist coherently as a micro-credential please give details (please also outline how the existing module will meet the criteria of a micro-credential in terms of meeting the needs of industry and, providing flexible delivery):</i></p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
Micro-credential information		
NFQ level (if applicable)	9	PG
ECTS	<p><i>Note: 5 ECTS: 100–125 hrs student effort (PG: 1 ECT: 25 hrs student effort)</i></p> <p>5 ECTS</p>	
School (owner) and discipline	School of Social Work & Social Policy	
MC Coordinator (name) <i>(Must be academic / teaching staff)</i>	Dr Stephanie Holt	
State other Schools/external organisations involved in the delivery of the micro-credential (if applicable)	<p>Mason Hayes and Curran.</p> <p>Mason Hayes & Curran LLP is an Irish partnership authorised by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority in Ireland to operate as a limited liability partnership under the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015. The firm currently provide legal advice and representation to Tusla, the Child & Family Agency in all areas of Family Law. In addition, they provide the legal training for all students on professional courses within the School of Social Work & Social Policy.</p>	
Industry/profession	<p>Specify the industry/profession targeted by the micro-credential:</p> <p>This course is designed to meet the specific legal training needs of all health, social care and policing professionals working in the area of child protection and welfare. This primarily includes members of An Garda Síochána, social workers and social care workers employed by Tusla, the Child and Family</p>	



	<p>Agency. Additionally, it is of relevance to a range of other front-line practitioners engaged in child protection and welfare work, include those working in the domestic violence sector and HSE employees in the disability and primary care sector. Finally, the area of child protection and welfare is a key priority for work-force development in the public sector and across civil society in Ireland. The MC will therefore be relevant to a broader range of professionals upskilling in this subject.</p> <p>What market need is addressed by the micro-credential:</p> <p>The need for education and training in legal statutes and the application of those in practice, for professionals involved in family and child-care work; engagement with the legislation to protect children; present court reports and give evidence in court. This is a subject area that has expanded significantly in recent years. The School has a 30 + year record of providing postgraduate teaching and learning to professionals involved in the field of child protection and welfare, and as such, has developed relationships and networks, through which this need has been analysed and scoped. The School of Social Work and Social Policy is a recognised and established HEI leader in child protection and welfare.</p> <p>State the industry/employer-related skills addressed by the micro-credential:</p> <p>The workforce skills being developed as part of the MC include: Understanding Family and Child Care legislation; applying the law to child practice and welfare professional practice; writing court reports; presenting evidence in court.</p> <p>How will the delivery of this micro-credential facilitate industry/professional staff participation (flexible delivery – online/blended/face-to-face – evenings/weekends etc)?</p> <p>This module will be delivered fully online, with four sessions delivered weekly within an 8-week period. This meets the demand within this busy professional sector for flexible learning, at the learners pace and in their own time.</p>
Teaching staff & if appropriate institutional/industry affiliation	Name all teaching staff involved and if external, the name of the organisation. Sonya Bruen, Partner in the Health and Prosecutions department, Mason Hayes and Curran, LLP Solicitors.
Min./max. number of students	Min. number of students: 10 Max. number of students: 100



Mode of delivery	<p>Fully Online</p> <p>Any further details: The module consists of four work packages, released on a weekly basis to participants, one a week for four weeks, with an additional four weeks allowed for participants to complete all assessed component parts. Each weekly work package consists of a lesson plan, incorporating the following sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare Task: the student is given a task to prepare for the lecture (paper to read, case to reflect on, video to watch etc). This may involve being asked to post 300 words on the task to their Learning Journal. 2. Study Task: The student engages with a PowerPoint (with recorded audio voice over prepared by the lecturer) which is approximately 25 minutes long. 3. Analyse Task: The student is given a task designed to interrogate their learning from the presentation. This may involve being asked to post 300 words on the task to their Learning Journal. 4. Reflect Task: The student is given a task designed to require their reflection on elements of the presentation. This may involve being asked to post 300 words on the task to their Learning Journal. 5. Recall Task: The student engages in a short MCQ to test learning. 6. Extend Task: The student is present with a variety of options for extending their learning on the topic. <p>This lesson plan is an important part of the pedagogical approach to online learning, where the tasks promote and enhance learning, support the identification of areas that learners are struggling with and provide a framework for layered learning. They are not assessed as they are a critical part of the learning process and not the assessment process.</p>		
MC entry & admission requirements/pre-requisites (if applicable)	<p>This course is attractive to a range of professionals involved in child protection and welfare, as outlined above. Not all of these professions require third level education – for example, members of An Garda Síochána. As such a level 8 entry requirement would be appropriate, with exemptions for such outlier professionals as recommended by the School and in line with Trinity Recognition of Prior Learning Policy (2020).</p>		
Proposed commencement date.	September 2021		
Micro-credential frequency, duration and term	<p><i>Frequency of delivery during the academic year:</i></p> <p>Twice per year</p>	<p><i>Duration of the MC (e.g. 6 weeks). If block delivery applies provide details:</i></p> <p>4 weeks material delivery plus four week assessment period</p>	<p><i>Indicate term(s):</i></p> <p>Michaelmas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hilary <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Trinity <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Contact and independent study hours (include total)	<p>(1 ECTS = 25 hrs) Note: contact hours also relate to online delivery.</p>		



	<p><i>Four hours of pre-recorded lectures;</i></p> <p><i>20 hours of asynchronous exercises and readings</i></p> <p><i>1 x 2 hour live tutorial, 1 assessment component</i></p> <p><i>99 Hours of independent study including assessment preparation</i></p>
Micro-credential aims	<p>The online course will be delivered over a four-week period where learning materials are released each Monday and can be accessed by participants at a time convenient to them. These materials include videos, case examples, case law and topics for consideration / discussion, as outlined above. An additional four weeks for completion of the assessed component is allowed.</p> <p>The course includes four sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal Framework for Child Protection Practice in Ireland2. Children's Rights3. The Voice of the Child in Court Proceedings4. Fair Procedures and Parental Rights
Micro-credential learning outcomes (approx. 5)	<p>Resources: Academic Practice and QQI</p> <p><i>Note: Learning outcomes should stem from and align with the MC aims and start with an explicit and assessable verb.</i></p> <p>On successful completion of this micro-credential, learners will be able to:</p> <p>Participants will be able to consider & understand the implications of new child protection legislation such as the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 and the Children First Act 2015.</p> <p>At the end of the Module, participants of the course will be able to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Present a critical appreciation of the framework for Child Protection and Welfare practice in Ireland.2. Articulate the nuanced complexities of balancing Parental and Children's Rights.3. Present an evidence informed understanding of judicial requirements from Child Protection and Welfare Professionals.4. Proficiently and professionally prepare and present for the provision of clear and balanced evidence in Court proceedings.5. Articulate and integrate an understanding of new Child Protection Legislation in their day-to-day practice.



<p>MC content areas. <i>(Bullet points can be used)</i></p> <p>If the MC (or components) will be delivered in a blended format, identify the content that will be delivered online.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal Framework for Child Protection Practice in Ireland2. Children's Rights3. The Voice of the Child in Court Proceedings4. Fair Procedures and Parental Rights <p>This content will be delivered wholly online.</p>
<p>Teaching and Learning Methods (state pedagogical approach).</p> <p>Include the online environment(s) to deliver the MC e.g., Blackboard/Zoom, if appropriate.</p>	<p>Resources: Academic Practice</p> <p>This module uses the flipped classroom model with the students using independent study time to watch the pre-recorded seminar on each topic via Blackboard and use the remote live class to engage with discussion on the key questions posed at the end of each recorded seminar. Students will engage with the tasks listed above as part of their lesson plan, which involves posing an average of 1000 words on a weekly basis, as both an articulation and reflection on their learning. The tasks presented to the students will be varied, including traditional academic paper reading tasks alongside reflective exercises, application of learning to personal practice etc.</p>
<p>MC assessment components</p> <p><i>Please include the following...</i></p> <p><i>How will the MC be assessed?</i></p> <p><i>Indicate the LO assessed for each assessment (e.g., LO1 etc.)</i></p> <p><i>Indicate the % of overall mark each assessment is worth.</i></p> <p><i>Indicate if summative/formative (e.g. essay/research paper)</i></p>	<p>Case Study – 2,000 words – 100%</p> <p>The students will be presented with a case study, fictional but grounded in the reality of child protection and welfare practice and with application to all the professionals on the MC at a given time. The case study will require them to 'Consider both Challenges and Opportunities' for your professional practice in responding to this case, with reference to the four areas covered on the module.</p>
<p>State how the MC will be reassessed if failed.</p>	<p>Through repeat assignment.</p>
<p>Pass standard & any special requirements for passing the MC</p>	<p>Resources: Calendar II and Calendar III</p> <p>Students must view all recorded lecture material and must receive a grade of over 40% of the written assignment.</p>



Penalties for late submission	Course work submitted beyond the final deadline may be penalised at the rate of 5% per week or part thereof, past the submission date. The Course Lecturer will make the final decision on such sanctions.
Core reading (if applicable)	www.childlawproject.ie ; www.childrensrights.ie ; www.irishcourts.ie ; www.irishstatutebook.ie ;
Are there subject experts in other Schools/disciplines?	No If yes, name of School and discipline Click or tap here to enter text. Has the MC been discussed with the School/discipline and DUTL/DTLP? Choose Yes/No
Proposed student fee.	External student fee €450

Faculty Dean and School Executive Approval:

Date of approval of the proposed micro-credential by the School Executive:

Date of approval of financial information by Faculty Dean:

Signed by Head of School:

Date: 12.5.2021

Faculty Dean:

Date: 12.5.2021