

# MicroCreds

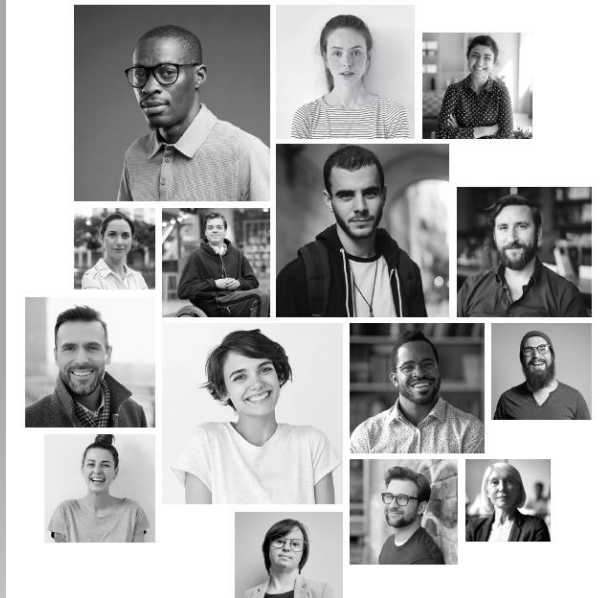
Novel Project  
meets  
Traditional System

Mags Arnold  
University College Cork

# MICRO CREDS



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# MicroCreds National Project

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## MicroCreds@UCC

The Irish Universities Association received €12.3M of Government funding

The project links all seven IUA Universities to deliver nationally and internationally recognised micro-credentials.

The National Framework has been agreed by the IUA Registrar's Group



"Short learning experiences mean educators can respond to societal and economic challenges along enterprise timelines further strengthening that vital dialog with enterprise. IUA MicroCreds can provide leadership in lifelong education supporting the evolution of education in Ireland."

**MAGS ARNOLD**  
*Project Lead MicroCreds, University College Cork*

[WWW.IUA.IE/MICROCREDS](http://WWW.IUA.IE/MICROCREDS)  
@IUAMICROCREDS @MICROCREDS

 **UCC**  
University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOdhruisce Corcaigh

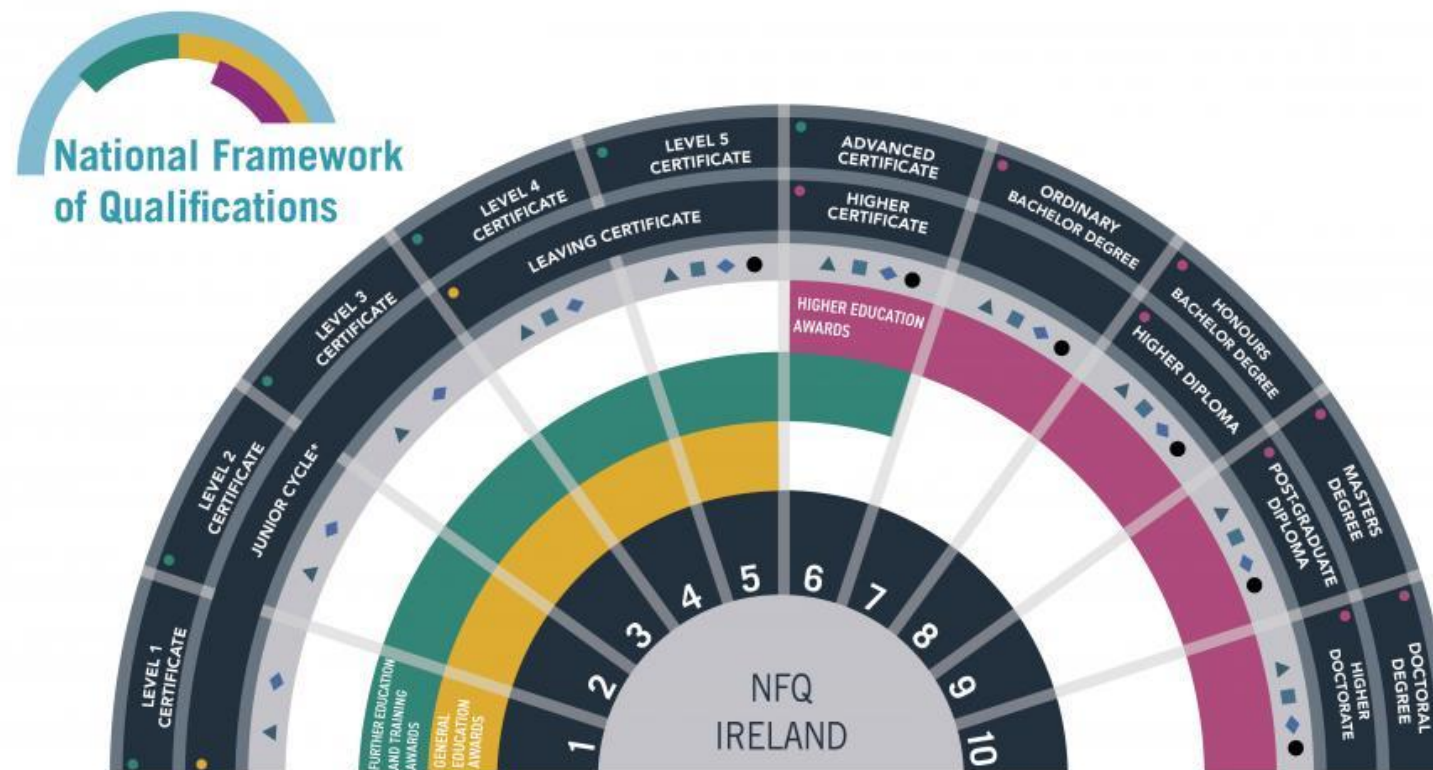
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# What is a UCC Micro-Credential?

- **Small, focused quality assured courses**
- **Levels 6 to 9 on NFQ**
- **Credit Size 1-30 ECTS (1 Credit = 25 Learning Hours)**
- **Learners have full access to a range of academic supports**
- **Developed in response to need, can be bespoke**
- **Stand-alone credentials or stackable towards a larger award**

# NFQ Levels

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## CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
  - Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
  - Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
  - Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
  - Professional Awards:** are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships
- \*Please refer to NCCA website, [ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/](http://ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/)

## IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

For more information on

- Qualifications
- Providers
- Courses




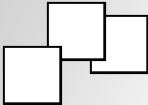
visit [www.irq.ie](http://www.irq.ie)



# Tradition – MicroCreds



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- Curriculum Schedule structured around full programmes
  - September or January Starts
  - Ave. new programme turnaround 18 months
  - Paper based approvals
  - Application Process built for full PG programmes
  - RPL Entry Requirements on some programmes
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- 
- 
- 
- Responsive curriculum approval
  - Multiple Starts in line with enterprise / student need
  - Ave. new micro-credential turnaround 12 weeks
  - Online approval form
  - Bespoke Application System
  - RPL Entry Requirements built in



# Non-Negotiables

- Quality Assurance
- Mapping against NFQ
- ECTS based on student hours
- Transparent admissions with verification
- Curriculum approval at three levels
- External Examiner input
- Student Supports
- Student Feedback
- Authentic assessment
- University Standards



# HCI Funding

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## Where are we spending the HCI money?

- Student Supports – A MicroCreds learner is a true student of UCC
- Creator Support – Reduced admin load with end-to-end supports  
[MicroCreds SharePoint](#)
- Systems Upgrades - to allow for agile and flexible MicroCreds
- Key appointments to support the full learner journey
- Digital Credentialling



**A strong start for  
MicroCreds@UCC**



# Enterprise Collaboration

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Listening and Co Design

Current and Future  
Needs

Research excellence &  
real-world skills

Investment in People

Succession Planning

Growth Mindset





# Learner Centric Education

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## Supports

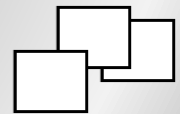
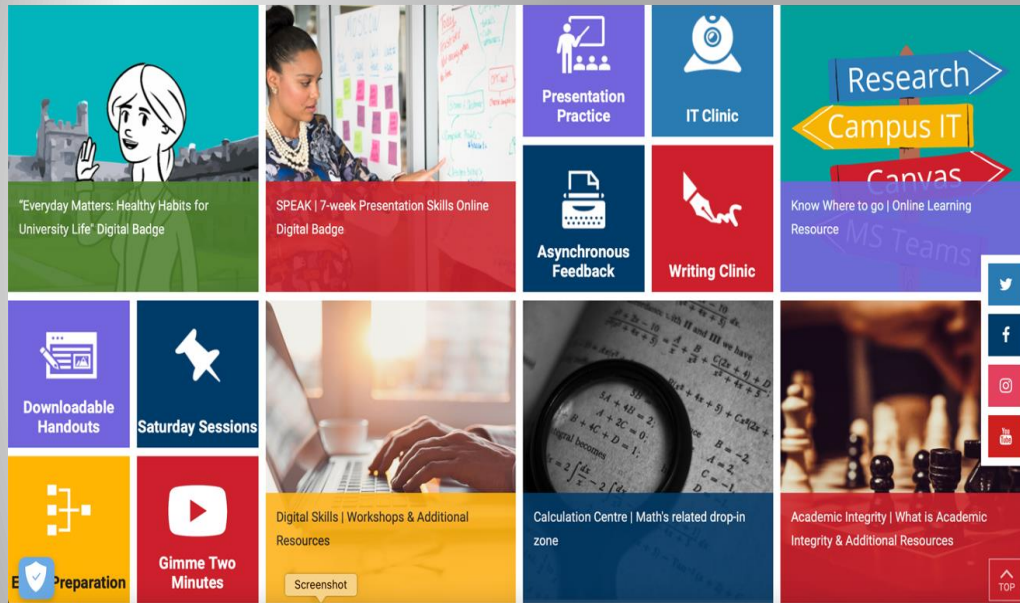
MicroCreds learners are UCC students  
Full access to to a range of supports supports  
e.g., [Skills Centre UCC](#)

Universal Design for Learning to ensure digital  
accessibility for all using [Inclusive UCC](#) principles

## Expectations

Learners as consumers  
High expectations matched with excellent  
interactions

Clear communication and timelines



# A Sample of Current Micro-credentials

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**Special Operations Surgical  
Team Development**

**Intro to Sustainable  
Enterprise**

**Inclusive Dance**

**Fundamentals of  
Neuroanatomy**

**Localisation  
Essentials**

**Including people  
with intellectual  
disability in higher  
and further  
education**

**Manufacturing of  
Pharmaceutical  
Formulations**

**Equality, Diversity and  
Inclusion Awareness**

**Advanced  
Negotiation Skills**

**Digital Disruption  
and  
Transformation**

# What do you need ?



**An amazing team**

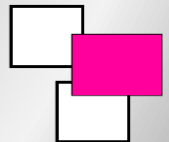
**Support at all levels**

**Creative and innovative  
academic units**

**Adaptable and enthusiastic  
professional staff**

**Policy & Systems**

**Resources**



# Future Plans

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## What next?

Expansion of [MicroCreds.ie](https://MicroCreds.ie)

National awareness plan supported by  
DFHERIS

National stacking learner pathway guidelines

Stacking micro-credentials locally & nationally

Ability to include our Micro-credentials in  
Europass

Micro-credentials that retain value beyond the  
lifespan of the MicroCreds project







# Thank you for your time



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[microcreds@ucc.ie](mailto:microcreds@ucc.ie)



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