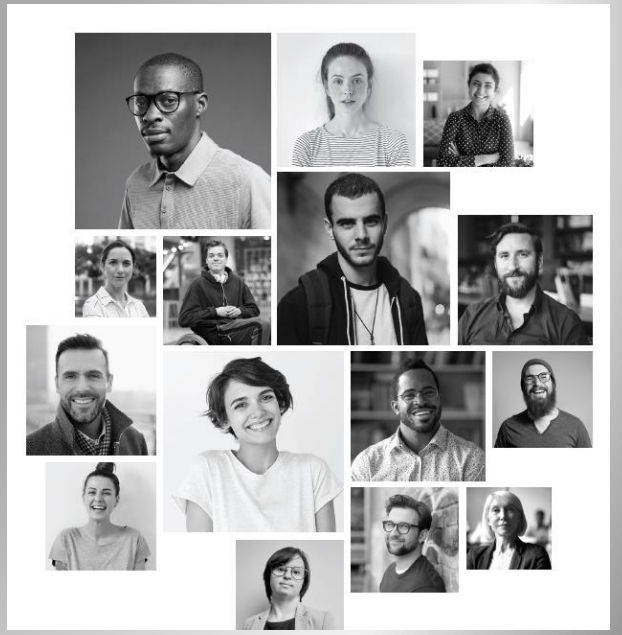
MicroCreds

Novel Project meets Traditional System

Mags Arnold
University College Cork

MICRO CREDS



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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Government of Ireland

HCI Human Capital Initiative

MicroCreds National Project

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

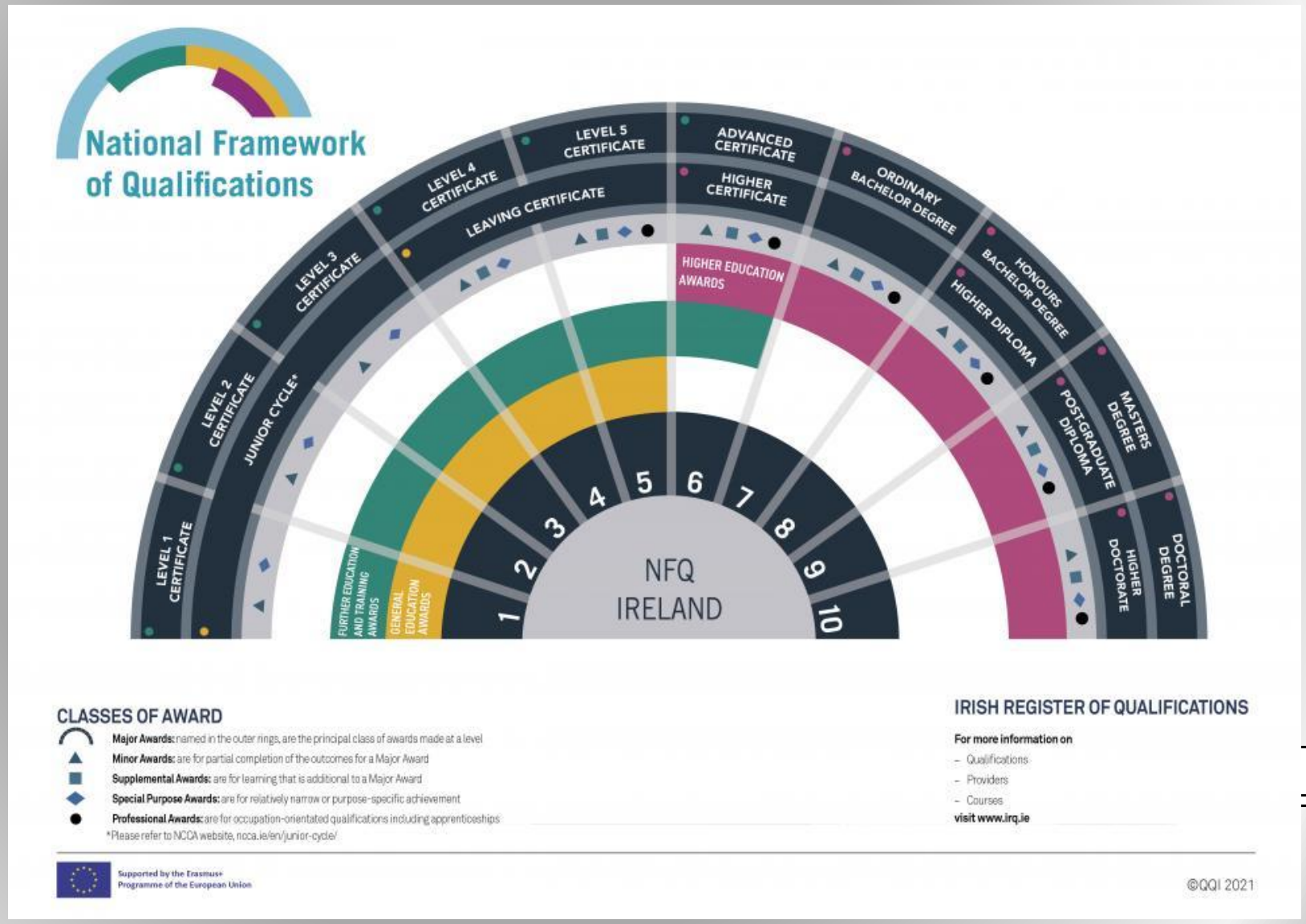
What is a UCC Micro-Credential?

MICRO CREDS

- **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

MICRO CREDS



Tradition – MicroCreds

MICRO CREDS

- 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

- 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

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

MICRO CREDS

Listening and Co Design

Current and Future Needs

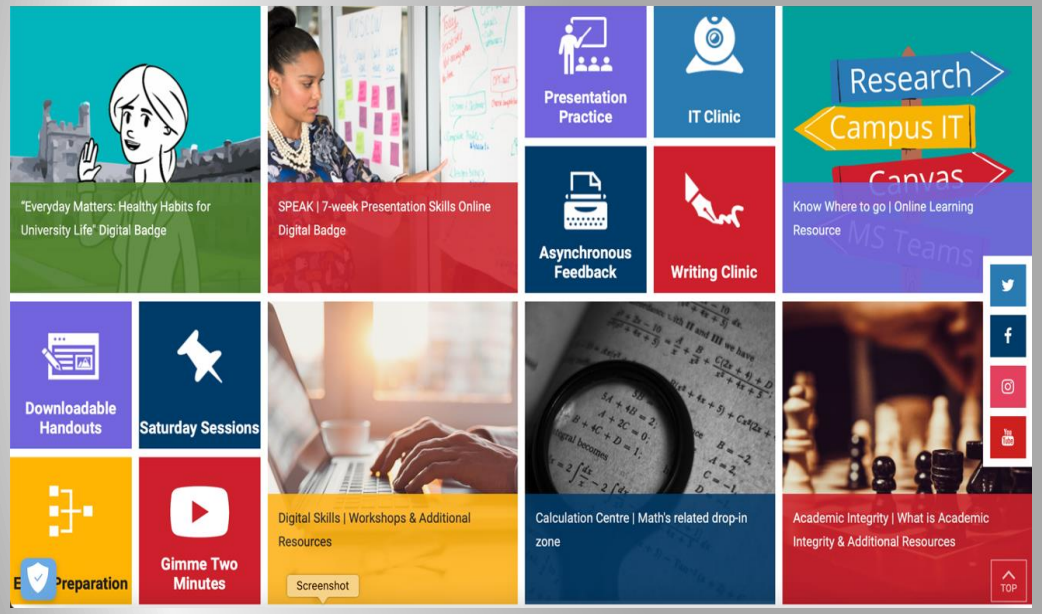
Research excellence & real-world skills

Investment in People

Succession Planning

Growth Mindset

Learner Centric Education



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

MICRO CREDS

Special Operations Surgical Team Development

Intro to Sustainable Enterprise

Inclusive Dance

Including people with intellectual disability in higher and further education

Localisation Essentials

Fundamentals of Neuroanatomy

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Awareness

Manufacturing of Pharmaceutical Formulations

Digital Disruption and Transformation

Advanced Negotiation Skills

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

What next?

Expansion of 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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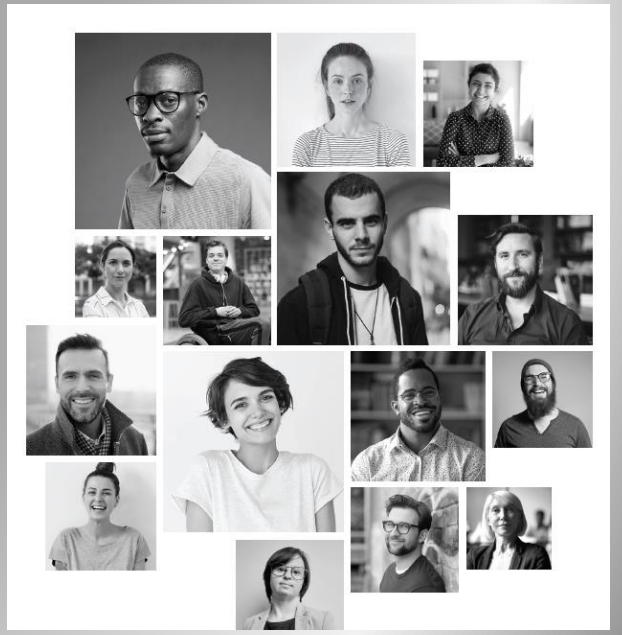
MICRO CREDS



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