

## Important news regarding change of status for Digital Creator award/certification.

We have some important news for all Digital Creator (Ireland) approved accredited centres and schools regarding the status of the award for successful completion of the course.

Previously, successful completion of 4 modules earned the participant a UK GCSE equivalent qualification which was mapped by Ofqual (UK) and the NQAI (National Qualifications Authority Ireland) under a pilot project to a level 4 award on the Irish NQF (National Qualifications Framework).

We have been informed by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT (awarding body for Digital Creator) that the alignment under the pilot project has been discontinued and that Ofqual and the NQAI have published a revised agreement for the alignment and quality assurance of the qualifications of Ofqual recognised awarding organisations, awarded to learners in the Republic of Ireland, within the NFQ. In order for the award to be re-mapped to the Irish NQF BCS must submit a new application to the NQAI, under new terms and conditions. The NQAI process for a new submission will commence in September 2011 with a decision expected in January 2012.

So what does this mean?

1. Students currently registered who successfully complete 4 modules (3 creative & 1 sharing), within two year period from date of first registration, will be issued a certificate by BCS (as per previous arrangements) and this certification is **not** effected by the change and remains mapped as a qualification under the Irish NFQ level 4.

2. Regrettably this has left us in a position that we cannot accept any new student registrations for Digital Creator from today's date pending the outcome of the NQAI process in January 2012 as the course will not have NQAI accreditation status in the interim period.

We appreciate that this may have an effect on schools/centres who had intended rolling out Digital Creator to new students in September and those of you who have timetabled Digital Creator for the coming academic year. We apologise sincerely to all concerned for this. Unfortunately this development has been only been confirmed to us during this week. The process of mapping certifications is out of Digital Creator Ireland's, FÍS' and/or IADT's control and is solely under the remit of the UK and Ireland's awarding bodies new terms of reference.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Ciaran McCormack.

*FIS Office,  
Institute of Art, Design & Technology,  
Kill Avenue,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
County Dublin.  
Tel. (01) 2394990.*