

University of Dublin

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**Perceptions of visual communication design education in higher
education in Ireland: A multi-case study from the design industry,
institutes and graduates perspectives**

by

Fiona Dowling

Volume 2

Appendix L –CD-Rom

Supervisor: Prof. Andrew Loxley

Fiona Dowling

Appendix L

PhD

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Appendix L (1) Pilot On-line Under Graduate (UG) Questionnaire 2013

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

1. Personal Information

This first section consists of a series of questions asking about your background.

1. Your Gender:

☐ Female

☐ Male

2. Your age (at last birthday):

Age

3. Are you:

☐ Married

☐ Single

☐ Living with a partner

☐ Divorced

Other

4. Number of children:

No.

5. Please indicate your level of highest educational achievement (full time or part time) completed to date.

☐ Junior Certificate

☐ Leaving Certificate

☐ Leaving Certificate Applied

☐ Technical/Vocational qualification

☐ Further Education Course (PLC)

☐ Non-degree course (National Certificate/National Diploma)

Other (please specify)

6. Please indicate your parents' occupational status (e.g. post-person, home-maker):

Father

Mother

7. Are you the first person in your immediate family to undertake degree level study?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication
**

8. If applicable, does your spouse/partner hold a degree?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

9. Give the location, district/town or city you resided in when applying for this programme?

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

2. Applying To Your Higher Level Institute/University

The following questions explore applying to your University or Institute.

10. In what academic stage of your programme did you first register as a design student?

☐ Year 1

☐ Year 2

☐ Year 3

☐ Year 4

Other (please specify)

11. What year did you first register as a student e.g. 2010?

12. Please indicate the 'route' by which you entered the design programme you are taking?

☐ Mature Student

☐ Leaving Certificate 'pionts' via Central
Applications Office (CAO)

☐ PLC | FETAC

Other (please specify)

13. Did you apply to any other Higher Education Institution as well as the design programme you are taking?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other

If 'yes' please name the Higher Education Institution as well as the design programme

14. Did you transfer from another HE Institute/University to do this design programme?

☐ Yes

☐ No

. If 'yes' please name the HE Institute or University?

15. What was your main motivation for beginning this programme?

☐ Improve employment
prospects

☐ Personal interests

☐ Both

☐ Other

If 'other' please give your reasons for your choice of course?

16. When applying for the programme did you provide a portfolio?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

17. If 'yes' was it to your advantage?

18. If 'no' would you like one?

19. Your chosen Institution

Which of the statements if any influenced your decision to become a student at this University/Institute.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Advice from a career guidance counselor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advice from my friends or acquaintances who had attended the programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a good reputation for its social life and events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a good reputation for its creative design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is an innovative and interesting course	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is good for postgraduate study if I choose to do it	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is good for social networking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It's geographical proximity from my home?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Members of my family attended as students?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My friends currently attend the Institute/College?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
This Institute's design graduates are well regarded by employers?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is socially inclusive?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The quality of the teaching and learning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The support services offered	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of programme I wanted to undertake	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

20. Have you at any point in your time as a student of design considered 'dropping out' of the Visual Communication programme?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Give reasons

3. Financing Your Studies

21. Did you have a job before becoming a student of 'design'?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' what job(s) did you do? (please give exact title e.g. fashion retail assistant instead of 'shop assistant' etc

22. If applicable, was your job before beginning your design degree:

☐ Full-time

☐ Part-time

23. Do you engage in paid work as a design student?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' what kind of work do you do?

24. If you are in paid employment during your studies, on average how many hours a week do you work?

25. Do you receive financial support from grants?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, from which government body?

26. Were you financially prepared to start a degree course (e.g. did you put savings aside)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially prepared

27. Have you built up debts as a consequence of studying for your Visual Communications degree?

☐ Yes

☐ No

28. If you answered 'yes' to the above question please could you indicate approximately how much debt (euro) you have accrued so far:

☐ 0-5k

☐ 6-10k

☐ 11-15k

☐ 16-20k

☐ 21-25k

☐ 26-30k

☐ -31k

4. Studying With A Disability/Support Services

The next section looks at life on campus.

29. If you have a disability (e.g. visual impairment, dyslexia etc) has the Institute taken account of your needs and provided the necessary support and services?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially prepared

If 'partially' please give details.

30. Are you a member of an Institute or University society?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' please indicate which one(s)

31. If you are a member the design society, please indicate how frequently you are involved with its activities:

☐ Never Involved

☐ Moderately Involved

☐ Occasionally Involved

☐ Fully Involved

Explain your answer

5. About Your Design Degree

32. The following statements are concerned with your experience of the Design/Visual Communication programme. Please indicate which best represents your opinion.

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The approach(es) to teaching that I experience are well matched to the module descriptors on the program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The criteria for academic evaluation and assessment are made clear to me by the lecturers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn more from other students on my course than from my lecturers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Balancing the demands of family life while studying is very difficult	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for this design degree has negatively affected my personal relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would choose the same degree programme again	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general, students on my program are well supported by lecturers in their practical and academic work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My family do not understand my reasons for going to study at this Institute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have met a lot of students with a similar background (e.g. age, social class etc) as myself at this Institute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Design internships are a good idea when starting out in your design career	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have considered leaving my degree at this Institute due to internal (e.g. course related) factors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I felt unprepared for studying a design degree at honours level.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for a design degree has changed me personally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have generally found my experience of this Institute to be a negative one	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying means I have to restrict my social activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of resources (mac lab, library etc) are adequate for my needs as a design student	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My gender has impacted on my experience at this Institute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The pacing and structure of my program is compatible with the other demands on my time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general, this Institute is a welcoming place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My quality time with my family is reduced due to the demands of studying in my program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

33. Please add your comments about your experiences: Consider unique aspects of the programme, your favourite subject and what has surprised you on your design journey.



34. What type of award are you currently studying for?

☐ B.A.(Level 8)

☐ HDip Design (Level 8)

☐ B.Des (Level 8)

Other (please specify)



6. Your Experience Of The Design |Visual Communications Programme

35. The following statements are also concerned with your experience of the design degree. After each one please indicate the box that best represents your opinion.

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The use of online resources (e.g. library databases, journals etc) is an integral part of my academic work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic staff encourage students to explore new ideas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My interpersonal relationships with students in my class have had a positive influence on my personal growth, attitudes and values	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I find team design groups useful as students can help each other overcome problems	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is easy to communicate with staff outside of the classroom environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I set myself high creative and academic standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
E-learning and on-line creative software is an important part of the design programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My design career will rely on the particular subject specialism that I have chosen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel intimidated by the study/course material I am presented with	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am intellectually engaged by questions or comments made by the teaching staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn best when studying on my own	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaboration with my fellow students is more important to me than competition against them	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Where possible I try to attend seminars and lectures given by guest lecturers from industry or different places	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The design programme has appropriate spaces where I can use the labs with other students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn best when I can work at home rather than with other students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The design programme has lived up to my expectations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Do you think that the structure of the programme is good	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Would you move programme at this stage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. Value Of Your Degree

36. The following set of statements ask you about your views on the long and short term value of studying for a Visual Communication degree. After each one tick the box that best represents your opinion.

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
It is necessary for me to have a degree for the type of job I want	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My post-primary school normally expected myself and my peers to undertake a degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My choice to study design was not about the kind of job I intended to do after graduation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The content of my design degree will be useful to me in a job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For me, studying for a design degree is more than just about career development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It was expected by my family that I would undertake a degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think a design degree is necessary for a good job in a design studio	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My design studies have changed the way in which I see myself	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The financial investment I am making in gaining this design degree will be worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The time I have so far invested in gaining a design degree is worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. After Graduation

This next set of questions are concerned with your plans for life after you graduate from the BA /B.Des in Design Visual Communication.

37. After I graduate I intend to:

	Yes	No
Go into full-time employment	☐	☐
Undertake voluntary work	☐	☐
Undertake another course (full-time)	☐	☐
Undertake unpaid work in the home	☐	☐
Undertake another course (part-time)	☐	☐
Set up a business or become self-employed	☐	☐
Travel (e.g. 'World Tour')	☐	☐

38. If you do not decide to work in the design field and it is not covered in one of the options above please specify?

39. If you plan to gain employment in VC/Design please can you indicate what sort of work (e.g. Graphic Design work, Advertising, Software Design, Illustration and Animation etc) you intend to undertake after you have graduated?

40. What do you see yourself working at in three years time?

41. What do you see yourself working at in ten years time?

42. Do you currently intend to stay and work in Ireland?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

43. What factors would most likely influence a decision to seek work abroad?

0 = no influence; 5 = very strong influence)

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Cultural experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

44. *If you are NOT planning to undertake postgraduate study IMMEDIATELY after you graduate go to question 50.*

If you are planning to undertake postgraduate study IMMEDIATELY after you graduate will it be an:

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| ☐ MA | ☐ Professional Doctorate | ☐ MSc |
| ☐ PG Diploma | ☐ Structured PhD | ☐ MBA |
| ☐ PhD (Research) | ☐ MPhil | |

Area of study (e.g. Education, Digital Design etc)

45. Are you applying to do this in this Institute or University?

- ☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Don't no

If not where and why?

46. If planning to do postgraduate work in terms of content, is it related to design i.e. Visual Communication degree you are currently studying for?

- ☐ Yes
 ☐ No

If 'no' please indicate the new content area

47. Is your intention to undertake postgraduate study to:

	Yes	No
Enhance employment prospects	☐	☐
Necessary for the profession you want to enter (e.g. teaching)	☐	☐

Design - Level 8: B.A. | B.Des Visual Communication

48. To further your interest in a specific area (e.g. Design History, Virtual Design, Professional Practice) please specify

49. Do you anticipate financing your postgraduate study via:

	Yes	No
Your own resources (e.g. bank loan, savings etc)	☐	☐
A research grant (e.g. Irish Research Council etc)	☐	☐
By your employer (e.g. Design Consultancy, Advertising Agency, Digital Media etc)	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

50. * Question

If you are NOT planning to undertake postgraduate study immediately, would you consider doing so in the next:

	Yes	No
1 to 2 years:	☐	☐
3 to 4 years:	☐	☐
After 5 years:	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

9. Earnings After Graduation

51. What is the annual salary (euro) you expect to earn after you graduate (including any postgraduate study undertaken immediately after your undergraduate degree)?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 0-10k | ☐ 31-40k | ☐ 61-70k |
| ☐ 11-20k | ☐ 41-50k | ☐ 71-80k |
| ☐ 21-30k | ☐ 51-60k | ☐ more than 81k |

Please add any comments

52. What do you think might be the maximum annual salary (euro) you will achieve over your career?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| ☐ 0-20k | ☐ 21-40k | ☐ more than 181k |
| ☐ 61-80k | ☐ 81-100k | |
| ☐ 121-140k | ☐ 141-160k | |

10. Final Comments and Thank You!

Please feel free to add any comments about your experience of attending the design programme and any thoughts that you might have in relation to when you graduate that have not been covered in the questions asked.

53. Your Comments

54. Thank you for taking the time and trouble to complete this questionnaire. Your email will be placed in a draw for a 100 euro voucher for iTunes on the 31st of June.

Fiona Dowling, PhD student, School of Education, TCD.

If you would like to participate in either a face-to-face or telephone interview please email me at: dowlinfi@tcd.ie or add your email/mobile number below.

Appendix L (2) Pilot Virtual Postgraduate (PG) Questionnaire 2013

**Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice
**

1. Personal Information

This first section consists of a series of questions asking about your background

1. Your Gender:

☐ Female ☐ Male

2. Your age (at last birthday):

Age

3.

☐ Married ☐ Living with a partner

☐ Single ☐ Divorced

Other

4. Number of children:

No.

5. Please state your nationality (e.g. Irish, British, Scottish etc.):

☐ Irish

☐ British

☐ Other

Other (please specify)

6. Please indicate your parents' occupational status (e.g.Home Maker / Secondary School Teacher):

Mother

Father

7. Are you the first person in your immediate family to undertake degree level study?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. What location, district or town did you reside in when applying for this programme?

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

2. Personal

continued

9. Please indicate the title of your primary degree (e.g. B.A, B.Ed, B.Sc, etc.) and the disciplinary area (e.g. Sociology/Fine Art, Design Studies, Multi-Media etc):

Degree	
Discipline	

10. Are you currently registered for a:

- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Taught Masters Qualification

Other (please specify)

11. Are you currently registered as a full-time or part-time student?

- ☐ Full time ☐ Part time

12. What year of your programme are you currently in? (E.g. Year Two)

Year	
------	----------------------

13. Please can you state which institution you are registered at (e.g. Dublin Institute of Technology):

14. Was this institution your first choice?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please specify other institution

15. Do you hold a Masters degree at present?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes' please specify

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

3. Your motivation and reasons for undertaking a Masters/PhD degree

The following statements are concerned with your motivation for undertaking a Masters or PhD degree. Please select the box that most strongly reflects your views

16. What was your main motivation for beginning this course?

- ☐ Improve employment prospects
- ☐ Personal interest
- ☐ Both
- ☐ Other

If 'Other' please give your reasons for your choice of course

17. Which of these factors, if any, influenced your decision to become a design student in this Higher Level College? (0 = 'no influence'; 5 = 'a very significant influence' & n/a 'not applicable')

	0	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
To increase my earning potential	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I saw undertaking a Masters Degree or other (PG) programme as a way of developing a new set of skills (e.g. research, analytical, communication)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking the (PG) degree would increase my professional status	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To pursue a career in academia	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I saw undertaking a (PG) degree purely for personal and not professional satisfaction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To gain long-term financial security	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking a (PG) degree would allow me to undertake research in an area I had longstanding interest in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Necessary for the design profession I work in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I wanted to make a worthwhile contribution to society	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I saw a Masters degree as a good route to gain promotion in my current career	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of other employment opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I perceived a (PG) degree to be a good route for me to facilitate a change in my career	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To enhance my social status	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I saw undertaking a (PG) degree as a natural progression from my previous studies (e.g. undergraduate)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
As a way of increasing my general satisfaction for learning new technology in social media design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A (PG) degree would allow me to control my own professional development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I saw undertaking a (PG) degree as a means of furthering my intellectual development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

18. What additional reasons had you for registering for a degree which are not covered above?

19. Have you at any point in your time as a (PG) design student considered 'dropping out' of your course?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' please could you briefly state why.

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

20. Your Chosen Institution

Which of these factors, if any, influenced your decision to become a design student in this Higher Level College? (0 = 'no influence'; 5 = 'a very significant influence' & n/a 'not applicable')

	0	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Advice from a career or life coach	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I was awarded financial support (e.g. scholarship)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advice from a work colleague	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Its connections with other academic institutions (e.g. GradCam projects)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I attended an open day	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The fees seemed reasonable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advice from friends or acquaintances who had attended as students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I attended as an undergraduate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I attended as a postgraduate on a different programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a good reputation for its social life and events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has high academic standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is an innovative and entrepreneurial Institute/college	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is good for social networking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Its geographical proximity from my home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Members of my family attended as students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My friends attended as postgraduates	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Its graduates are well regarded by employers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a high status in relation to research generally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a high status in relation to my area of research	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The quality of its library, Mac Labs and studio spaces and its design lecturers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The quality of postgraduate supervision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The support services offered	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of research I wanted to undertake	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A place where I could develop transferable skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Are there any other factors which influenced your final decision that are not covered above?

4. Financing your Studies

This next section concerns some of the financial aspects of being a postgraduate student

21. If you are registered as a FULL-TIME student, do you engage in paid work?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' please give the job title

22. If you work as a FULL-TIME student please can you state how many hours a week you normally work

Hours

23. If you are a PART-TIME student please can you indicate if you are currently in paid employment

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' please can you give your job title

24. Were you financially prepared to start a Masters /PhD degree? (e.g. had savings put aside)

☐ Yes

☐ No

25. If in paid employment, do you receive financial support from your employer to help with your studies?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I am self employed

If self employed are you working part time or full time?

26. Are you in receipt of a Higher Education (i.e local authority) Grant?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'yes' please state which local authority issues your grant.

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

27. Are you in receipt of a scholarship? (If 'yes' please indicate the source):

☐ Yes

☐ scholarship

☐ No

☐ Other

If 'Other' please specify

28. Have you built up debts as a consequence of studying for your degree?

☐ Yes

☐ No

29. If you answered 'yes' to the above question, please could you indicate approximately how much debt (Euro) you have accrued so far:

☐ 0-5K

☐ 6-10K

☐ 11-15K

☐ 16-20K

☐ 21-25K

☐ 26-30K

☐ >31K

5. Studying with a Disability

If this part of the questionnaire does not apply to you, go to the next section.

30. If you have a disability (e.g. visual impairment, dyslexia etc) has the College taken account of your needs and provided the necessary support and services?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially

If 'Partially' please give details.

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

6. Your Expectations of Being a Masters/PhD Design Student

The following set of statements covers a range of aspects of being a design (PG) student. Please rate them in terms of the extent to which your expectations of them has met with your experience (1 = very negative, 3 = met my expectations, 5 = very positive).

31. Please rate the following questions

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Supervision and support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The research environment of the school/department you are in	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to develop research skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Overall experience of the programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning & research resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities to develop transferable skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning new creative and digital skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gaining professional work experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Looking at new design platforms e.g. app design etc	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

7. Your Experience of College and Studying

32. The following statements are concerned with your experience as a design post-graduate student. After each one please tick the button that best represents your opinion.

	Stongly Agree	Agree	Niether Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Academic progression for my MA/PhD has been made clear	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would choose the same (PG) design degree again	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I find other students on my course very supportive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general the Institute/Design College is a welcoming place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have met a lot of students from a similar background (e.g. age, social class etc) as myself at College	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have generally found my experience of College to be a negative one	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of and accessibility to resources (library, Mac Labs and design software etc) are adequate for my needs as a student	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for a degree has changed me personally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The approach(es) to teaching that I experience are well matched to the practice-based degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel part of an academic community in my Institute/College	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have considered leaving College due to internal (e.g. personalities/equipment/curriculum) factors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have considered leaving College due to external (e.g. financial) factors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Balancing the demands of childcare while studying is very difficult	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general (PG) students are well supported by lecturers in their creative & academic study	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My quality time with my family is reduced due to the demands of studying	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for a degree has negatively affected my personal relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The pacing and structure of the degree is compatible with the other demands on my time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying means I have to restrict my social activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Learning outcomes and the academic evaluation and assessment are made clear to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My life experience is an advantage to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add any comments

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

8. AFTER GRADUATION: (FINAL PART OF THE SURVEY- Nearly there!)

This next set of questions are concerned with your plans for life after you graduate from your Masters/PhD degree you are undertaking. Please indicate your answer below

33. After I graduate I intend to:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Go into full-time employment (in-house)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertake voluntary work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertake another course (full-time)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertake an internship (paid)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertake an internship (un-paid)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertake another course (part-time)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Set up a business or become self-employed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Travel (e.g. 'World Tour')	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other, please specify	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add any comments

34. Please can you indicate what sort of work (e.g. Graphic Design, Advertising, Software Design, Illustration and Animation etc) you intend to undertake after you have graduated

35. Do you currently intend to stay and work in Ireland?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

36. If self employed what was your reasons to undertake this degree?

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

37. What factors would most likely influence a decision to seek work abroad? (0 = no influence; 5 = very strong influence)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Availability of work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Levels of pay	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cost of living	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Study opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cultural experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

9. THE VALUE OF A DESIGN POST-GRADUATE DEGREE

The following questions address the value of a graduate with a graphic/communication/professional design MA/PhD degree

38. The following set of statements ask you about your views on the long and short term value of studying for a degree. After each one please tick the button that best represents your opinion.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My (PG) studies have transformed the way I see my place in society	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is necessary for me to have a (PG) design degree for the type of job I want to do	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
On my (PG) design degree I will acquire (or have acquired) skills and knowledge that will help me in my job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I anticipate that following my (PG) design degree I will have a greater range in my choice of jobs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My (PG) design studies have positively altered my relations with family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think a (PG) design degree will make a big difference to my long term career opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The time I have so far invested in gaining a degree is worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having a (PG) design degree should make a big difference to my short term career opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My choice of Institute/College course was not about the kind of job I intended to do after graduation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working towards a (PG) design degree makes me feel confident about my career prospects	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking a (PG) degree is a valuable activity in its own right	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For me, studying for a (PG) design degree is more than just about career development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think a (PG) design degree is necessary for a good job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The financial investment I am making in gaining a degree will be worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The content of my (PG) design degree course will be useful to me in my job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having a (PG) design degree will open up more employment opportunities for me which I did not previously have	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Most of my friends have (PG) degrees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add any comments

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

10. After Graduation And The Design Profession

This next set of questions are concerned with your plans for life after you graduate.

39. After I graduate I intend to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Go into full-time employment | ☐ Undertake voluntary work |
| ☐ Undertake another course (full-time) | ☐ Undertake unpaid work in the home |
| ☐ Undertake another course (part-time) | ☐ Set up a business or become self-employed |
| ☐ Travel (e.g. 'world tour') | |

Other (please specify)

40. What do you think might be the maximum annual salary (euro) you will achieve over your career?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ 0-20k | ☐ 81-100k | ☐ 161-180k |
| ☐ 21-40k | ☐ 101-120k | ☐ more than 181k |
| ☐ 41-60k | ☐ 121-140k | |
| ☐ 61-80k | ☐ 141-160k | |

41. Earnings after (PG) Graduation

What is the annual salary (euro) you expect to earn after you graduate?

Please circle

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ 0-10k | ☐ 31-40k | ☐ 61-70k |
| ☐ 11-20k | ☐ 41-50k | ☐ 71-80k |
| ☐ 21-30k | ☐ 51-60k | ☐ more than 81k |

42. Do you currently intend to stay and work in Ireland?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Explain your answer e.g. better working conditions or for family ties

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

11. After Graduation

43. Do you consider the design industry to be a young persons career choice?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Give reasons for your answer

44. What is the best aspect of being a designer with a (PG) design degree in industry?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is exciting to work with different creative people	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The career pathways are easy to navigate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The challenge of working on different projects	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Because it gives you power to influence peoples choices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It allows for creativity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It will always mean learning new skills and digital platforms	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a exciting reputation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The hours of work are favourable for family life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is never boring and always changing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It helps you to get better design jobs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a status in society	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It talks to all my interests and strengths	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can work in this area till old age	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have invested time and energy in gaining design qualifications and therefore need to work in the area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I get to travel to interesting places	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In the design and advertising field the money is excellent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Design you get to work with nice people	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I see nothing positive about a (PG) design degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I do not need to work just in the design industry	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can work from home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can be self-employed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have no plans to work in design after gaining this Masters degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The design Industry is very competitive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Design practice requires artistic ability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working in design requires a particular personality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
With digital platforms there are endless possibilities for my career	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. After Graduation - and finally

45. From your knowledge of the design profession do you think that it offers equal opportunities employment across the gender divide?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

46. Would you think that it is important to move to different design companies to improve your employment prospects?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Give reasons for your answer

47. Do you think it is an advantage to have worked and lived outside Ireland when applying for design work?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'no' please indicate the new content area.

48. Do you think that you will continue to be a designer in Graphic Design all your career?

☐ Yes

☐ No

49. Has social media and new digital platforms changed your position on the design profession?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Explain your answer

50. In ten years time do you see yourself working in the design field?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Give reasons for your answer

Design (PG): MA / PhD Professional Practice

51. Do you like the design industry?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Explain your answer



13. Final Comments and Thank You!

Please feel free to add any comments about your experience of being in this Institute or expectations after you graduate that have not been covered in the questions asked.

52. Your Comments

**53. Thank you for taking the time and trouble to complete this questionnaire.
Your email address has been put forward in a draw for a 100 euro iTunes voucher.
Notification on
June the 31st if you have won it !!!**

**Please send this survey back to Fiona Dowling, PhD Student School of Education,CD.
Email address: dowlinfi@tcd.ie**

**If you would like to participate further in this study please can you indicate if this can be
a**

- ☐ Telephone interview
☐ Face-to-face interview

Your name and email address

Appendix L (3)

**Finished Undergraduate Questionnaire – Distributed in 2014 at
Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)**



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Waterford Institute of Technology,
School of Humanities,
Dept CPA, BA (H) Design Visual Communication,
College Street Campus,
Waterford.

Re: Student Invitation To Participation in Postgraduate Visual Communication/ Design Media Survey

Dear Student,

You are invited to participate in a research survey on the value of postgraduate Visual Communication degrees in Ireland from a student perspective. Your design education at undergraduate level would be of great benefit to gaining an insight into the area.

This research will examine the future implications of applied/taught full and part-time programmes in Visual Communication/Design Digital Media in Ireland and it is aimed at helping educators and Institutes in policy making for the implementation of postgraduate design programmes in the future. Your views and experiences are extremely valuable in helping the researcher evaluate the current design education process and therefore will contribute to the findings.

Your participation is voluntary. Please be assured that anything you say in the survey will be kept strictly confidential. If you should need more details about the study I will be glad to answer any questions you may have at loxleya@tcd.ie.

Thank you in advance for your time and interest in this research activity.

WIT-TCO Ethics Committee Approved – Higher Level Visual Communication -
Design Digital Media Research

The questionnaire that you are participating in will contribute to research in the area of postgraduate education in Design/Visual Communication- Digital Media. Specifically it will inform my study of Level 9 and 10 policy and curriculum development for Irish Higher Education practice in Ireland. For more information please contact loxleya@tcd.ie.

Part One

Please be assured that anything you say or write in the questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential.

Personal Information

This first section consists of a series of questions asking about your background.

1. Your Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

2. Your Age (at last birthday) _____

3. Are you: ☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Living with a partner ☐ Divorced

Other: _____

4. Number of Children: _____

5. Please indicate your level of highest educational achievement (full time or part time) completed to date.

- ☐ Junior Certificate ☐ Leaving Certificate ☐ Leaving Certificate Applied
☐ Technical/ Vocational Qualification ☐ Further Education Course (PLC)
☐ Non- degree course (National Certificate/ National diploma)

Other degree Level 8, Design or Creative digital programme:

6. Please indicate your parent's occupational status (e.g. post-person/home-maker):

Father: _____

Mother: _____

7. Are you the first person in your immediate family to undertake degree level study?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. If applicable, does your spouse/partner hold a degree?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Give the location, district or town you resided in when applying for this programme?

Part Two

1. In what stage of your degree programme did you first register as a design student?

☐ Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☐ Year 3 ☐ Year 4 Other _____

2. What year did you first register as a student e.g. 2013? _____

3. Please indicate the 'route' by which you entered the design programme your taking?

☐ Mature Student ☐ Leaving Certificate 'points' via Central Applications Office (CAO)

☐ PLC | FETAC ☐ Other _____

4. Did you apply to any other Higher Education Institution for a design qualification other than the one you are taking?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other

If 'yes' please name the Higher Education Institute or University?

5. Did you transfer from another HE Education Institution to do this design programme?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. If 'yes' please name the HE Institute or University?

8. What was your main motivation for beginning this programme?

☐ Improve employment prospects ☐ Personal interests ☐ Both ☐ other

If 'other' please give your reasons for your choice of course?

9. When applying for the programme where you asked to provide a portfolio?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes' was it to your advantage?

If 'no' would you like one?

Your Chosen Institution

Which of the statements if any, influenced your decision to become a student at your chosen University/Institute. Please tick the box that best represents your opinion.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Advice from a career guidance counselor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advice from my friends or acquaintances who had attended the programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a good reputation for its social life and events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It has a good reputation for its creative design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is an innovative and interesting course	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is good for postgraduate study if I choose to do more study	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is good for social networking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It's geographical proximity from my home?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Members of my family attended as students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My friends currently attend the Institute/College	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
This Institute's design graduates are well regarded by employers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is socially inclusive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The quality of the teaching and learning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The support services offered to students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of programme I wanted to undertake	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Have you at any point in your time as a student of design considered 'dropping out' of the Visual Communication programme?

☐ Yes ☐ No Please give reasons

Financing your studies

Did you have a job before becoming a student of 'design'?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes' what job(s) did you do? (please give exact title e.g. Fashion retail assistant instead of 'shop assistant' etc

If applicable, was your job before beginning your design degree: ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

Do you engage in paid work as a Design student? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes' what kind of work do you do?

If you are in paid employment during your studies, on average how many hours a week do you work? ____ hours

Do you receive financial support from grants for example S? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, from which government body? -

Were you financially prepared to start a degree course (e.g. did you put savings aside)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially prepared

Have you built up debts as a consequence of studying for your Visual Communications degree?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered 'yes' to the above question please could you indicate approximately how much debt (Euro) you have accrued so far:

☐ 0-5k ☐ 6-10k ☐ 11-15k ☐ 16-20k ☐ 21-25k ☐ 26-30k ☐ +31k

Studying With A Disability

If you have a disability (e.g. visual impairment, dyslexia etc) has the Institute taken account of your needs and provided the necessary support and services?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially prepared

If 'partially' please give details.

Other Support Services & Societies

Are you a member of an Institute or University society? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'yes' please indicate which one(s) _____

If you are a member the design society, please indicate how frequently you are involved with its activities:

☐ Never Involved ☐ Moderately Involved ☐ Occasionally Involved ☐ Fully Involved

Explain your answer _____

Part 3: Your Experience of Studying Design

The following statements are concerned with your experience of the Design/Visual Communication programme you are registered on. Please tick the box that best represents your opinion.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The approach(es) to teaching that I experience are well matched to the module descriptors on the program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The criteria for academic evaluation and assessment are made clear to me by the lecturers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn more from other students on my course than from my lecturers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Balancing the demands of family life while studying is very difficult	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for this design degree has negatively affected my personal relationships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would choose the same degree programme again	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I have met a lot of students with a similar background (e.g. age, social class etc.) as myself at this institute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Do you expect to do a Design internships and is it a good idea for a career in the sector	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have considered leaving my degree at this institute due to internal (e.g. course related) factors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I felt unprepared for studying at design degree level 8.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying for a design degree has changed me personally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have generally found my experience of this institute to be a negative one	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Studying means I have to restrict my social activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The type of resources (Mac lab, library etc) are adequate for my needs as a design student	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My gender has impacted on my experience at this institute	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The pacing and structure of my program is compatible with the other demands on my time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general, this institute is a welcoming place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My quality time with my family is reduced due to the demands of studying in my programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good design facilities, such as studio and lab space?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Creative design thinking encouraged from staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good links with design practice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inspiring and enthusiastic lecturers who have particular expertise in design areas?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In general, this institute is a welcoming place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please add your comments about your experiences: Consider unique aspects of the programme, your favourite subject and what has surprised you on your design journey...

4: Your Experience of the Design | Visual Communications Programme

The following statements are also concerned with your experience of the design degree. After each one please tick the box that best represents your opinion.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The use of online resources (e.g. library databases, journals etc) is an integral part of my academic work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic staff encourage students to explore new ideas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My interpersonal relationships with students in my class have had a positive influence on my personal growth, attitudes and values	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I find team design groups useful as students can help each other overcome problems	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is easy to communicate with staff outside of the classroom environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I set myself high creative and academic standards	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
E-learning and on-line creative software is an important part of the design programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My design career will rely on the particular subject specialism that I have chosen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel intimidated by the study/course material I am presented with	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am intellectually engaged by questions or comments made by the teaching staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn best when studying on my own	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaboration with my fellow students is more important to me than competition against them	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Where possible I try to attend seminars and lectures given by guest lecturers from industry or from design professionals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The design programme has appropriate spaces where I can use the labs with other students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I learn best when I can work at home rather than with other students	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The design programme has so far lived up to my expectations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am satisfied with the structure of the programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Would you move programme at this stage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What do you think makes a good design programme: (go to the end of survey if required to answer this)

Part Five: Value of your Degree

The following set of statements ask you about your views on the long and short term value of studying for a Visual Communication degree. After each one tick the box that best represents your opinion.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is necessary for me to have a visual communication /graphic design degree for the type of job I want	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My post-primary school normally expected myself and my peers to undertake a degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My choice to study design was not about the kind of job I intended to do after graduation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The content of my design degree will be useful to me in a job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
For me, studying for a design degree is more than just about career development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It was expected by my family that I would undertake a degree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think a design degree is necessary for a good job in a design studio	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My design studies have changed the way in which I see myself	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The financial investment I am making in gaining this design degree will be worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The time I have so far invested in gaining a design degree has been worthwhile	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part Six: After Graduation

This next set of questions are concerned with your plans for life after you graduate from the BA /B.Des in Design Visual Communication. Please tick the boxes below.

1. After I graduate I intend to:

Go into full-time employment	Yes / No	Undertake voluntary work	Yes / No
	☐ ☐		☐ ☐
Undertake another course (full-time)	Yes / No	Undertake unpaid work in the home	Yes / No
	☐ ☐		☐ ☐

Undertake another course (part-time) Yes / No Set up a business or become self-employed Yes / No
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Travel (e.g. 'World Tour') Yes / No
☐ ☐

What will you do instead of Visual Communication -VC e.g. Art, Digital Media, Gaming, General Arts degree

2. If you plan to gain employment in VC/Design please can you indicate what sort of work (e.g. Graphic Design work, Advertising, software design etc Illustration and Animation etc) you intend to undertake after you have graduated

3. What do you see yourself working at in three years time?

4. What do you see yourself working at in ten years time?

5. Do you currently intend to stay and work in Ireland? Please tick below

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

6. What factors would most likely influence a decision to seek work abroad?
(0 = no influence; 5 = very strong influence)

Availability of work 0 1 2 3 4 5

Social life 0 1 2 3 4 5

Family 0 1 2 3 4 5

Cultural experience 0 1 2 3 4 5

Other factors : _____

If you are NOT planning to undertake postgraduate study IMMEDIATELY after you graduate go to question 14.

7. If you are planning to undertake postgraduate study IMMEDIATELY after you have graduate will it be an:

- ☐ MA ☐ PG Diploma ☐ PhD (Research) ☐ MPhil ☐ MSc ☐ MBA
☐ Professional Doctorate ☐ Structured PhD

Area of study (e.g. Education, Digital Design etc) _____

8. Are you applying to do this in this Institute or University? Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

9. If not where and why? _____

10. If you are planning to do postgraduate work will it be related to design i.e. Visual Communication degree you are currently studying for?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'no' please indicate the new content area

11. Is your intention to undertake postgraduate study to:

Enhance your employment prospects Yes / No

Necessary for the profession you want to enter (e.g. teaching) Yes / No

12. To further your interest in a specific area (e.g. Design history, Virtual Design, Professional Practice) (please specify)

13. Do you anticipate financing your postgraduate study via:

Your own resources (e.g. bank loan, savings etc) Yes / No

A research grant (e.g. Irish Research Council etc) Yes / No

By your employer (e.g. Design Consultancy, Advertising Agency, Digital media etc) Yes / No

Other (please specify) _____

*** Question 14**

If you are NOT planning to undertake postgraduate study immediately, would you consider doing so in the next:

1 to 2 years: Yes / No

3 to 4 years: Yes / No

After 5 years: Yes / No

Other (please specify) _____

Earnings after Graduation

What is the annual salary (euro) you expect to earn after you graduate (including any postgraduate study undertaken immediately after your undergraduate degree)? Please circle

0-10k 11-20k 21-30k 31-40k 41-50k 51-60k 61-70k 71-80k more than 81k

What do you think might be the maximum annual salary (euro) you will achieve over your career?
Please circle

0-20k 61-80k 121-140k 21-40k 81-100k 141-160k more than 181k

Final Comments!

Please feel free to add any comments about your experience of being a design student or expectations after you graduate that have not been covered in the questions asked.

Your Comments

Thank you very much for taking the time and trouble to complete this questionnaire. Would you be interested in a follow-up interview? If yes, please leave name; mobile and email details below.

Thank You

Appendix L (4)

Waterford Institute of Technology (TCD) Ethics Committee Submission 2014

Mon 31/03/2014 14:23

Inbox

To:

Fiona Dowling;

You replied on 31/03/2014 16:11.

Hi Fiona,

The next Research Ethics Meeting will be held on **Friday 11th April, 2014 in the boardroom of the O'Connell Bianconi Building** (Health Science Building). Your scheduled time to attend is **11.40 am**.

Please find attached some guidelines which you may find useful in your preparation for this meeting.

Can you please confirm you received this e-mail?

Kind Regards

XXXX

**WATERFORD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Seeking Ethical Approval to Conduct Research – What to expect during the ethics interview

Introduction

The Research Ethics Committee at WIT aims to maintain within the Institute an environment conducive to research, scholarship, creativity and innovation, whilst safeguarding the public and researchers in relation to the conduct of research at WIT. We are here to be helpful in this process.

Once you have submitted your application for ethical approval of a research project you will be invited to meet with the members of the Research Ethics Committee. This committee is charged by the Academic Council of WIT to ensure that any research conducted within WIT is compliant with local, national and international standards with regards the conduct of research and that it is compliant with any legislative requirements, for example the Data Protection Act.

This short guide outlines what you can expect the committee to question you on when you appear before it to seek ethical approval for your research.

Membership of the Committee and expectations of attendance

It is expected that when a researcher makes a submission to the Research Ethics Committee that the applicant will attend for interview. In addition, the Committee will expect a supervisor or research partner involved in the research to also attend. The supervisor is encouraged to participate in the interview process.

The Committee membership is made up of academics drawn from across the Institute, the WIT data compliance officer, the secretary to the ethics committee (who maintains the minutes of the meeting) and a lay public representative recruited from outside the Institute. Normally, the composition of the committee when you appear before it would be a minimum of three to four academics (including the chair person), the secretary to the committee, the data compliance officer and one lay person.

Format of the meeting

The chairperson will welcome you to the committee, including introductions to the committee members, and outline the format of the meeting and its purpose. The chairperson will then ask you to give a brief synopsis of your research proposal. Following this, each member of the committee will ask you questions about your proposal. When all members of the committee have asked you questions you will be given the opportunity to ask any of your own or to clarify or explain any other points you wish to make.

What are you likely to be asked?

Your interview is likely to last between 20 and 30 minutes. The academic members of the committee are most likely to ask you questions about your application in the following areas:

- Purpose and rationale for your research.
- How you developed your research design (including your sampling strategy) and how you intend to implement the design (including both data collection procedures and analysis from an ethical perspective)
- What other ethical issues have you identified and how you intend to deal with them.
- If your research is related to obtaining a research degree what arrangements are in place for supervision?

- What publishing arrangements you have made and why

The Data Compliance Officer is most likely to ask you questions about your application in the following areas:

- Data collection
- Data storage arrangements
- Sampling arrangements
- Dissemination of results and protection of privacy

The lay person may ask you questions on any of the above however, in addition their role is to ask questions that they think the public might ask such as why are doing this research and what benefit will it have to the public?

The Decision Making Process

Following your interview the committee will ask you to leave them for a short while. They will then discuss your application and your answers to their questions (this usually takes 5 to 10 minutes). They will then ask you to come back into the room and the chair person will give you their decision. The decision can be one of four outcomes:

1. Full approval
2. Provisional approval subject to amendments
3. Resubmission subject to major amendments
4. Unable to approve

Following on from this verbal decision, a letter will be sent to you by the Chair person of the Committee outlining the Committee's decision, including any requirements for any amendment to the proposal and application.



Research Ethics Meeting Schedule 2013 - 2014

<i>Cut-off date</i>	<i>Meeting date</i>
Tuesday 17 th September, 2013	Friday 4 th October, 2013
Tuesday 29 th October, 2013	Friday 15 th November, 2013
Friday 3 rd January, 2014	Friday 24 th January, 2014
Tuesday 11 th February, 2014	Friday 28 th February, 2014
Tuesday 25 th March, 2014	Friday 11 th April, 2014
Tuesday 29 th April, 2014	Friday 16 th May, 2014
Tuesday 27 th May, 2014	Friday 13 th June, 2014

All meetings will commence at 10.00 am and will be held in the Boardroom of the O'Connell Bianconi Building (Health Science Building)



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

Ph.D. Research – Ethics Committee Application

[Waterford Institute of Technology]

Principle Investigator:

[F. Dowling | *Ethical Approval For Data Collection April-December 2014*]

Provisional title of thesis:

“Exploring Postgraduate Visual Communication Education and the Relationship to the Design Industry in Ireland – From A Student Perspective”

Name of supervisor:

Dr Andrew Loxley

Present degree for which registered: *PhD School of Education (by Research)*

Trinity College Dublin

PhD Research Summary:

The main aims/objectives of the research

The research explores the rationale behind postgraduate education in ‘Visual Communication’ (VC) in Ireland and in particular the relationship that it has with industry and the VC profession from a student perspective. This thesis argues that the student experience in VC postgraduate structured Masters and PhDs is not limited to the time in higher education (HE) but the postgraduate designers experience after graduation.

The aim of this study therefore, is to evaluate and question the rationale behind Irish postgraduate VC research in Ireland from a number of stakeholder's perspectives; these include the graphic design industry, VC educators and the VC graduate.

By reviewing the interplay between these separate identities that belong to the VC domain, my objective is to define the effect this has on the students ‘creative’ experience and how relevant it is when it is applied to the profession. This thesis will inform the three separate stakeholders with

regard to policy and will investigate the 'value' or 'currency' that postgraduate qualifications enjoy, particularly at MA level in Ireland.

As has been stated above, the research explores the VC domain in HE in Ireland. It investigates the relationships between the HE in VC and graphic design sector with that of the design industry through the students perspective. The gap in knowledge in this area has been highlighted in recent reports such as 'Horizon 2020 – EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation'; and 'Towards a Future Higher Education Landscape – (Feb 2012) and the 'Sustainability Report' (2011) –and the 'Education and Skills on System Reconfiguration, Inter-Institutional Collaboration' (May 2013) and more recently 'Towards A Performance Evaluation Framework: Profiling Irish Higher Education' (Dec 2013) and 'What do Graduates do? The class of 2012' (Dec 2013) produced by the Higher Education Authority (HEA);

"In future, higher education will need to be more proactive in commercialisation and knowledge transfer, and will have to pursue this in collaboration with others in enterprise and the wider society. A renewal and transformation of the relationships between higher education and enterprise can position Ireland at the leading edge in the competitive global environment." Pg 31 - *National Strategy For Higher Education to 2030 (Hunt Report)*

A mixed research methodology has been employed for the study (Creswell, 1998; Yin, 2009; Wellman, 2005). The use of questionnaires for undergraduate and postgraduate students together with semi-structured interviews with Higher Education lecturers in VC and the design industry, is proposed in a multiple-case study approach (Bryman, 2008; Dillman et al., 2009).

This mixed-methods research will include the comparative case studies of undergraduate (both part-time and full-time) programmes of study at Masters level to PhD. The research approach has a particular focus on existing PG taught Masters programmes at level 9 which has been targeted for data collection during January –October 2014.

I piloted a sample group (17 students) of undergraduates in VC at Higher Level (HE) Institute of Technology/Art Colleges in May 2013. This informed the research design for survey-monkey questionnaire at both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) level selected for the dissertation. Lectures and students from The National College of Art and Design (NCAD) and Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and other HE providers will inform and expand the main thematic concepts which have been suggested by the students feedback. They include economic, consumer trends, technology and social media implications (Starkey, 2011) with regard to content of programmes. The graduate experience and the interactions between the HE graphic design education and future industry considerations for PG students will also be expanded on.

The research to-date suggests the need to be flexible; open to change and the requirement for new teaching and learning platforms such as 'e-learning' and 'up-skilling' for staff and design graduates. All of these areas will be researched and findings will inform policy and direction from 2015 onwards. This research is unique in the Irish HE landscape and design industry. This is the largest quantitative and qualitative research project taken in the Irish Republic in the creative practice based domain of Visual Communication /Design Media since 1999 with the "Opportunities in Design" report – (Enterprise Ireland).

From: Dr Andrew Loxley, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

Date: 3/4/14

Re: Ms Fiona Dowling

Subject: Research Study concerning the Postgraduate Education in the area of Visual Communication and sample of students from WIT

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing in support of Ms. Dowling's application to the WIT research ethics committee in her wish to administer a short questionnaire and interview a self-selected group of WIT undergraduate students.

I have been Ms. Dowling's PhD supervisor since 2010 and have supported her through the various stages of her study. Similar to WIT, the School of Education has an exacting ethical standards and the ethics committee approved her research design as part of the confirmation process which all our PhD students are obliged to undertake. This Ms. Dowling passed with minor changes. I would like the committee to note that Ms. Dowling's research design is mostly focused on postgraduate students, higher education lecturers and industry experts, and only a small part of the work looks at undergraduate students future career and study aspirations.

Having supervised 14 doctoral studies to completion, designed and undertaken a range of empirical research studies over the past 20 years and been a member of the School of Education's ethics committee, in my opinion Ms. Dowling's study, as well as this component which you are evaluating, is of a very high ethical standard and conforms not only to our criteria, but WITs as well. I have no hesitation in stating that Ms. Dowling will treat this part of her study with the same due care and diligence which she has paid to all other aspects of her study, including the data collection she has already undertaken outside of WIT.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Dr. Andrew Loxley



Waterford Institute of Technology

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

WIT APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL OF A RESEARCH PROJECT

Please submit this form in electronic format
accompanied by a paper copy of the required signature pages.

Applicant's Name (include title Dr/Ms/Mr) (Please note that the applicant must be available to attend the meeting)	Ms. Fiona Dowling
Applicant's Position Postgraduate ☐ Staff ☒ Research Assistant ☐ Other ☐ Please specify other: _____	
Please state if this research is for an award: Masters ☐ PhD ☒	
Applicant's Student Number (if applicable)	N/A
Principal Investigator:	Fiona Dowling
Supervisor(s):	Dr Andrew Loxley (CAVE- Cultures, Academic Values and Education Research Centre (TCD) loxleya@tcd.ie
Department:	WIT Creative & Performing Arts
Research Group:	CCRG-Culture & Creativity Research Group (WIT) (CAVE- Cultures, Academic Values and Education Research Centre (TCD)
Phone Number:	00-353-87-660 2430

e-mail Address:	fdowling@wit.ie
Please list any others involved in the research (including research assistants and students, other collaborators or partner institutions):	
Project Title: Exploring Postgraduate Practice Based Design Education and the Relationship to the Design Industry in Ireland-From a student perspective (Working Title)	
Location of Research	Republic of Ireland
1. Within WIT (Campus & Room)	BA (H) In Design (Visual Communication)
2. External Components	National Student Survey In Higher Level Design Education at Under Graduate Level
Commencement Date:	April 2014
Estimated Duration of the Project:	December 2014
Source of Funding for the Research: Waterford Institute of Technology Is there any possibility of conflict of interest between the funding agency and the publication of the research results? If so, please explain: N/A	
Plan & Design of Project Provide a brief description in lay terms under the following headings. Brief rationale for research This PhD research study explores the rational behind postgraduate education in practice based, disciplines such as “Visual Communication” (VC) in Ireland. In particular the relationship that it has with industry and the VC profession from a student perspective. This thesis argues that the student experience in VC postgraduate structured Masters and PhDs is not limited to the time in higher education (HE) but the postgraduate designers experience after graduation. Main purpose/aim The aim of the study therefore, is to evaluate and consider the rational behind Irish postgraduate VC research in Ireland from a number of stakeholder’s perspectives; these include the graphic design industry, VC educators and VC graduate. By reviewing the interplay between these separate identities that belong to the VC	

domain, my objective is to define the effect this has on the students 'creative' experience how relevant it is when it is applied to the profession.

Population of interest

This thesis will inform three separate stakeholders with regard to policy and will investigate the 'value' or 'currency' that postgraduate qualifications enjoy, particularly at MA level in Ireland. The study's population are 1) Creative Design and Media Industry, 2) VC-Design and Media Educators and 3) the VC- Design and Media graduate and undergraduates.

For the WIT part of the study the population will be the all four years of the undergraduates (i.e. years 1 to 4; $n = 130$) of the BA (H) Design In (Visual Communication).

Sampling method

I plan to use a census method rather than sample from the cohort.

3. Procedures

I piloted the questionnaire with a sample group of 17 students from undergraduate programmes at National College of Art & Design and Dublin Institute of Technology in May 2013. This informed the research design for survey-monkey questionnaire at both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) level selected for the thesis.

I intend to distribute a hard-copy questionnaire to all the students on the BA (H) Design In (Visual Communication) students in WIT. I shall distribute copies to each of the students at the end of their teaching sessions. I shall negotiate access with the lecturer involved in each class to enable me to distribute the questionnaire. Each student shall receive one questionnaire, a written copy of the aims of the study and an envelope in which to return it to me via the Humanities Office in College Street to ensure maximum anonymity.

Students who wish to take part in a semi-structured interview will be asked to complete an informed consent declaration.

4. State main data collection methods (e.g. survey, test, interview etc.)

For the WIT undergraduate sample, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews will be used. The sample for the interviews will be self-selected via an open question on the questionnaire (see attached). For your information the non-WIT participants will also be asked to complete a questionnaire, as well as partake in semi-structured interviews.

Ethical Issues

Please state what you believe are the main ethical issues in relation to your project.

1. The main issue around ethics is that I teach on the programme that the questionnaire will be given to the students to. However, the students will not be asked to write their name on the questionnaire or make any identifying mark and submit it anonymously.
2. The programme has been undergoing a CE3 process and this is still on going so ideally finishing the research before the programme changes would be of more benefit as it has been up and running for some years. A roll out situation would not be of value.

Other than this I do not see any major problems to do with ethics as all students are over the age of 18 and participation is on a voluntary basis. Students will be informed that they can withdraw from the study at any point.

Risks to Persons

If the project involves any test or procedure, which might carry any risk to the health or well being of any person, please describe the risks and explain how you intend to minimise the risks.

N/A

Qualifications

Explain how the qualifications and experience of the researchers on this project qualifies them to deal with the ethical issues.

The research being undertaken involves students over the age of 18 years who are currently participating in a design or creative media undergraduate or postgraduate degree in Ireland.

Commercial Partners

If the project involves any commercial entity, please complete this section.

Name of the company: N/A

Name of contact person: N/A

Are agreements required by the Company: N/A

Please attach details. N/A

If the researchers can anticipate any conflict of interest between the company and the research results, how will this be dealt with? Please attach any relevant correspondence.

Research on Animals

If the project involves animal subjects, please complete this section. Please attach any relevant licences.

Are you aware of and have you understood the legislation relating to experiments involving animals? N/A

Type and source of animals: N/A

Number to be used: N/A

Facilities and expertise required for animal care and disposal of waste: N/A

Research involving Human Participants

If the project involves human participants, please complete this section.

Source:

Age range: 18-55 years

Selection criteria: Students attending a Higher Level Institute or University

Exclusion criteria: N/A

How participants will be recruited?

Will you obtain informed consent? Yes

Attach a copy of any information sheets and consent forms to be used. Refer to Professional Codes of Practice in your discipline.

How will you protect privacy and confidentiality rights?

The forms when collected in hardcopy will be stored immediately in a locked draw in my office. I will be the only person to view and handle the questionnaires. They will be destroyed on completion of the study. The interviews will be digitally recorded (an opt out will of course be given to participants) and stored secularly on a memory stick acquired especially for this study. Personal identifiers will not be used when storing the data i.e. confidentiality will be applied to all the recordings and transcriptions which are made. Again this material will be securely stored in my office.

Chemical and Biological Agents

If the project involves the use of any chemical or biological agents which might be hazardous to health or environment, please complete this section.

1. Name the agents involved and explain how they could affect the environment.
2. Explain how you will limit any risks during the project.
3. Explain how these agents will be stored.
4. Explain how they will be disposed of after the project.

N/A

Data Management

1. Have you read and understood the Data Protection Act 1998 & 2003?

Yes, I have.

2. What aspects of the Data Protection Act 1998 & 2003 are relevant for this study?

Collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of personal data.

3. Describe your arrangements for the storage and control of confidential data.

The forms when collected in hardcopy will be stored immediately in a locked draw in my office. I will be the only person to view and handle the questionnaires.

4. Who will have access to the data?

Only myself

5. How long will it be stored?

The hard copies will be held for a period of a year after the submission of the research and then will be destroyed.

Intellectual Property

Should this research generate any intellectual property, please describe any agreements you have made with colleagues or external partners and attach copies.

This is not applicable.

Publication and Dissemination of Results

This section is applicable to every project and must be completed.

Outline your plans to deal with any external limitations, such as company agreements, versus academic freedom to publish (if applicable).

This is not applicable to this study.

Attach copies of publication agreements – this should include the names which will appear on publications and the order in which these will appear and explain how the input of all those involved will be recognised.

This is not applicable at present.

Other Ethical Implications

If there are ethical implications of your research which are not requested in this form, please provide details

This is not applicable.

Signatures of all investigators involved in this research

<i>Signature:</i>	xxxxxxxxxx	<i>Date:</i>	24 th March 2014
<i>Signature:</i>	N/A	<i>Date:</i>	N/A
<i>Signature:</i>	N/A	<i>Date:</i>	N/A

<i>Signature:</i>	N/A	<i>Date:</i>	N/A
Checklist BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION CAN BE CONSIDERED PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM:			
1. Formal description of your project including the aims and methodology for the project.			☐
2. CVs for all researchers involved including your own CV and CV of your supervisor(s).			☐
3. Copies of any questionnaires.			☐
4. Topic guides.			☐
5. Consent forms.			☐
6. Written publication agreement.			☐

Waterford Institute of Technology Data Protection Policy

Introduction

WIT needs to collect and use personal data (information) about its staff, students and other individuals who come into contact with the Institute.

Personal data, in both automated and manual form, is data relating to a living individual who is or can be identified, either from the data or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of WIT.

The purposes for which personal data is processed by the Institute include the organisation and administration of courses, examinations, research activities, the recruitment and payment of staff, compliance with statutory obligations, etc. Data Protection law safeguards the privacy rights of individuals in relation to the processing of their personal data. The Data Protection Act 1988 and the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003 (together the "Data Protection Acts") confer rights on individuals as well as responsibilities on those persons processing personal data.

Purpose of this policy

This policy is a statement of WIT's commitment to protect the rights and privacy of individuals in accordance with the Data Protection Acts.

Access to this policy

This policy is available on the Institute website:

www.wit.ie/InformationCompliance/DataProtection/ and from the Data Compliance officer (tel.: 051-302608 email: dataprotection@wit.ie)

Data Protection Principles

WIT undertakes to perform its responsibilities in accordance with the eight stated Data Protection principles outlined in the Data Protection Acts:

1. *Obtain and process information fairly*
WIT obtains and processes personal data fairly and in accordance with its statutory and other legal obligations.
2. *Keep it only for one or more specified, explicit and legitimate purposes*
WIT keeps personal data for purposes that are specific, lawful and clearly stated. Personal data will only be processed in a manner compatible with these purposes.
3. *Use and disclosure only in ways compatible with these purposes*
WIT only uses and discloses personal data in circumstances that are necessary for the purposes for which it collects and keeps the data.
4. *Keep it safe and secure*
WIT takes appropriate security measures against unauthorised access to, or alteration, disclosure or destruction of data and against accidental loss or destruction.
5. *Keep it accurate, complete and up-to-date*
WIT operates procedures that ensure high levels of data accuracy, completeness and consistency.
6. *Ensure it is adequate, relevant and not excessive*
Personal data held by WIT are adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which it is provided.
7. *Retain for no longer than is necessary*
WIT has a policy on retention periods for personal data, which is available to view at www.wit.ie/InformationCompliance/FOI/
8. *Give a copy of his/ her personal data to that individual, on request*
WIT has procedures in place to ensure that data subjects can exercise their rights to access their personal data under the Data Protection Acts.

Responsibility

WIT has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Acts when it is the Data Controller of personal data. However, all employees and students of WIT who separately collect and/or control the content and use of personal data are individually responsible for compliance with the Data Protection Acts.

The Data Compliance officer provides advice to departments and offices to ensure that they are in a position to comply with the legislation.

Procedures and Guidelines

WIT is firmly committed to ensuring personal privacy and compliance with the Data Protection Acts, including the provision of best practice guidelines and procedures in relation to all aspects of Data Protection.

Telephone calls

WIT does not record the content of telephone calls. However a record is kept of all calls to, from and within the Institute. This record is made up of the telephone numbers and duration of the calls.

There is a voicemail service provided whereby people can leave messages for a member of staff when they are out of the office. The individual staff member has responsibility for deleting these messages. However, messages over 30 days old are deleted automatically.

CCTV

WIT has 80 CCTV cameras located throughout the Institute's campus. The images captured on these cameras are digitally recorded and stored in a secure facility. While CCTV footage is monitored by the Institute's security company, the Estates Manager and technical advisor, it is not disclosed to any third party except An Garda Síochána in the case of a disclosure pursuant to Section 8 of the Acts (e.g. required for the purpose of preventing, detecting or investigating offences).

Student Records

Electronic student records containing information about individual students (which typically could include name and address on entry and completion, contacting next of kin, programmes taken, examination results and awards obtained) are collected and processed by the Institute.

Most of this data is gathered during 1st year Registration. The information given on the registration form is stored on the Institute database and then used for multiple purposes related to the student's study (examples of the use of this data are: class lists, computer accounts, library access, WIT Card, examinations, graduation, etc.).

In accordance with the Institute's Records Retention Policy, student records are kept permanently.

Student Directories

Restrictions on access to student directories apply throughout the Institute. Information relevant to individual departments will be made available on written authorisation from Head of Function or nominee to the IT Support Department.

Staff Directories

Staff directories do not contain personal data. However, the Institute processes staff personal data where, for instance, it is required to make returns to statutory bodies such as the Revenue Commissioners and/or the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Procedure for obtaining personal data (Right of access)

Under section 4 of the Data Protection Acts, an individual has the right to request a copy, of certain information relating to them kept on computer or in a structured manual filing system by any person or organisation.

A request under section 4 must be in writing, should be addressed to the Data Compliance officer and should include any additional details that may be necessary to enable the organisation to locate the requested record; e.g. customer account number, staff number, or RSI number (if the request is to a public-sector organisation). A fee may be charged, but this cannot exceed €6.35.

Once a request is made, and appropriate fees paid (if any), the request will be considered and a response will be provided to the requester within 40 days.

Exceptions to the Right of Access

Sections 4 and 5 of the Data Protection Acts set out circumstances in which the right of an individual to obtain access to their personal records can be limited.

This is necessary in order to strike a balance between the rights of the individual, on the one hand, and some important needs of civil society, on the other hand. For example, a criminal suspect does not have a right to see the information held about him by An Garda Síochána, where that would impede a criminal investigation; and you do not have a right to see communications between a lawyer and his or her client, where that communication would be subject to legal privilege in court.

Section 4(6) of the Acts set out the restrictions regarding the right to obtain access to examination results.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed regularly in light of any legislative or other relevant developments.

Last updated: November 2007.

Appendix L (5)

Waterford Institute of Technology (TCD) Ethics Committee Approval letter 2014

Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Phort Láirge

Waterford Institute of Technology

Port Láirge, Éire.
T: +353-51-302000
info@wit.ie

Waterford, Ireland.
T: +353-51-302000
www.wit.ie



Ref: 14/CPA/01

11th April, 2014.

Ms. Fiona Dowling,
Department of Creative & Performing Arts,
School of Humanities,
WIT.

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for bringing your project '*Exploring Postgraduate Practice Based Design-Education and the relationship to the Design Industry in Ireland – From a student perspectives*' to the attention of the WIT Research Ethics Committee.

I am pleased to inform you that we approve WIT's participation in the survey part of this project and we will convey this to Academic Council, subject to the following amendments. We would ask that you make these amendments and submit them to Suzanne Kiely (skiely@wit.ie) for our records:

Questionnaire

- (a) Review the questions on your questionnaire bearing in mind those that are relevant to the aims and objectives of the project in conjunction with your supervisor.
- (b) Highlight that anonymity will be protected as much as it possibly can. It may be possible that some questions may identify an individual by the answers they give, but this is not the intention.

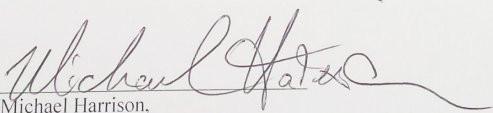
Invitation Letter

- (c) Change wording to reflect that you are inviting students to participate.

We ask that once the project gets to the interview phase, you submit an application for approval in relation to same.

We wish you well in the work ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Michael Harrison,
Acting Chairperson,
Research Ethics Committee

cc: Dr. Andrew Loxley