

IADT Policy on Linked Provision Framework

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Purpose	To outline the policy environment for linked provision in IADT
Policy Author	Office of the Registrar
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Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for considering and establishing a linked provision relationship with prospective linked providers • Procedure for approving the Quality Assurance procedures of current linked providers • Procedures for monitoring and reviewing the QA procedures of established linked providers

Document Version History

Previous Version	Notes	Replaced by
V1.0, 2024-25	New - First Version of this policy	N/A

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1. Policy Statement

IADT is engaged in a range of partnerships and collaborations with external organisations. This policy and Linked Provision Framework is specifically related to Linked Provision relationships with third parties.

IADT will consider entering into a linked provider relationship with third-party educational providers on a case-by-case basis. IADT will enter into such a relationship only if:

- the relationship aligns with the strategic aims and objectives of IADT and is compatible with and supports IADT's Quality Framework
- it can be demonstrated that statutory requirements associated with linked provision can be fully met.
- any applicable provider meets the provisions of the QA process as outlined in the Procedure for approving the Quality Assurance procedures of current linked providers

1. Background + Context

Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (known as [IADT](#)) is a designated awarding body since 1 January 2020 following amendment to the Regional Technical Colleges (RTC) Acts (*note 1*) by commencement order [S.I. No. 540/2019 - Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) \(Amendment\) Act 2019 \(Commencement\) \(No. 2\) Order 2019 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#).

As outlined in the [Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Designated Awarding Bodies](#), "Designated awarding bodies have responsibilities towards linked providers in the 2012 Act)"

QQI define a Linked provider as: *"a provider that is not a designated awarding body but enters into an arrangement with a designated awarding body under which arrangement the provider provides a programme of education and training that satisfies all or part of the prerequisites for an award of the designated awarding body"*

Under the 2012 Act, each Designated Awarding Body has core responsibilities concerning a linked provider:

1. To **review and approve** the linked provider quality assurance procedures and **monitor the implementation** of same;
2. To periodically **review the effectiveness** of the linked provider quality assurance procedures.

IADT falls under the definition of a DAB. As such, IADT recognises its statutory responsibilities in respect of linked providers and commits to meeting those responsibilities. The Act places an obligation on DABs to approve, monitor and review its linked providers' quality assurance (QA) procedures. The provisions of the Act are supported by Sector-specific Quality Assurance Guidelines for Designated Awarding Bodies, published by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The relationship between IADT and its linked providers is largely framed by inter-institutional Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) and the quality assurance and enhancement (QAE) oversight arrangements articulated in this framework document.

Where IADT makes an award in respect of a programme offered through a linked provider, it will as part of its QA procedures, follow the process to approve, monitor and review the effectiveness of the quality assurance procedures of each of its linked providers as set out in the procedural documents associated with this policy.

2. Purpose

The Purpose of this document is to:

- 2.1 Articulate the IADT policy framework in respect of linked providers.
- 2.2 Clarify governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to linked provision.
- 2.3 Present procedural documentation that facilitates the implementation of the framework
- 2.4 Provide information in a transparent manner to interested parties, internal and external to the Institute, in relation to linked provision policy and procedures.
- 2.5 Provide assurance to interested parties that IADT's linked provision arrangements are in line with national statutory requirements.

3. Scope

This procedure applies to all relationships between IADT and third-party organisations in which a request to provide the awarding of degrees on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is being taught or administered.

4. IADT Linked Provision Framework

The IADT Linked Provision Framework will incorporate the following 3 Procedures

- **Procedure for considering and establishing a linked provision relationship with prospective linked providers**
 - Alignment with IADT Strategy
 - Alignment with Statutory Requirements
 - Due Diligence
 - MoU/MoA
- **Procedure for approving the Quality Assurance procedures of current linked providers**
 - Submission of a draft QAE procedural document by the Linked Provider
 - Assessment Process
 - Assessment Decision
- **Procedures for monitoring and reviewing the QA procedures of established linked providers**
 - Annual Reporting
 - Annual Dialogue Meetings
 - Periodic Reviews
 - Ongoing Collaboration

Additional Considerations for inclusion in the above procedures will include:

- Protection for enrolled learners
- Standards, Awards and Certification
- Appeals Process
- EDI
- Forms and Report Templates as required
- Governance and oversight responsibility, to include the role of:
 - Governing Body
 - Executive Committee
 - Academic Council
 - Quality Enhancement Sub-Committee