

10. Other Parties Involved in Education and Training



10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 What is the purpose of this policy?

- To publish the nature of peer relationships, and arrangements which CMIT has with the broader education and training community.
- To outline the nature of all other awards, accreditations, collaboration, arrangements, and partnerships, with CMIT has both in Ireland and abroad.
- To publish any transnational arrangements which CMIT is involved with in one place.
- To ensure that no conflicts of interest exist regarding the use of external Board members, evaluators, and authenticators.
- To confirm that due diligence is undertaken regarding External partnerships and second providers (if any).

10.1.2 To whom does this policy apply?

- Board of Directors and Senior Management Team.
- External Board members, External Evaluators and External Authenticators.
- ELC Consortium Board

10.1.3 Who is responsible for implementation?

- Senior Management Team.
- External Board members, External Evaluators and External Authenticators.

10.2 Peer relationships with the broader education and training community

10.2.1 Peer relationships

CMIT maintains formal links with key industry stakeholders and engages with the broader education and training community through attendance and membership of peer groups. Key groups include:

Institute of Leadership and Management

- Professional Growth: Access to development workshops and training enhances CMIT's leadership and management capabilities.
- Program Enhancement: Participation in program development resources contributes to the design and improvement of CMIT's educational offerings.
- Staying Current: Membership ensures CMIT stays updated on the latest leadership and management trends.

QQI Network

- Best Practice Exchange: Sharing best practices on non-competitive metrics streamlines performance evaluation and drives CMIT's overall efficiency.
- Student Protection: The exchange of Protection for Learners safeguards student interests and strengthens CMIT's commitment to responsible practices.
- Resource Optimisation: Collaboration on shared-curriculum programs expands CMIT's course offerings while optimising resource usage.

SOLAS

- Insight into Workforce Needs: A relationship with SOLAS provides strategic insights into skill gaps and employment trends.
- Targeted Program Development: CMIT aligns program design with SOLAS priorities and workforce needs, ensuring relevant and impactful training.
- Alignment with National Initiatives: Collaboration with SOLAS helps CMIT ensure its programs align with broader educational goals.

Not-for-profit linkages

- CMIT has strong working relationships with a diverse range of National and Local key and secondary stakeholders including Solas, QQI,

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Boards, Voluntary Bodies, Community Training Centres, Local Training Initiatives.

10.3 External partnerships and second providers

10.3.1 QQI Second Providers

Policy

- The College is not a second provider for another QQI provider nor does CMIT sub-contract delivery of QQI programmes to other QQI providers.
- In deciding whether it is appropriate, or not, to engage in a collaboration as a second provider, the College engages with all relevant stakeholders including the Academic Board and considers the following criteria:
 - Is there a benefit in delivering another provider's programme rather than developing, and seeking validation, of a programme under its own validation?
 - What input would CMIT have in the administration, management, and delivery of the collaborative programme?
 - Does CMIT have the requisite experience and/or expertise to competently deliver the programme?
 - Does CMIT foresee that it would have a positive working relationship with the principal provider of the collaborative programme?
 - Is it compliant with section 5.2 of Guideline for Blended and Fully Online Programmes.
 - CMIT will retain responsibility in accordance with the colleges approved quality assurance policies and procedures.

List of CMIT's Second Providers

- None.

10.3.2 External Partnerships

Policy

- The College is approved by several accreditation bodies.
- Where necessary, CMIT supplements QQI policies and procedures with accreditation specific policies and procedures where required. Where this is the case, it is clearly specified in the QA documentation. In such instances, the College will follow these supplemented policies and procedures.
- CMIT will retain responsibility in accordance with the colleges approved quality assurance policies and procedures.

- Where policy areas do not require supplementing, the existing quality assurance policies and procedures will be used.

Criteria for selecting partnerships:

- Accreditation partners must provide awards which are approved under the national framework of qualifications.
- Where it has been decided to promote programmes from a non-QQI provider, providers must be highly reputable, deliver courses which are of high-quality which and fit within CMITs chosen domains as specified in our strategic plan. In addition, partners must share a similar ambition to deliver high quality service to learners.
- Due diligence is undertaken on the reputation, legal status, and financial sustainability of any potential partnership.

List of CMIT's Partnerships

CMIT is approved to deliver programmes leading to awards by the following bodies:

- **QQI:** Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) were established by law to oversee qualifications in Ireland. In the area of qualifications, QQI is responsible for maintaining the ten-level NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications). CMIT is an approved QQI provider (formerly FETAC) since 2008.
- **Institute of Leadership and Management:** ILM is a UK based accreditation body, approved by Ofqual. CMIT is an approved ILM provider since 2008.
- **NCFE/CACHE:** NCFE/CACHE is a UK based accreditation body, approved by Ofqual. CMIT is an approved ILM provider since 2019.

In addition, CMIT has partnerships to promote programmes in Ireland from the following international programme providers:

- **Studyhouse:** Studyhouse is a UK based provider of certified vocational courses.
- **Netwind:** Netwind is a US based provider of IT professional courses. Netwind courses lead to professional certification, following official exams, from organisations such as Microsoft, Oracle, CompTIA.

10.3.3 Membership of a Shared Curriculum consortium

Policy

- This policy applies to the development of a Shared Curriculum for QQI programmes in conjunction with other providers.
- A signed Memorandum of Understanding will be in Place between founding members.
- There will be a are clear and published Terms of Reference in place which documents: 1) the purpose of the Board, 2) Members, 3) Meetings (nature, frequency, quorum, decision making, agenda and minutes) and 4) Scope of responsibility.
- CMIT's Programmes Director will attend committee meetings and the liaise with other functions, managers etc, as relevant.
- Decision making in relation to Academic matters is as per the scope and remit of the Academic Board.
- Proposed changes / amendments to the shared curriculum will be approved and governed within the current governance structure of CMIT.
- CMIT will retain responsibility in accordance with the colleges approved quality assurance policies and procedures for:
 - Governance and Quality Assurance
 - Documented Approach to Quality Assurance
 - Programme Development, Validation and Admissions policies
 - Staff Recruitment, Management and Development
 - Teaching and Learning Policies
 - Assessment Policies
 - Learner Supports and the Learner Journey
 - Information and Data Management
 - Public Information and Communication
 - Other Parties Involved in Education and Training
 - Self-Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

Monitoring

- The performance of collaborative arrangements will be subject to ongoing monitoring by both academic and non-academic boards and committees.
- Key performance metrics will include:
 - Risk assessment and monitoring
 - Minutes from board and committee meetings.
 - Outcomes and findings of programmatic review
 - Any other mechanism deemed appropriate to the arrangement.

10.4 Expert panellists, examiners, and authenticators

10.4.1 Academic Board Members

- The Academic Board is the academic authority of CMIT and is responsible for the development of academic policies with responsibility for the effective development and delivery of the academic portfolio of programmes including:
 - Academic and professional standards.
 - Quality assurance.
 - Teaching, learning and assessment.
 - Approval of programmes to be delivered
- The role of the Academic Board is to ensure the implementation of the academic regulations of the College.
- The board comprises of suitability qualified external individuals in their respective fields, in addition to a Learner representative, Academic Director and Programmes Director.
- External Academic Board members are independent of CMIT and have no commercial or financial conflict of interest with the college. All Academic Board members must sign the CMIT Code of Conduct for Employees, Contractors, and Committee Members.
- All External Board Members must declare that if any personal interest conflicts, or might appear to conflict, with the role.
- The names and affiliations of External Board Member are collated and monitored by CMIT.

10.4.2 External Authenticators and Evaluators

External authenticators

- CMIT utilises External Authenticators as part of the quality procedures for certification of QQI awards.
- The External Authenticators role is to moderate assessment results for an award or across several awards within a related field or sub-field of the major, special purpose, supplemental of learning.
- They will have subject matter expertise in the appropriate field or subfield to which they are assigned.
- External Authenticators are selected in line with [QQI guidelines on the identification and engagement of suitable External Authenticators](#).
- External Authenticators are independent of CMIT and have no commercial or financial conflict of interest with the college. All External Authenticators must sign the CMIT Code of Conduct for Employees, Contractors, and Committee Members.

- All External Authenticators must declare that if any personal interest conflicts, or might appear to conflict, with the role.
- The names and affiliations of External Authenticators are collated and monitored by CMIT.

External Evaluators

- CMIT utilises External Evaluators as part of the procedures for conducting programme reviews.
- An External Evaluator provides subject matter expertise and best practice insight from other QQI providers. The External Evaluator is independent of programme delivery and capable of comparing the quality of the programme(s) with that of similar programmes elsewhere.
- They will have: (1) education, training, or industry experience in the broad subject area of the programme being evaluated, (2) experience in national/international certification systems, (3) experience in one or more of the following:
 - Programme design.
 - Programme delivery.
 - Programme evaluation.
 - Cross moderation of standards.
 - External verification of standards.
 - Auditing of quality systems.
 - Centre accreditation.
- External Evaluators are independent of CMIT and have no commercial or financial conflict of interest with the college. All External Evaluators must sign the CMIT Code of Conduct for Employees, Contractors, and Committee Members.
- All External Evaluators must declare that if any personal interest conflicts, or might appear to conflict, with the role.
- The names and affiliations of External Evaluators are collated and monitored by CMIT.