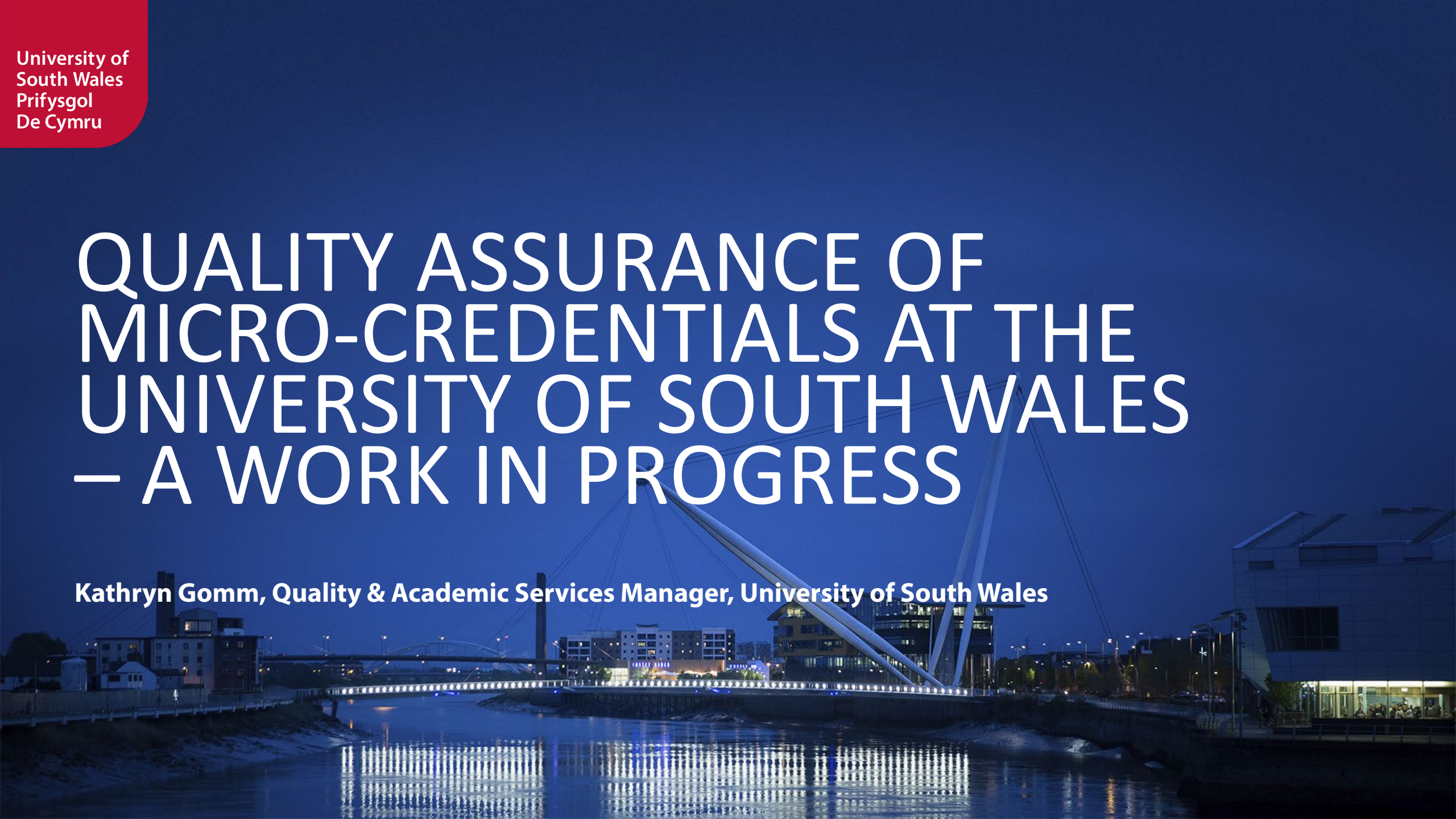


QUALITY ASSURANCE OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES – A WORK IN PROGRESS

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APPROACH SO FAR

Development overseen by Chair of our Flexible Delivery Group, with working group established to include academic and Professional Services colleagues.

Aiming to take a measured approach, with an initial pilot phase in targeted subject areas, starting delivery in 2024/25.

Intend to work in line as far as possible with existing Quality Assurance mechanisms, taking a proportionate approach whilst recognising the need to monitor provision.

Existing Committee structures used, both to sign off the governance structure for micro-credentials, and to monitor going forward.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- **Micro-Credentials Characteristics Statement (2022)**
- **QAA Discussion Paper re. Modular Qualifications (December 2020), including consideration in this space by UNESCO and the Scottish Funding Council**
- **European MOOC Consortium (EMC) launched the Common Micro-credential Framework (CMF) (2019)**
- **QAA Micro-Credentials webinar (2023)**

As well as recognition of the relevant work by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

MAPPING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS STATEMENT

Very much informed by the Statement, with the following as a driving principle:

“'microcredential' does not necessarily refer to a very small module. Rather, it represents something that is being studied on a 'micro' level (that is, less than a recognised qualification such as a CertHE or PgCert) and which can stand alone and still have credibility and validity even if it is a module drawn from a larger programme or pathway .”

PROPOSED PILOT PHASE

- **Proposal to QAC in July 2023, for operationalisation in September 2024.**
- **20-credit micro-credential provision at Levels 4-7.**
- **Specified subject areas.**
- **Distance learning anticipated.**
- **Using existing provision wherever possible.**
- **Further consideration regarding how we will make macro-awards.**

USING EXISTING MECHANISMS WHEREVER POSSIBLE

A suite of paperwork established:

- **Governance Framework**
- **Initial Proposal Form**
- **Micro-credential Specification**
- **Adapting existing Committee Terms of Reference to include M-Cs**
- **Need to consider Awards Framework and how we use awards there**

VALIDATION PROCESS

Following these principles:

- Any validation decision should be taken by a 'body' at University-level.
- Initial micro-credential proposals will therefore be presented for consideration at the relevant Faculty Executive Committee(s).
- Following approval there, the micro-credential specification will be taken to Faculty Quality Assurance Committee(s).
- From there, submission will be to Major Modifications Committee (MMC), for centralised consideration and final approval.
- FQAC will be notified of successful submissions MMC at each meeting.
- An annual report will be made to QAC, from MMC, regarding micro-credential activity across the University.

QA - PRACTICALITIES OF DELIVERY

- **Regulations**
- **Minimum and Maximum periods of registration**
- **External Examiner**
- **RP(E)L**
- **Modifications**
- **Monitoring**
- **Accreditation**

OPERATIONALISATION - CONSIDERATIONS

- **Provision Lead and Parent Course**
- **Period of validation**
- **Transcript/Award**
- **Student Support**

AREAS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- **Stackability: moving from micro- to macro-**
- **Student journey, from onboarding to awarding**
- **Student experience, cohort identity, etc.**
- **Partnerships: implications and opportunities**