National Progression Awards in Computing (SCQF Level 5)

National Progression Awards (NPA) in Computing are designed to give an introduction to the skills required to be a Web Developer, Computer Technician, or work in Digital Media. The NPA awards are designed to produce robust qualifications that allow candidates to develop practical skills while preparing for the possibility of entering full time vocational education. Some aspects of these qualifications address demands from industry and government for the promotion of employability skills.

Delivery : The course will be delivered at TRA one day per week (Friday) for a full academic year. In semester one students will complete the NPA in Digital Media Editing and in semester two the NPA in Computer Networks and Systems. It is suitable for students from S4-S6.

Semester 1 NPA in Digital Media Editing

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Web Design Fundamentals at SCQF level 5 in Digital Media Editing will offer candidates a knowledge and understanding of acquiring and editing digital media elements in a fundamental area within the digital media area. This award will also introduce candidates to a range of tools to acquire various digital elements from a range of different sources.

The award focuses on technical skills in the creation and editing of a range of content with a computing slant, but also emphasises the importance of the design process and soft skills such as interviewing and responding to feedback. Candidates will develop an appreciation of reflective practice, as well as being able to produce an aesthetically pleasing product. The NPA has been created to match the requirements of creating and editing digital media elements in a safe and legitimate manner whether at home or in a formal educational setting. The course is delivered with regard to current legislation and health and safety guidelines.

The award consists of the following 3 units

- Still Images Acquisition
- Audio Acquisition
- Video Acquisition

Semester 2 NPA in Computer Networks and Systems

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Computer Networks and Systems at SCQF level 5 focuses on the technical skills required to safely work with a range of computer hardware and network components, and highlights the importance of problem solving using troubleshooting techniques.

The NPA introduces candidates to the practical skills involved in setting up, maintaining and upgrading computer systems as well some basic knowledge of the structure of a computer system. Candidates will gain an understanding of how to correctly install and configure a

range of system software, such as operating systems, the wide variety and classification of application software, and the methods of obtaining software and the legal issues involved. They will also gain practical skills in setting up a small computer network using appropriate methodology and select tools to test and troubleshoot a small network installation.

The award consists of the following 3 units

- Install and Maintain Computer Hardware
- Install and Maintain Computer Software
- Computer Networking Fundamentals