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UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Designing Futures: A New Process to Support the Development of Transdisciplinary Modules

Dr David Doolin,
Lecturer Transdisciplinary Learning.
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Government of Ireland



University
ofGalway.ie

Designing Your Life



**Student Success
Coaching**



**Transdisciplinary
Modules**



**Vertically
Integrated Projects**

Personalised Student Success Journey



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“If the world is interconnected, *as it is*, then it matters that humanity’s efforts to understand the world are connected, not just among themselves, but are connected fairly firmly to the world. [...]. [Thus...], efforts are made to see how and where disciplinary frameworks may be brought together, as the endeavours here hold firmly to their worldly concerns.”

Ronald Barnett, “Transdisciplinarity: A Suitably Ambiguous Idea for Higher Education: Response to ‘The Struggling Towards a Transdisciplinary Metaphysics,’” *Postdigital Science and Education*, February, 2022.



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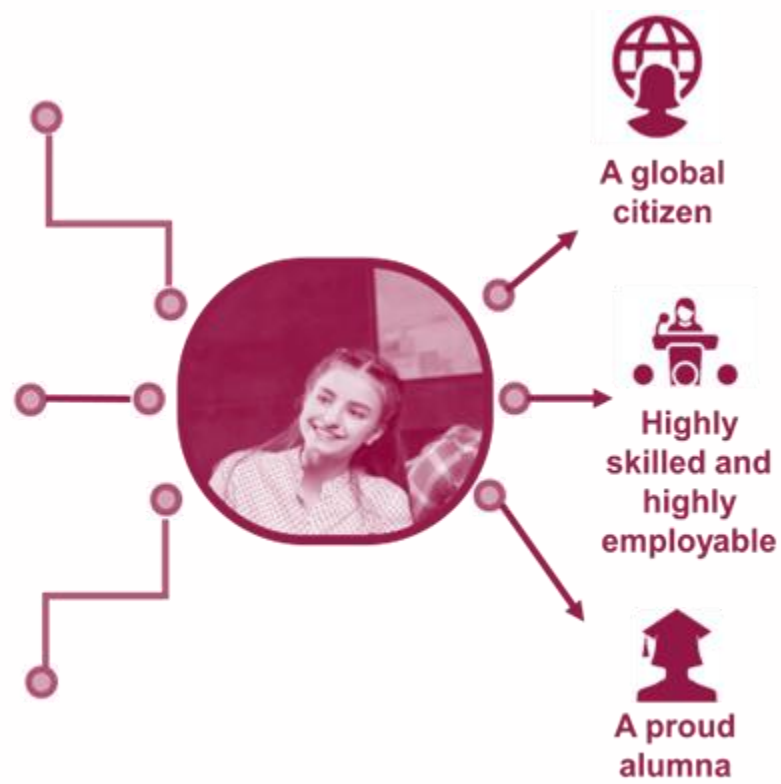
University Wide Call for TDMs

Promotion campaign August-
November 2022

- All staff e-mail
- Newsletter feature
- Website updates
- Lunchtime series talks
- Twitter promotion
- Individual meetings with the people who expressed an interest (both before and after EOI)
- EOI form for staff

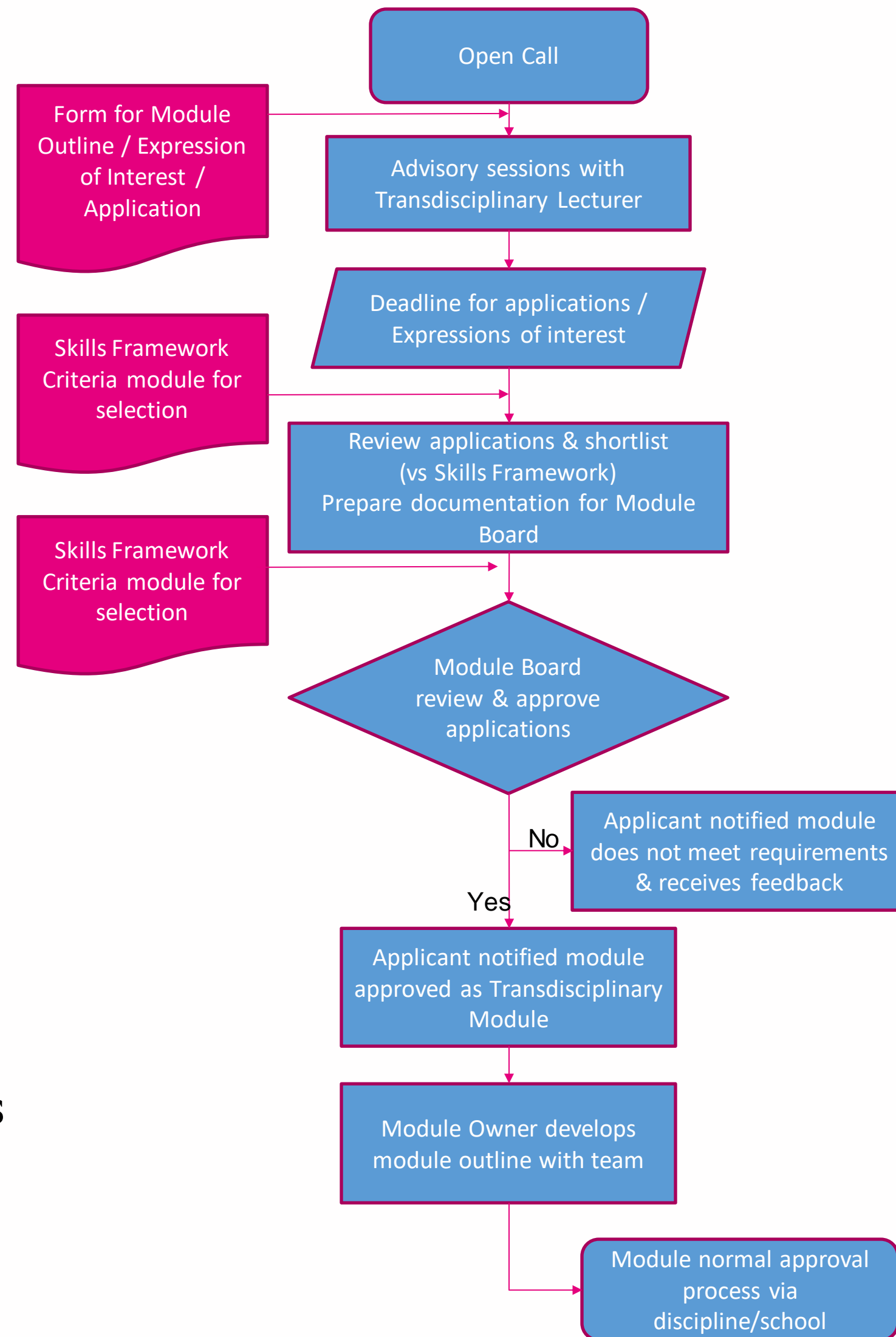


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Elements

- Enables a practical application and/or experiential component
- Challenged based learning
- Project based assessment
- Engages multiple disciplines
- Engages with knowledge's and their application outside of the classroom



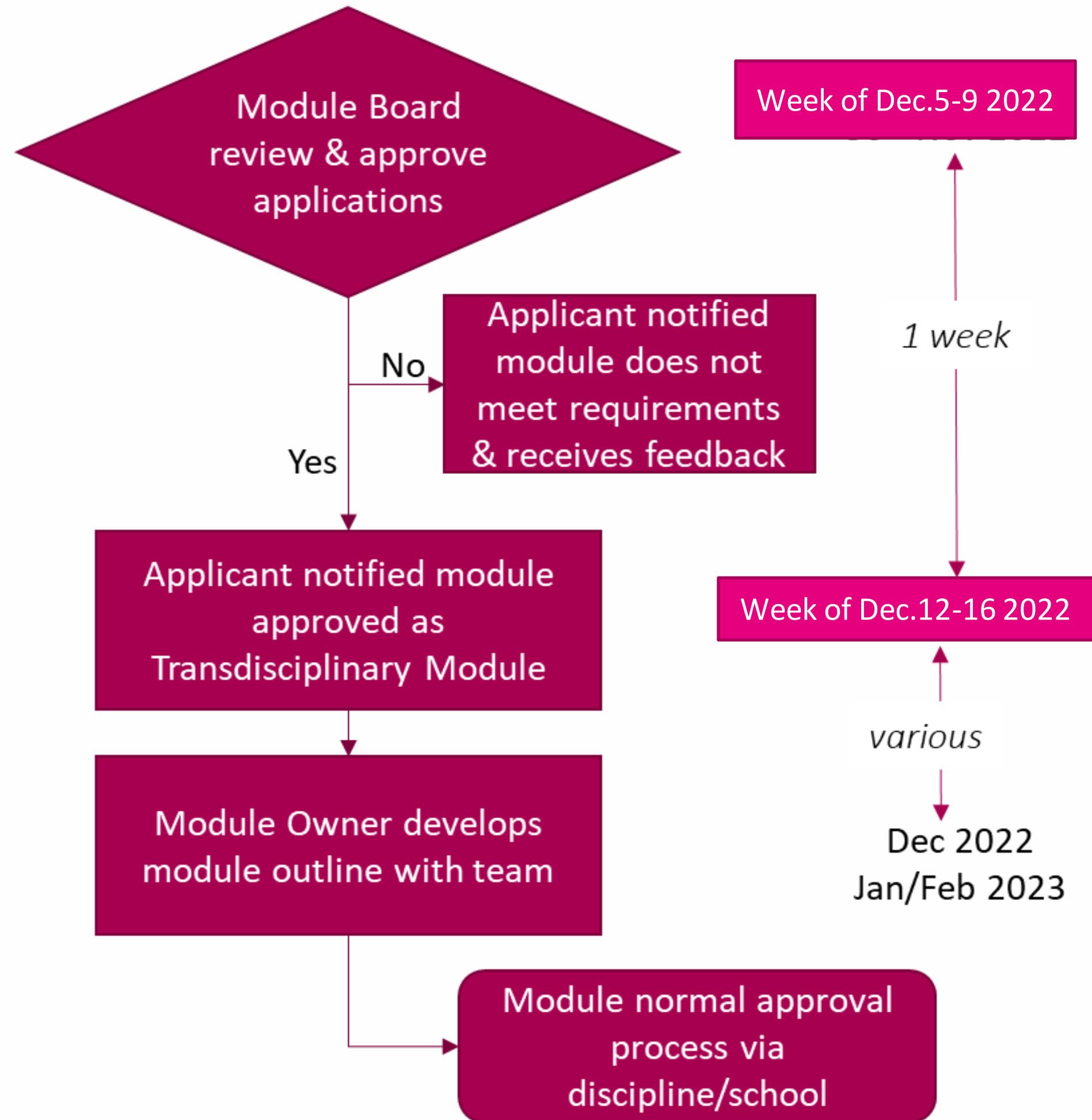
Approach

- Student centred
- Develops new knowledge
- Multiple skills, attributes & dispositions
- Holistic approach to teaching & learning



Process Flow Chart

- Over 20 ideas for new modules came in
- 16 of which followed through with the process
- 8 were approved (with 2 maybes)
- 5 new modules are going ahead for AY 2023/24



New Transdisciplinary Modules AY 2023/24

- “Sástacht Saoil”
Exploring Wellbeing



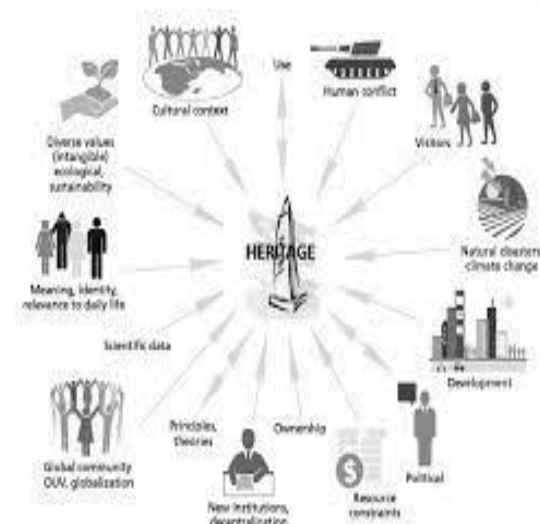
- Fail Better: Taking Risks and Developing Resilience through Circus.



- Cultural Heritage & Public History



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- Revolutionary Technologies, from Steam to Green



- Career Development and Employability Skills



Student Reflections

"The Megatrends module is a great opportunity to enhance personal development skills and gain some confidence.

Mixing with other programmes, hearing some other perspectives that weren't people from my course was great in terms of challenging my thought processes and social skills.

So, all in all, it's a module I think everyone should partake in as teamwork is essential to the future workforces."

Megatrends, 2022

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/designingfutures/ourteam/newsletter/>



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"[...] the main areas of the three modules that I enjoyed the most would have been getting to work with students from different academic backgrounds and listening to their points of view on the range of topics that we covered."

"[...] the modules would have been very project driven. So having that sort of chance to cross pollinate with different people from different academic backgrounds, was definitely invaluable to me. I remember even outside our own group, we were conversing with other groups, for example, just to be able to sort of get more information or more [...] knowledge."

Global Engagement, 2023

"I really enjoyed the presentations and the group work. Getting to work with organizations that make a real difference in people's lives. "

Communicating through Storytelling student, 2022



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Thank you

Dr David Doolin,
Lecturer in Transdisciplinary Learning
Designing Futures

david.doolin@universityofgalway.ie



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