

# Future-fit quality and qualifications: Exploring Digital Transformation

## The DCU Futures experience

Dr. Blánaid White, Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

# Q2: How can Irish education providers respond to these trends to develop future-fit quality and qualifications?

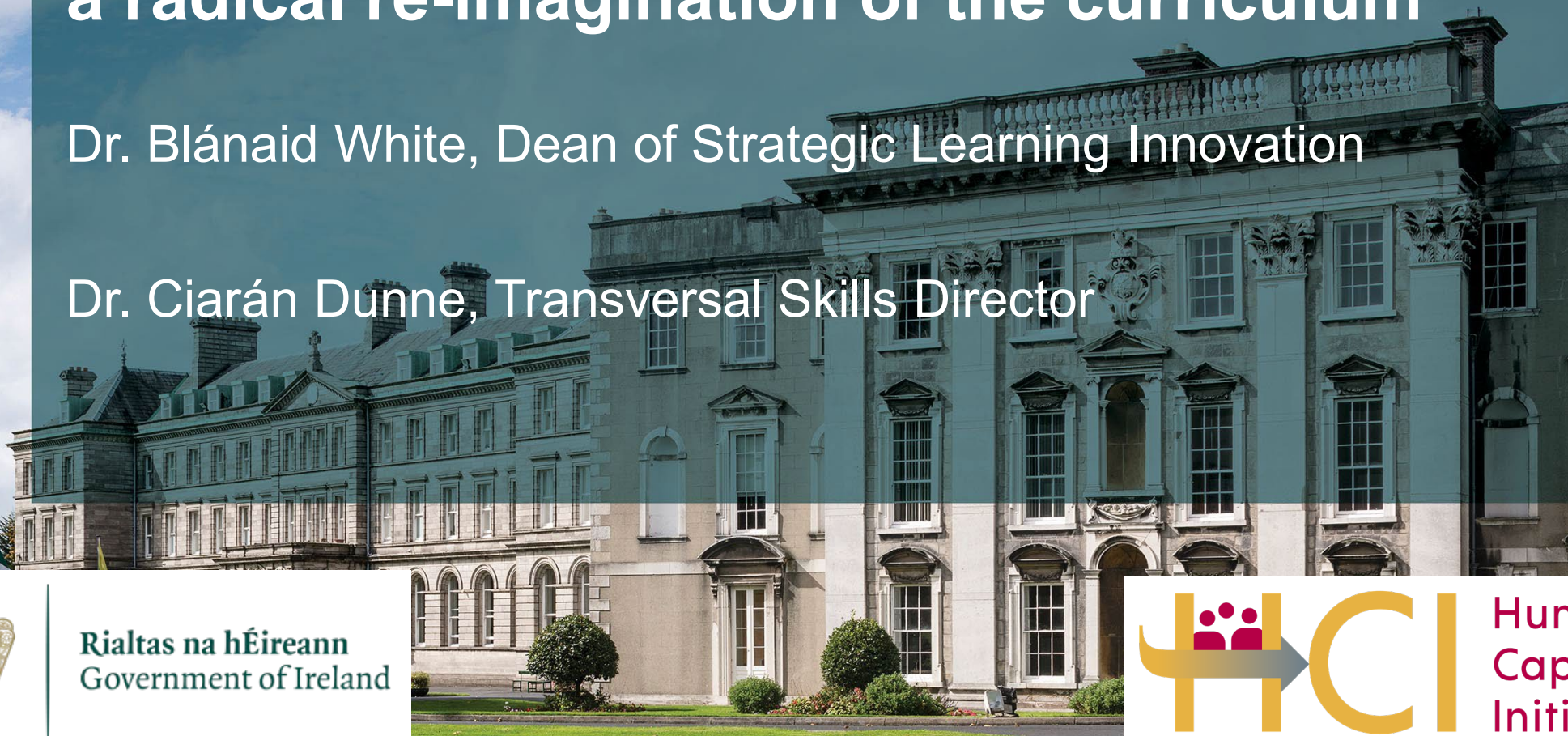


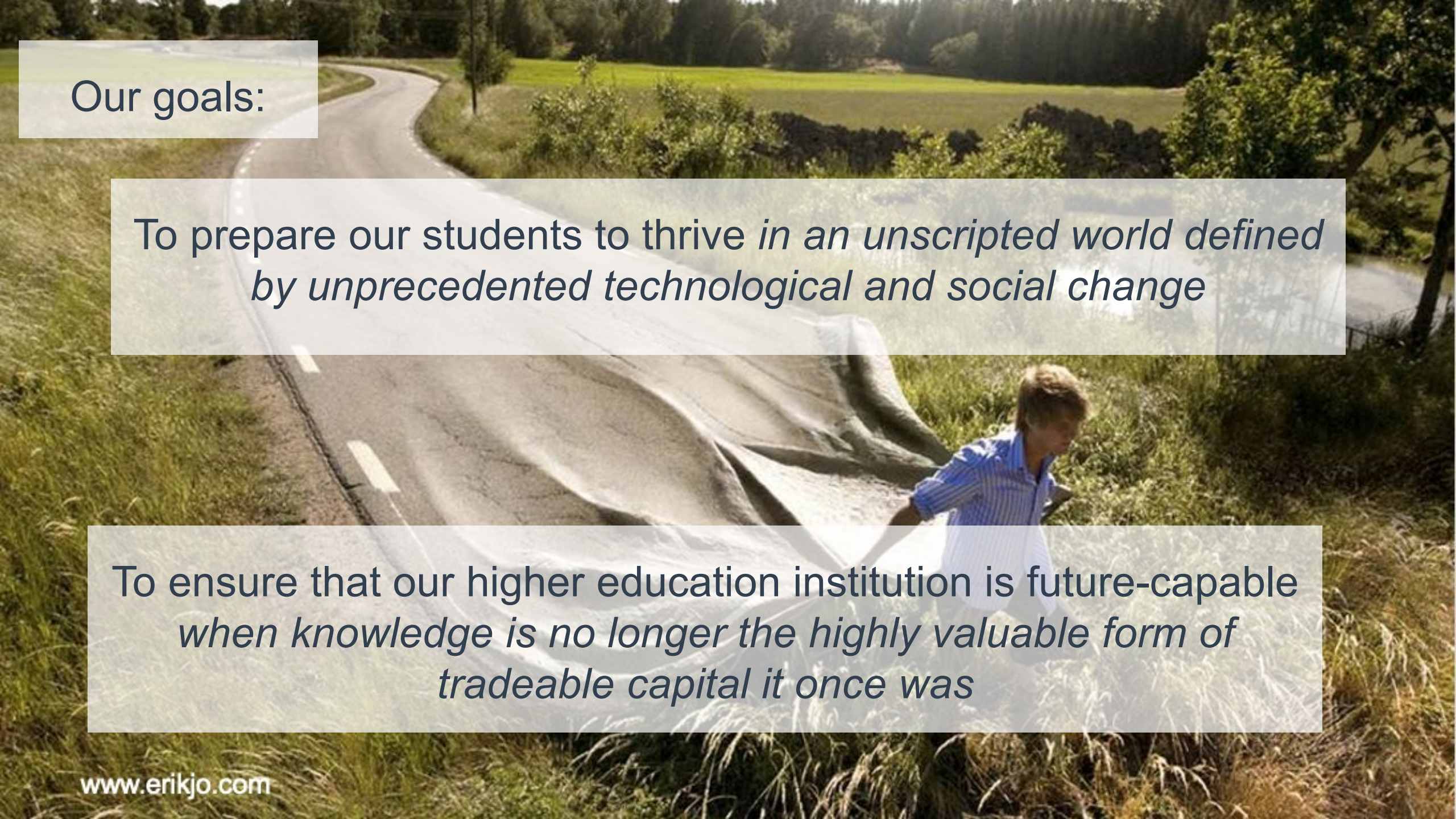
Ollscoil Chathair  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City University

# DCU Futures: a radical re-imagination of the curriculum

Dr. Blánaid White, Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation

Dr. Ciarán Dunne, Transversal Skills Director





Our goals:

To prepare our students to thrive *in an unscripted world defined by unprecedented technological and social change*

To ensure that our higher education institution is future-capable *when knowledge is no longer the highly valuable form of tradeable capital it once was*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution is increasingly shaping all sectors, influencing our lives, careers, industries and societies

Career mobility is increasing – estimates that current graduates will change not jobs, but sector, an average 5 times

The nature of work and the workplace is changing, as are the skills being demanded by employers

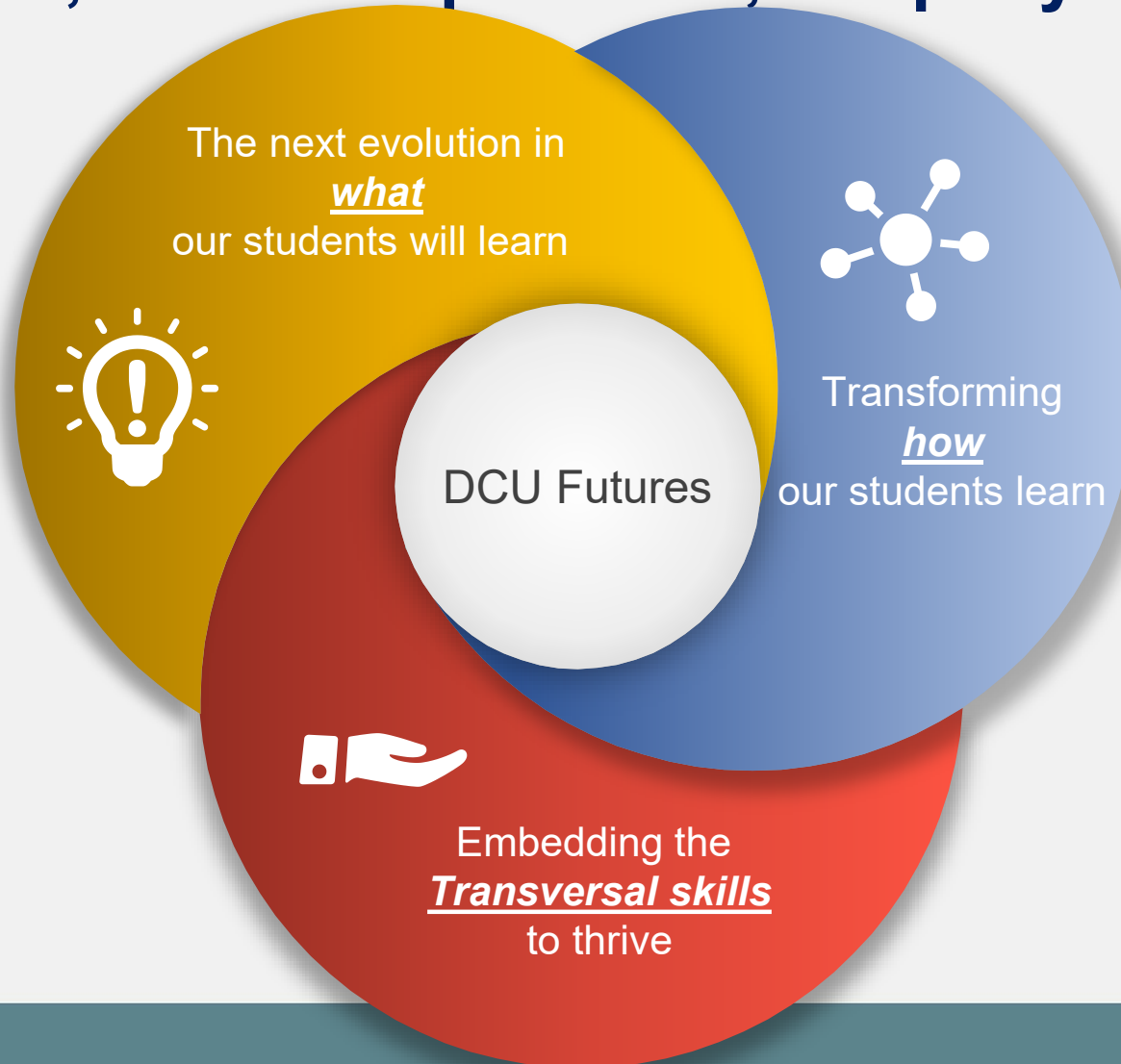
Automation and A.I. are predicted to replace up to 800 million jobs by 2030 (McKinsey Global Institute Report, 2017)

***Covid accelerated rather than created trends***

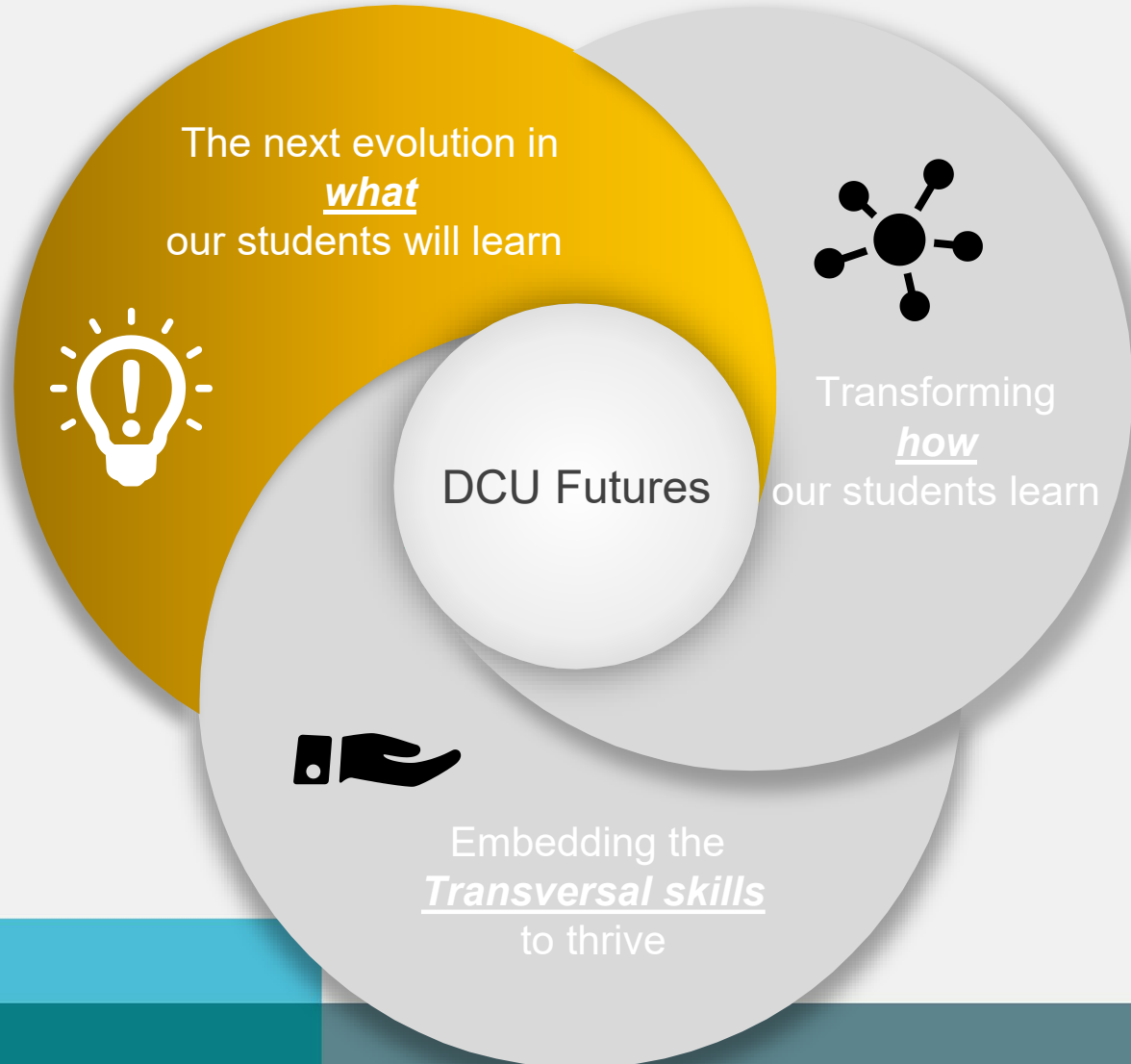


Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# DCU Futures: a radical re-imagining of undergraduate education in response to, and anticipation of, a rapidly changing world



# DCU Futures: a radical re-imagination of the curriculum



## New areas of study

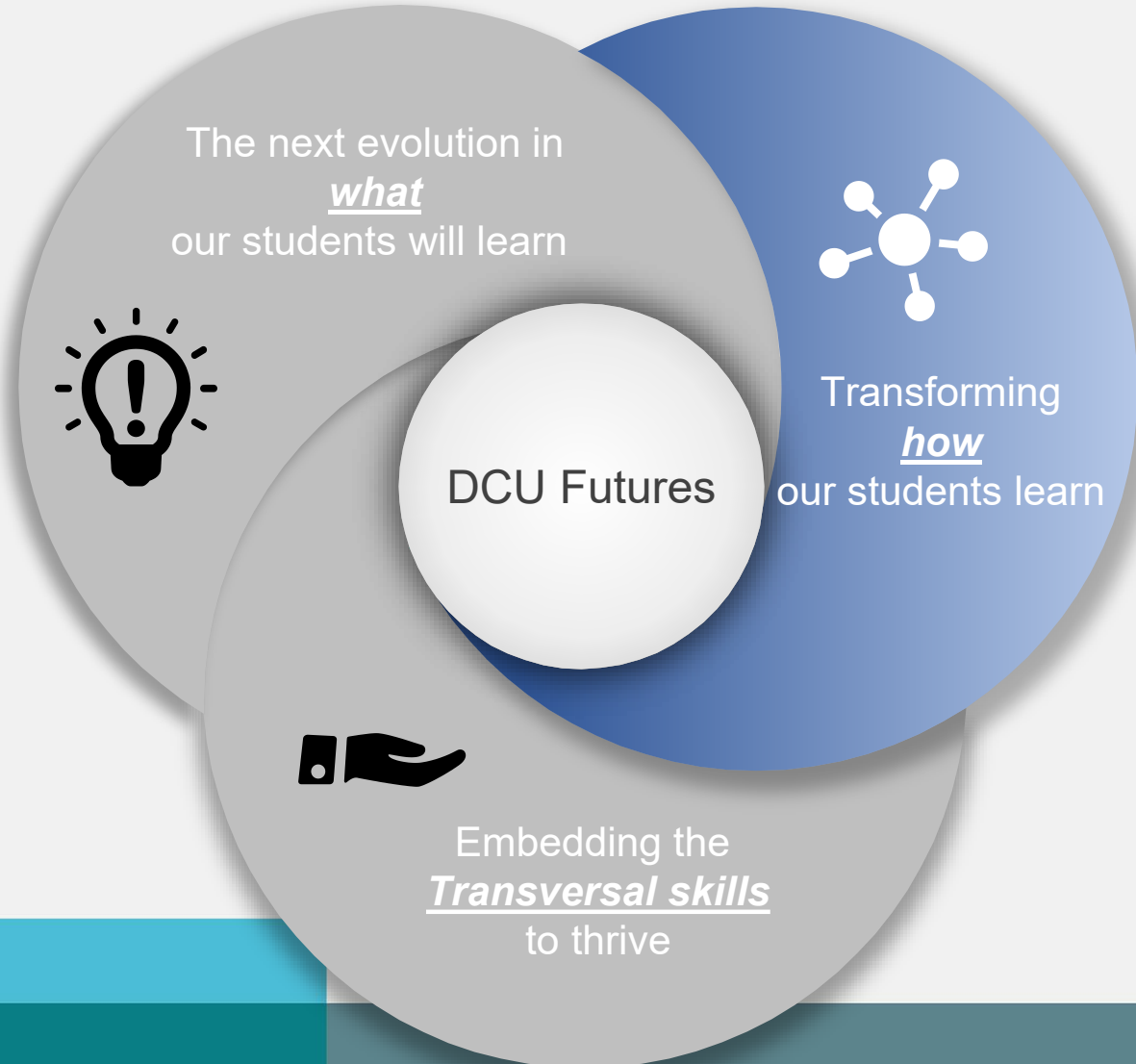
Data/Technology Infused World

Zero Carbon Economy

Sustainable Society

Employable graduates with human-centric discipline skills

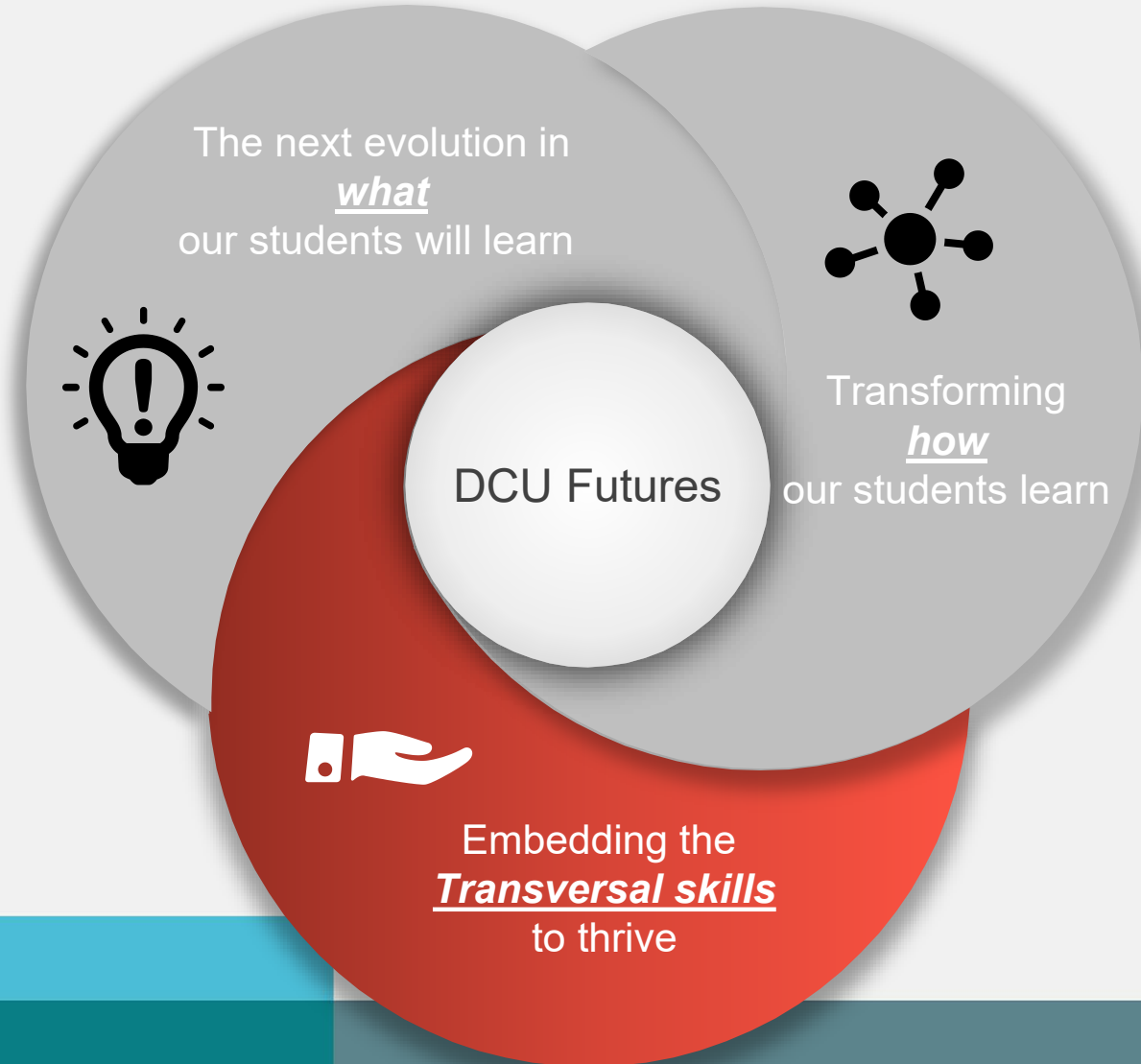
# DCU Futures: a radical re-imagination of the curriculum



## Innovative Pedagogy & Assessment

- Challenge Based Learning
- Engagement with Industry
- Immersive Learning Experience
- Online Learning
- Virtual Laboratories

# DCU Futures: a radical re-imagination of the curriculum



## Transversal Skills Pathway

Responding to the increase in career mobility, the value of inter-disciplinarity, and the need for eminently employable graduates who can operate effectively across multiple domains and differentiate themselves from automation and A.I.

Continual understanding of emerging skills needs – ongoing conversations with industry

Building flexibility into our approval processes for new and revised programmes

Increasing staff capacity to teach innovatively, embedding challenge based learning

Having ongoing curriculum renewal at the heart of our institutional strategy

Increasing teaching support, dedicated learning designers & learning technologists

Building in systematic flexibility in our programmes, enabling us to respond to emerging needs

Explicitly designing-in robust transversal skills development in all our programmes



DCU Futures

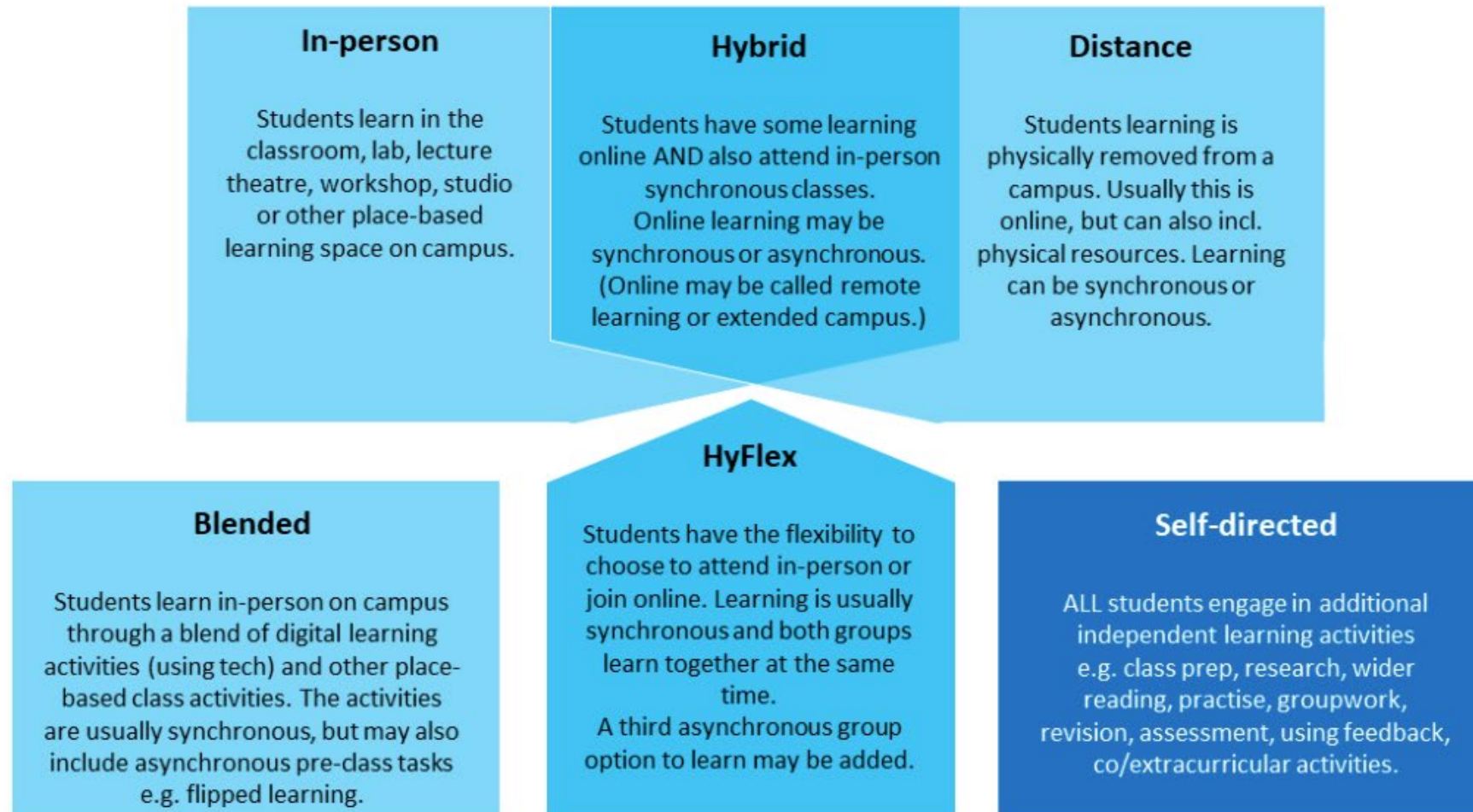
**Q3: What are some of the key lessons for Irish education providers in their efforts to harness the potential of digital transformation?**



Ollscoil Chathair  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City University

# Digitalisation in terms of modalities

## Modes of learning in higher education



# Moving beyond modalities

No longer initiating the conversation in terms of of  
synchronous/asynchronous, online, blended, hyflex, etc

ABC learning design framework – go back to curriculum

Defining attribute for online is “active”, not “transmission”

Engagement does not automatically trigger assessment (a hangover from  
covid?)

Scheduled, meaningful synchronous academic presence in modules

Conversation is much broader than online/face-to-face, instead focused on  
learning experience for students, and informed by pedagogy and  
assessment principles



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# An Entangled Pedagogy: Looking Beyond the Pedagogy—Technology Dichotomy

Tim Fawns<sup>1</sup>

Accepted: 7 March 2022  
© The Author(s) 2022

