

CCT College Dublin

CINNTE Review 2025

The Review Team



Chair

Dr Barbara Howell is an experienced higher education leader, consultant, and academic with over 25 years' experience across the UK and international tertiary education. Currently serving as Interim Director of the INTO Study Centre at Lancaster University, Dr Howell provides strategic and operational leadership to deliver exceptional academic quality, student experience, and partner value. In this role, they oversee academic standards, compliance, and financial performance, fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and student success in partnership with INTO University Partnerships and Lancaster University.

Alongside this, Dr Howell is the Director of Global UniStudy Consultancy Limited. This specialist advisory organisation supports higher education institutions, quality agencies, and national bodies in internationalisation, transnational education (TNE), and quality assurance. Their consultancy portfolio includes projects for the British Council, JISC, QAA, and numerous global universities, with expertise spanning TNE policy, partnership development, regulatory alignment, and institutional capacity building.

Dr Howell has previously held senior academic and executive roles, including Interim Director/Principal at the University of Leicester Global Study Centre (Navitas), Associate Dean (Global Engagement) at Coventry University, and Executive Dean at Ravensbourne University. Earlier in their career, they held academic leadership and teaching posts at Leeds Beckett University, Sheffield Hallam University, and Doncaster College, contributing to programme development, international

partnerships, and quality enhancement initiatives across multiple global contexts.

An active external quality assurance and accreditation reviewer, Dr Howell serves with the QAA (UK), NCAAA (Saudi Arabia), SKVC (Lithuania), AIKA (Latvia) and the Accreditation Agency Curaçao, in addition to previous governance roles including Governor of Hull College Group and Board Member of the European University Alliance.

Dr Howell holds a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) focused on strategic Joint venture higher education partnerships, an MIT Sloan Executive Certificate in Management and Leadership, and is a Chartered IT Professional (MBCS CITP) and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



Coordinating Reviewer

Kim O'Mahony was a Quality Officer in the Quality Support Unit, University of Limerick until January 2025, when she retired after 45+ years of service. Kim began working in the field of quality management in 2000. The remit of Kim's previous role as Quality Officer included operational management of the unit, coordinating assessment of institutional compliance with statutory quality assurance requirements and guidelines, managing the internal quality review process and supporting the development of quality management systems.

Kim was a member of the University of Limerick's Governing Authority (GA) from 2017 to 2023, where she sat on the Finance, Human Resources and Asset Management (FHRAMC) and Governance sub-committees.

Kim has previously experience of participating as a reviewer in quality review both nationally and internationally. In 2018, Kim acted as coordinating reviewer for a QQI (CINNTE) institutional review of an Institute of Technology. Kim is a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland's accreditation review panel.

Kim has a Diploma in Information Technology from Dublin City University and a Masters of Science in Quality Management from the University of Limerick.



Learner Representative

Dillon Reilly is a graduate student on the Computing in Software Development programme in Dundalk Institute of Technology.

His background is in computing, with a particular interest in the growing cybersecurity space.



Industry Representative

Dr Austin Hanley is a chartered engineer with more than 40 years' experience in R&D, Higher Education and management consulting. He held executive management positions in Ireland and Sweden over a 21-year career with Ericsson, and with AIT (now TUS) for more than 15 years as Dean of Engineering and Informatics.

He established his management consulting company more than 20 years ago. He has worked with public and private enterprises as a management consultant, supporting the development of strategies and conducting product market analysis for research groups.

In recent years, Austin has concentrated on the education sector, working with QQI and private colleges on programme validations and on strategic and quality related issues. He completed his undergraduate degree at UCG (now University of Galway). He holds post-graduate diplomas from UL and Maynooth, Masters Degrees from the TCD and UL, and a doctorate from TCD.