

Badge Pilot Proposal for Summer 2021



We seek provisional approval from Senate Council to extend the 2020 Digital Badges pilot to Summer 2021, enabling faculty in academic departments and colleges to design and offer non-transcripted, digital badges to students who complete two designated thematically linked, credit-bearing courses during the summer of 2021. Badges could be earned by both UK and non-UK students. As in 2020, the summer pilot would not involve official transcripts provided by the University; rather students would earn access to digital badges that could be used on platforms such as LinkedIn, etc.

Currently, a working group with faculty Senate representation is exploring guidance for the future of a digital badging program, including direction on building an architecture for the “stacking of badges” into existing certificates or minors, and best practices for approving and reporting on badges. A proposal from this group will follow in the next academic year.

A digital badge is a customized image or visual marker that is associated with metadata indicating demonstrated competency in a specific skill or area of expertise. The badge provides information about the issuer, criteria, skills, and evidence associated with the award. Images are housed on a badging platform, which in UK’s case is Credly’s Acclaim platform. Students may find badges both through their institution of choice and through badge platforms using keyword or institutional interest searches.

The Summer 2020 badges proposals were developed by departments and faculty, or they were built upon existing partnerships across colleges. Associate Deans called for proposals, then reviewed and approved them with Department Chairs or internal committees. During last summer’s initial pilot, 33 badges were offered, leading the award of 120 badges in areas such as Distillation Fundamentals, History and Principles of Journalism, Health Policy Studies, Criminology and Legal Studies, Workplace Communication, Digital Marketing, Computer Science Rudiments, and more. This summer, we already see that 11 badges could be continued because their associated courses are offered again in 2021. Other badges could be adjusted to reflect new course combinations.

By continuing this opportunity for another summer, we can examine practices that offer flexibility for both learners and the institution while expanding opportunities in our summer programs.

Same 2020 badge courses listed as to be offered this summer

1. Computer Science Rudiments
2. Critical Health Issues
3. Digital Marketing
4. Financial Decisions
5. Health Communication
6. Healthy Living
7. History and Principles of Journalism
8. Management Fundamentals
9. Sex and Drug Education and Prevention
10. Social Action
11. Understanding Our Natural World
12. Workplace Communication

Two or more of the 2020 badge courses listed as to be offered this summer

1. Advertising Across Cultures
2. Criminology and Legal Studies
3. Distillation Fundamentals
4. Equine Management and Industry Fundamentals
5. Globalization and the Modern World
6. Health Policy Studies
7. Nutrition and Your Health
8. One Health: Insect Biology and Management
9. Professional Skills

