# Digital badges pre-steering group principles of operation

## Purpose of pre-steering group meeting

To ensure that all related considerations for implementation of digital badges are identified and all appropriate stakeholders are recognised for consultation, as part of the development of a digital badges service.

## Overview

Digital badges offer the opportunity to provide recognition for a wide range of staff and student-facing activities. Recognition through digital badges can include successful completion of formal or informal training, acknowledging new skills, or other achievement through active participation. The benefits of digital badges include recording goals for personal and professional development, validation of an achievement or skill, and sharing their successes with others.

Our proposed use of digital badges at the University of Bath will not currently consider credit bearing recognition. There are a number of reasons for this, including technical and licensing difficulties (including cost) which make validation of credits via digital badges difficult, and quality issues that would take additional policy work to resolve.

## Creation of steering group

Given the potential for university-wide application of digital badges, there is a need to create an effective oversight group to help ensure digital badges are managed and maintained effectively. The proposal is to create a digital badges steering group that will help create an effective digital badges service, which considers appropriate quality standards, technical applications and scalability of use. These considerations can be defined by the following four themes.

## Digital badges implementation themes

The following four themes need to be considered for the successful implementation of a digital badges service.

### Validation

* For digital badges to be considered worthwhile, they must be seen with credibility and this means ensuring that any badges issued can be appropriately validated. This includes:
* Ensuring compliance with agreed badge standards and quality assurance
* Ensuring registry compliance that badges do not constitute credit
* Legitimacy of badges – lifespans, permitted use e.g. where can they be posted, not bring Bath into disrepute for misuse…

### Administration

* Who will manage the University of Bath digital badge service/technical account?
* What is the best technical solution for issuing badges?
* Who may be authorised as badge issuers?
* How will badge records of achievement be maintained?

### Quality

* What quality standards are required for the issuing of a badge? E.g. Defining what counts as being ‘worthy’ of a badge i.e. appropriate value and not being issued for random activities
* What process(es) are needed to ensure quality standards are transparent and clearly implemented?
* How will quality standards be monitored and audited to monitor quality of badges being issued?

### Design formats

* What approach should be taken to define design formats of badges
* Who has authority over design decisions?
* What style guides are appropriate to allow for individualisation/ customisation of badges e.g. allow for Faculty brands?
* Who will be responsible for creating badge designs – central or devolved?