## Research Project

## Module Description:

To develop students' general ability to undertake independent research including problem definition, data collection, analysis and reporting of findings

***Module Aim:***

* To provide students with an understanding of the factors which affect the safety and legality of packed products and the need to recognise and address environmental impact.
* To enable students to apply what they know and have learned about packaging to a research project. This involves specifying what is to be learned, carrying out research and tests and reporting on their findings. It is intended that this research is as practical as possible and will be carried out on the student’s workplace.

***Learning Outcomes:***

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

* Organise and carry out a packaging related research project
* Apply relevant theory/knowledge to a workplace packaging project
* Produce a research report
* Apply the principles of the key legislation, regulations and standards to the packaging supply chain
* Evaluate the factors that affect the impact of packaging on the environment
* Assess the relationship between packaging and marketing, including the role of packaging in advertising and product promotion

**Method of Instruction**

The research project consists of an analysis of, and solution, to a practical problem or situation in the area of packaging technology in an actual business situation. Although the dissertation is essentially practical in orientation, the student would be expected to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the conceptual framework of the problem in a variety of ways such as his/her approach to the analysis of the problem and the nature of the solutions brought forward.

The students develop their own research proposal based on their work situation and submit this to the Module co-ordinator (Anne Morrissey at [morrissey.anne@gmail.com](mailto:morrissey.anne@gmail.com)) for approval. Part of the proposal will be to identify an internal company mentor who will act as a mentor to the student in completing the project.

Once a topic has been approved, the Module co-ordinator will act as project supervisor and will be available to give feedback to the students as they progress through the project. Other members of the Irish Packaging Society Diploma development team and individual lecturers for the programme may also provide advice.

**Assessment Procedure**

Assessment is by continuous assessment in line with the milestones below:

Literature review 1500 word report due January 6h 2024 (20%)

Research Project 5000 word report due April 18th 2024 (65%)

Presentation Oral presentation April 19th 2024 (15%)

You have until the 6th of January to submit the literature review. However, you will lose marks for being late, with a mark of 0 being awarded for submission after January 20th. Note, projects will be reviewed by mid-February, so if you haven’t submitted your project by the deadline, we will not be able to give you feedback. Please note, that the total word count for the continuous assessment is **6500** words (1500 for the literature review and another 5000 words for the project).

The research project is due on April 18th 2024. On the nextr day, you will have to make a 10-minute presentation (worth 15%).

Exam dates May 9th and 10th 2024.

**Reading Lists for this Module:**

The core text book is “Fundamentals of Packaging Technology” and/or “Packaging Technology – Fundamentals, materials and processes” Published by The Institute of Packaging

Students source additional readings themselves as part of the requirements for the project.