

Micro-Credentials in Higher Education

Stakeholder Perspectives on Benefits, Recognition, and Employability in the UAE

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1. INTRODUCTION & AIM

Why This Matters

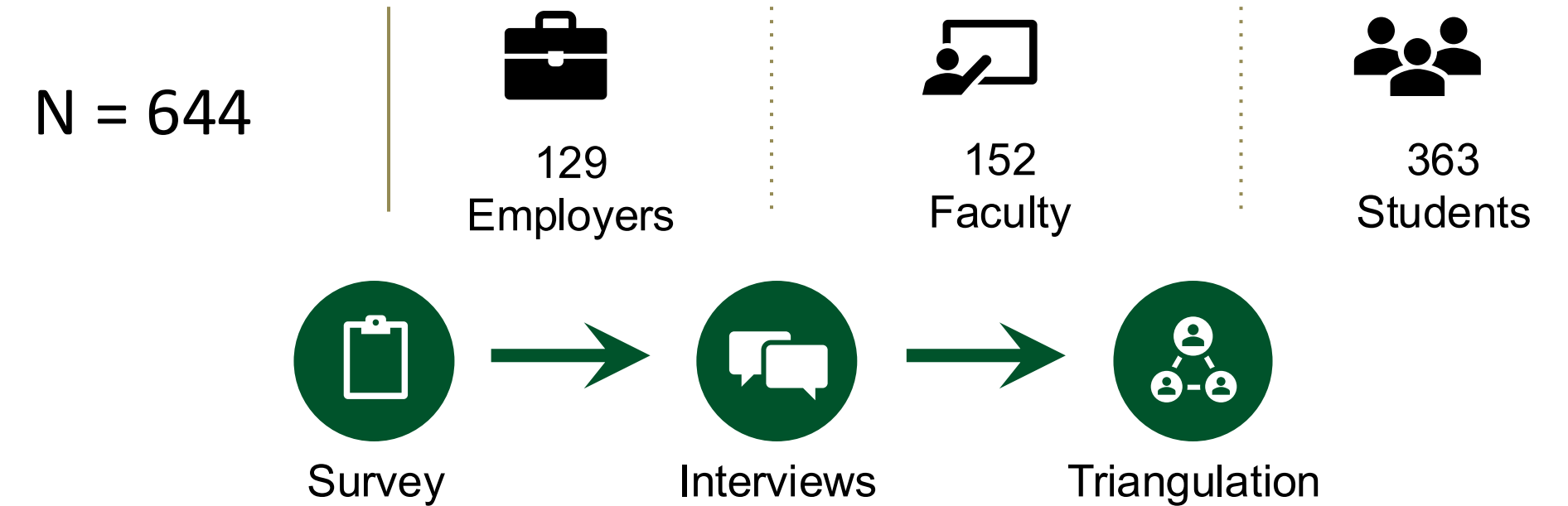
- Micro-credentials are increasingly used to support workforce-ready learning.
- They provide evidence of skills beyond traditional qualifications.
- Evidence from UAE higher education stakeholders remains limited.

Aim

- To examine stakeholder perceptions of acceptance, benefits, challenges, and employment-readiness skills of micro-credentials.

2. METHOD

Sequential Explanatory Mixed-Methods Design

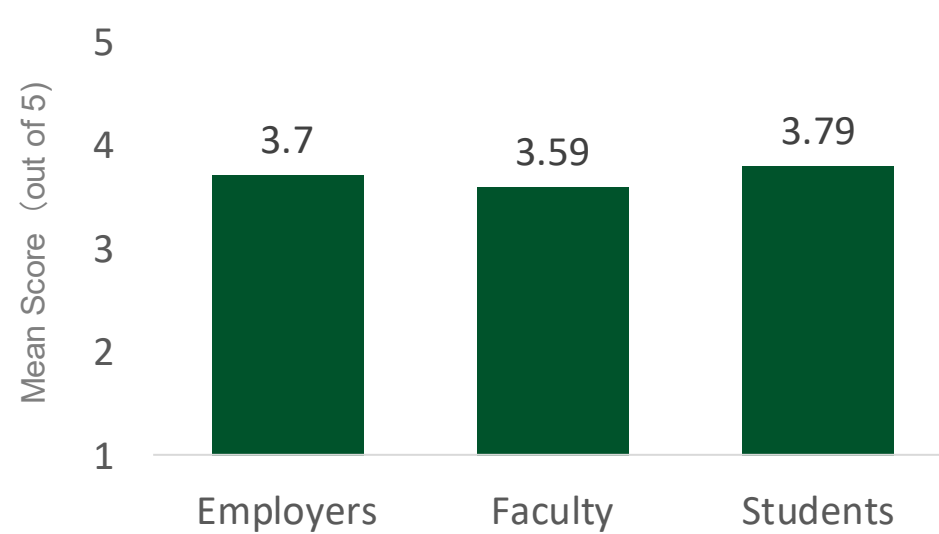


Quantitative and qualitative findings were integrated to provide comprehensive stakeholder insights.

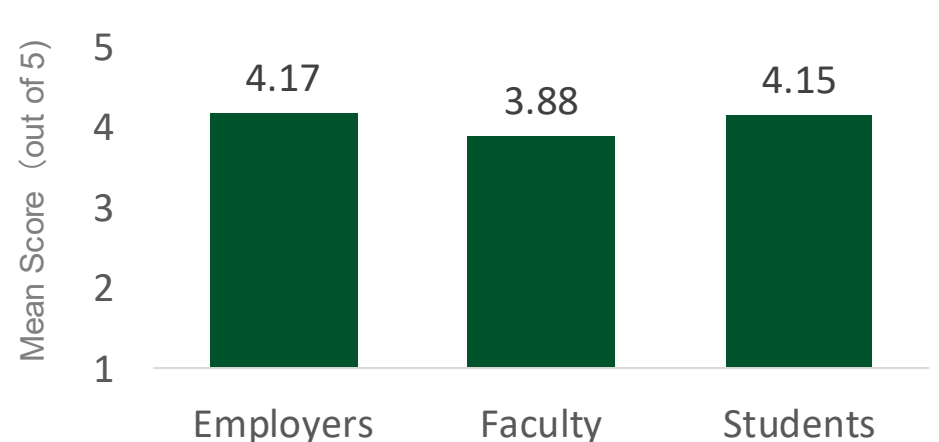
3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

3.1 STAKEHOLDERS VALUE MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Acceptance of Micro-Credentials



Perceived Benefits of Micro-credentials



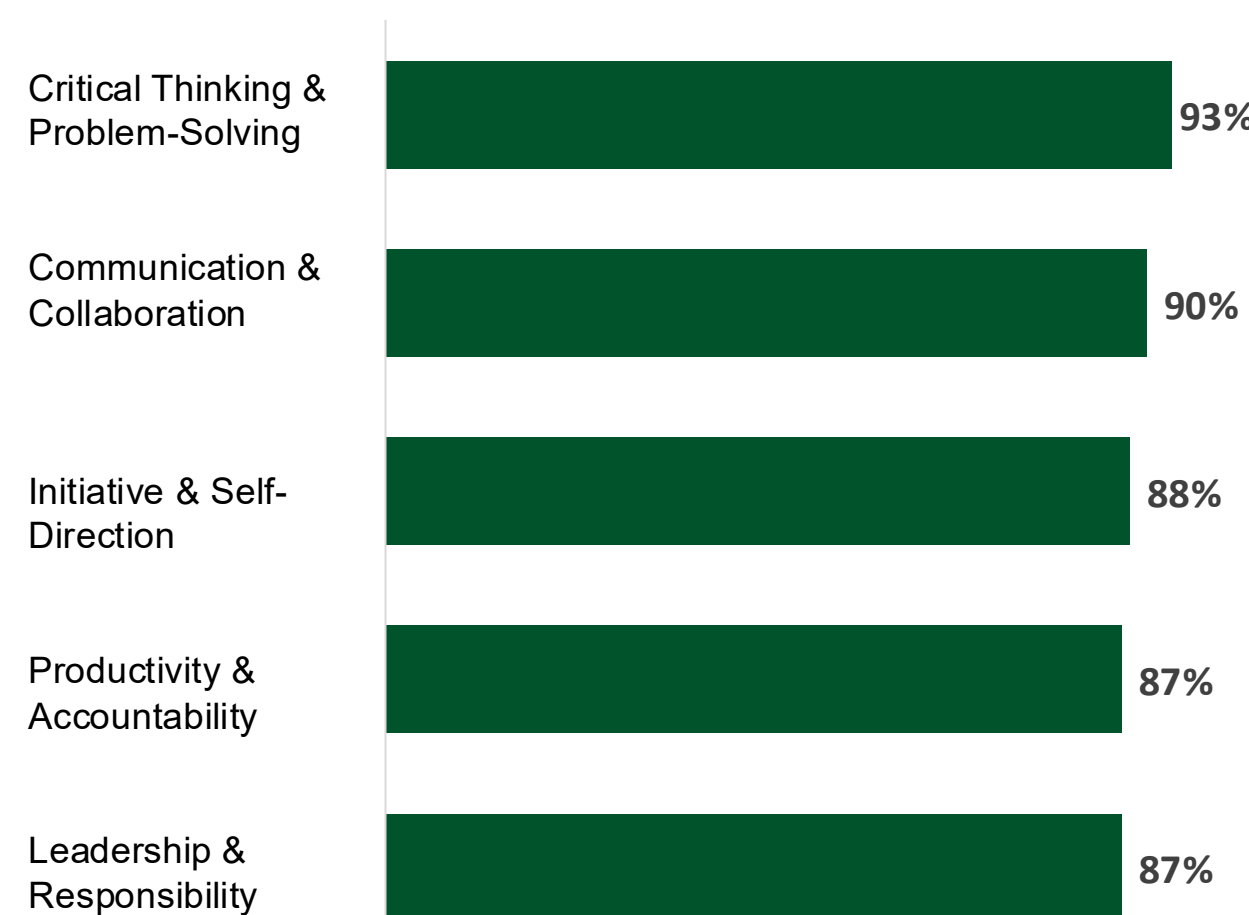
Key Interpretation

Stakeholders across higher education and industry demonstrate strong support for micro-credentials and recognise their value for workforce preparation and skills development.

3.2 MICRO-CREDENTIALS SUPPORT EMPLOYABILITY

Most Valued Employability Skills

(% rating skills as Very or Extremely Important)



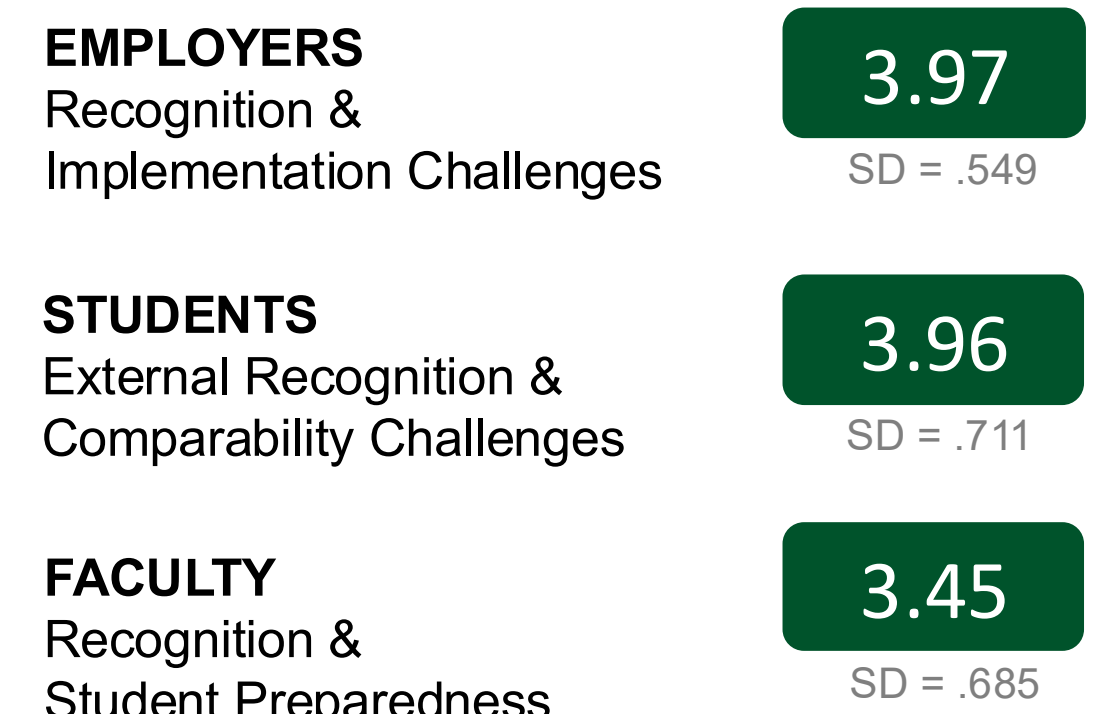
Key Message

Micro-credentials are most valued when they develop transferable employability skills rather than narrow technical competencies.

3.3 RECOGNITION REMAINS THE KEY CHALLENGE

Recognition-Related Challenges

(Mean Score out of 5)



“If the industry does not recognise it, then its value is diminished, even if the intent is good.”

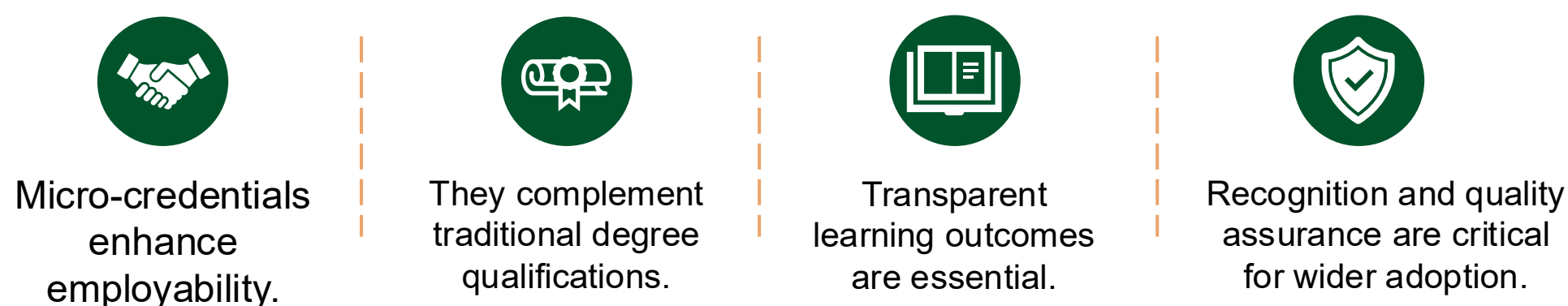
- Faculty Participant

Key Interpretation

While stakeholders recognise the value of micro-credentials, concerns regarding recognition, standardisation, quality assurance, and employer acceptance continue to limit wider adoption.

3.4 INTEGRATED FINDINGS

What Stakeholders Agree On



Integrated Conclusion

Stakeholders value micro-credentials for enhancing employability; however, wider adoption in UAE higher education depends on stronger recognition frameworks, quality assurance, and employer engagement.

4. CONCLUSION

- Stakeholders across higher education and industry view micro-credentials as valuable for enhancing employability, addressing skills gaps, and supporting workforce readiness.
- Wider adoption depends on stronger recognition frameworks, quality assurance, standardisation, and employer engagement.

5. FUTURE WORK

- Examine long-term effects of micro-credentials on employability and career progression.
- Compare adoption across public and private higher education institutions.
- Explore perspectives of policymakers, accreditation bodies, alumni, and employers.
- Evaluate micro-credentials in lifelong learning and professional education contexts.

KEY REFERENCES

- Gauthier (2020)
- Hou et al. (2025)
- Maina et al. (2022)
- Oliver (2019)
- Sharma et al. (2024)
- UAE Ministry of Education. (2022)