Certificate in Science in Computing
(Online Directed E-Learning Delivery) (1 Semester)

This is an online learning course that features Directed E-Learning activities such as live online classroom sessions and tutorials/videos on the College's e-learning system. This allows for online class time to be interactive, practical, and focused, with theory-based content being covered outside of class time with self-paced tutorials/videos, and practical content being covered in live online classes with support from lecturers and lab assistants. At certain limited and pre-scheduled times there will be opportunities for on-campus sessions. These on-campus sessions will also be dual delivered so students who do not wish to attend campus for these sessions will have the option of attending them online.

Location: Online

Start Date: The course is expected to start in the week commencing 23rd September

Indicative Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 18.00 - 22.00.

There will also be three hours self-paced learning per week on NCI's Learning Platform weekly. This will not appear on your timetable.

Career Bridge classes will be delivered one day per week in from 17.00 to 18.00. Day to be confirmed.

Duration: One Semester, September to December 2024

Applications: Apply online at www.springboardcourses.ie

Fees: A student contribution fee of €198 is applicable if you are in employment. No fees applicable if you are unemployed. The scheme does not cover any allowance for books and materials.

If a student contribution fee is applicable this must be paid in full no later than Friday, 15th November 2024.

Modules

· Software Development
· Introduction to Databases
· Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks (Elective)
· Statistics (Elective)
· Career Bridge

Electives will run subject to student demand.

Course Description

This online course is ideal for non-technical individuals coming from different industry backgrounds who want to gain a good understanding of all the latest technologies and how to apply them to their businesses and sectors. It is flexibly delivered with guided videos and tutorials for you to watch and take time over during the week and then a live online class where you can discuss and learn from your lecturer and classmates. This programme gives you flexibility in how you study, an accredited qualification and a thorough understanding of key technology areas in 12 weeks of online delivery.

The course gives learners the fundamental computing knowledge needed to enter into the computing industry, or to progress on to further higher education courses. This course is designed with flexibility in mind, allowing learners to work through bespoke video content and guided tutorials during the week, with live online practical classes at the end of the week. Self-paced content is broken into small manageable chunks, and live sessions are designed for live questions and answers based around industry issues and practical problems. The core modules focus on Programming and Databases, specifically Java Programming and SQL. The course also offers two specialisations to choose from. Each specialisation element is a focused module designed to bring the learners quickly to the industry entry standard for the chosen specialisation. The specialisations (subject to availability) are:

· Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks
· Statistics

The Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks specialisation provides learners with the knowledge and skills to work with core computer systems. Learners will gain practical knowledge and skills in core areas of computing such as:

· VMware
· PowerShell
· CommandLine
· Windows OS
· Linux OS / Ubuntu
· Cloud Services (AWS / Azure)
· PC Hardware

The Statistics module will give learners the core skills needed to clean and analyse data using a variety of popular industry ready skills and tools such as:

· Data Analytics
· Descriptive Statistics
· T-Tests
· Probability
· SPSS/Excel

As graduates are from other disciplines and with work experience, learners will have life skills and experiences that they bring with them on to the programme and into a new subject domain. Therefore, they are eligible for a number of roles. They could work in positions that are in-line with their skills but in the ICT sector or apply ICT knowledge gained through this programme to their current role.

Academic Entry Requirements

Learners who have a level 5 or higher awards in the areas of computing, computer science, IT etc., will be considered. For those without a computing background, a level 8 degree or its equivalent in any discipline is required. Applicants who do not meet the above criteria will also be considered on an individual basis. The college operates a Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme meaning applicants who do not meet the normal academic requirements may be considered based on extensive relevant work and other experience. This may be assessed using a portfolio of learning, demonstration of work produced, and interview.

Non-English speaking applicants must demonstrate fluency in the English language as demonstrated by an IELTS academic score of at least 6.0 or equivalent. English Language Requirements | National College of Ireland (ncirl.ie).

Laptop Requirements

This programme has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy. Specifically, students are expected to successfully participate in lectures, laboratories and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration. A suitable configuration is 8GB of RAM (16GB are recommended); a modern 64-bit x86 processor (Intel i5 or superior); 250+ GB of available space in hard disk; WiFi card; and a recent version of Ubuntu, macOS or Windows. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their laptop is functioning correctly and that they have full administrator rights to the machine. NCI IT does not provide support for personal devices.

The course requires internet access you will be required to ensure you have sufficient broadband speed and reliable connectivity from your place of study.

Free Laptop loan for eligible students on this course: Students who are eligible for HEA funding for this course may also be eligible for a free laptop provided on a loan basis for the duration of the programme. This will be a suitable specification machine for completion of the programme but must be returned once you have finished your course. Overall numbers of laptops available are subject to maximum numbers and no other alternatives can be offered.

Check *https://www.ncirl.ie/Laptop-Loan-Scheme* for updates on the next opening date for applications.

Award and Progression

The Certificate in Science in Computing is awarded by QQI at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Students who successfully complete this course may be eligible to progress to a major award at Higher Diploma or Masters level on the NFQ.

Assessment

Please note in some cases exams and assessments may take place in the daytime, evening or weekends.