MSc/Graduate Diploma Digital Policy

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time Full remote attendance now available)

Introduction

Digital technologies underpin all areas of society and the economy, from work to leisure to political participation. However, as technological developments in the field of digital and data science accelerate, balancing the rights of citizens while investing in the possibilities afforded by digital technologies remains tricky for legislators, policy makers, and the private sector alike. New technologies emerge and create new challenges even as organisations and governments struggle with creating appropriate responses for today.

Challenges in digital policy arise for numerous reasons, across all sectors, and evolve quickly. It is often the case that those with the knowledge and skills to develop new technologies are not aware of the broader implications of these new technologies. On the other hand, those tasked with developing, implementing, and evaluating governance and policy in the digital arena are not familiar with the ways in which technologies evolve or their potential effects and consequences. The universe of complex digital technologies is vast; there is no simple "one shot fix" that can govern all technologies. Our interdisciplinary Digital Policy programmes, that flow from content developed at our UCD Centre for Digital Policy, are designed to offer graduates the opportunity to study some of the core topical, theoretical, and methodological issues that arise today.

Programme Highlight

With support from Microsoft Ireland, UCD's School of Information and Communication studies presents the Microsoft-UCD Digital Policy Programme with the goal of building digital policy training and capability.

Our Graduate Diploma course and MSc course, in addition to related initiatives, will build on existing expertise and infrastructure across government, industry, civil society and academia to address the increased demand for digital policy knowledge and skills.

Programme Content and Structure

MSc		Graduate Diploma
90 credits Taught Masters = **60 credits** Core Modules + **30 credits** Thesis		**60 credits** Core Modules

Modules:

- Digital Policy I
- Research Theory and Practice
- Data & Society
- Digital Policy II
- AI and Ethics
- Quantitative Data analysis
- Platform Governance
- Media Law & Policy
- Thesis

The Graduate Diploma is 60 credits with no thesis requirement.

Our modules are designed to provide students the option to join remotely if they can't attend our on-campus modules.

Why study at UCD?

Graduate Education
12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs

Graduate Employability
Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking

Global Careers
Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland

Global Community
8,500 international students and a 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries

Global Profile
UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide

Welcoming Campus
Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports

Career Opportunities

Our MSc degree aims to produce future professionals with a deep understanding of both theoretical and applied issues in digital policy. On graduating, our students will be able to embark on a variety of careers in Ireland, the EU and globally.

Our Digital Policy programme is designed to prepare graduates for careers in evaluating, implementing, and studying core topical, theoretical, and methodological issues that arise in digital policy today. It paves the way towards a PhD in this area or careers in government, civil society and tech industry.

Some examples of companies where professionals have come from are Microsoft, Twitter, Meta, Media Commission, Department of Justice, Digital Action, and Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

Accolades:

- "bowled over by how fantastically run this course was" and "the engagement of the class made up of civil society, industy, media and academia"

- "Huge credit to Liz and the UCD Team for curating a week of interesting modules" and "a valuable reminder of academic and civil society perspectives"

- "Excellent contributors"

About the School

The UCD School of Information and Communication Studies (ICS) is the only Irish member of the prestigious iSchools consortium, an international, university-level organisation devoted to understanding the role of information in society.

Academic Profile

Elizabeth Farries
Assistant Professor
Programme Director

Dr Farries is a lecturer in the school of Information and Communities Studies and programme director of the MSc, Graduate Diploma and Professional Certificate programmes in Digital Policy. Co-director of the UCD Centre for Digital Policy, and a senior fellow with the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations. She is a qualified lawyer in Canada and a member of the Law Society of British Columbia. She is a member of several public interest boards and working groups.

Elizabeth's research lies at the intersection of new technologies and regulation. She has a particular interest in digital policy cycles and assemblages emerging in the Digital Transformation. Her related research interests include gendered safety online, secure and private online communications, digital identities, as well as policing surveillance technologies, pandemic technologies, data retention and protection, and international intelligence sharing. She considers these topics in relation to technological impacts on vulnerability and special interest communities.

Applicant Profile

- Applicants should present with a primary (bachelor's) degree in any subject with an overall score of 2.1 or higher.

- Names and contact details of two referees who can assess their intellectual ability, maturity and motivation.

- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

- While applications are accepted up to August of the year of entry, offers are made to suitably qualified candidates on a first-come-first-served basis. Early application is recommended as entry to the programmes is very competitive and the number of places is limited.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on **www.ucd.ie/fees**. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see **www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships** for further information.

Our Centre offers a number of scholarships for EU students applying to the MSc. Please inquire at the contact details below.

Related Educational Offering

Professional Certificate in Digital Policy

Running in the autumn term from September to December, this one term module is offered fully online Wednesdays from 2 - 4 pm. It is developed as both an introduction to Digital 4.0 policy concepts or an opportunity to upskill.