



Professional Certificate Digital Policy

One Semester | Autumn Term
Online | Wednesdays from 2-4pm



Introduction

With support from Microsoft Ireland, UCD's School of Information and Communication studies is establishing the Microsoft-UCD Digital Policy Professional Certificate and the UCD Centre for Digital Policy with the goal of building digital policy training and capability in Ireland and Europe. The innovative programme mixes the applied and the abstract. It introduces students to basic concepts and issues in digital policy while also providing a crucial historical and critical understanding of digital policy developments.

Concepts covered include platform capitalism and governance, artificial intelligence, child protection online, online safety, cybersecurity, data infrastructures, information analytics, interface critique and software studies, among others. The Professional Certificate in Digital Policy is designed to prepare graduates for careers in government, non-governmental organisations, and technology industry in Ireland and internationally. The programme is built around stakeholder engagement and it will allow students to successfully expand their network of career opportunities internationally.

Programme Highlight

The course will take a multi-disciplinary approach to investigating the institutional and public policy dimensions of the prevalence of digital technology, as well as the underlying social conditions (economic, political, and cultural) and public/private sector contexts that give rise to such technologies and their governance.

Content will include lectures and hands-on exercises by academics, representatives from digital industries, and representatives of civil society.

Programme Content and Structure

Core Module

IS40920
Digital Policy Issues & Trends

Knowledge and understanding

- Understand both theoretical and applied issues in digital policy
- Demonstrate advanced conceptual knowledge of digital technologies and their implications for socio-political life
- Understand the dilemmas and tensions involved in regulating digital technologies

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Critically appraise evidence from research papers concerning topics in digital policy
- Critically evaluate existing digital policies and policy proposals and their limitations

Making judgements

- Systematically analyse the research literature in a key area of digital policy as part of their dissertation
- Decide, under guidance, on appropriate methodology and materials to be analysed for their dissertation

Communications and working skills

- Articulate theoretical concepts, current debates and research findings to both specialist and non-specialist audiences from a digital policy perspective
- Work effectively with peers in learning, research, and presentation

Learning skills

- Collect or source data using research methodologies taught on the programme
- Engage in independent research and analysis

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

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:

- "bowed over by how fantastically run this course was" and "the engagement of the class made up of civil society, industry, 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"

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 demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 7 (no band less than 6.5 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 so early application is recommended. Entry to the programmes is very competitive and the number of places is limited.

Why Study it?

Digital Policy is in demand due to the growing impact and transformative powers of digital technologies on societies, businesses, economies, and the environment. It is a skill requirement for the future because the design and impacts of new digital technologies are developing at a rapid pace creating the need for new capabilities amongst private and public sectors around the world

Did you know that if companies/organisations had a Digital Policy expert they would contribute to the creation of appropriate responses to new technologies and their associated challenges and opportunities? With the prevalence of digital technology, its effects and consequences, digital policy graduates will be equipped with developing, implementing, and evaluating governance and policy in the digital arena.

Fees and Scholarships

EU fee per year: €920*
Non-EU citizens: €920*

Some fee waivers are available for human rights, NGO and community organisation works and people in the global south who email a one paragraph statement of interest to: elizabeth.farries@ucd.ie.

**Fees are subject to change*

Related Educational Offering

MSc Digital Policy

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, data retention and protection, and international intelligence sharing. She considers these topics in relation to technological impacts on vulnerability and special interest communities.

CONTACT US

EU Students

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International Students

e: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie
w: www.ucd.ie/global

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This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online:

www.ucd.ie/apply



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