



# Professional Certificate Digital Policy

One Semester | Autumn Term  
Online/on Campus | Wednesdays 2-4pm

## Introduction

With support from Microsoft Ireland, UCD's School of Information and Communication Studies has established the Microsoft-UCD Digital Policy Professional Certificate with the goal of building digital policy training and capability in Ireland and Europe.

The programme advances an understanding of Digital Policy - a term that broadly encompasses regulation of new technologies including AI, Internet, Data, Media, and Communication Technologies Regulation - for those already in or seeking to expand their knowledge of the area.

The Professional Certificate is designed to prepare graduates and those seeking to upskill and enhance their expertise for government, non-government and technology-based careers in Ireland and internationally via hybrid (synchronous online and off) lectures, adaptable learning opportunities and engagement with industry-based stakeholders.

The Certificate also opens further education opportunities, such as the School of Information and Communication Studies' MSc/ Graduate Diploma in Digital Policy.

## Programme Highlight

The programme welcomes regular stakeholder engagement and interaction, with guest speakers from the tech, industry and civil society, allowing students to successfully expand their networks and career opportunities.

Content will include lectures, class discussions and hands-on exercises.

Lectures are delivered both online and on campus, providing a hybrid and adaptable learning environment.

## Programme Content and Structure

Core Module

IS40920

Digital Policy Issues & Trends

### Knowledge and understanding

- Understand both theoretical and applied issues in digital policy
- Understand the dilemmas and tensions involved in regulating digital technologies
- Identify and analyse key laws and policies in relation to a range of relevant topics
- Identify stakeholders involved in digital policy making in Ireland, Europe and internationally and understand digital policy making from perspective of various stakeholders
- Demonstrate advanced conceptual and critical knowledge of digital technologies and their implications for socio-political life

### Developing Research and Learning Skills

- Critically appraise evidence from research papers concerning topics in digital policy
- Evaluate existing digital policies and policy proposals and their limitations
- Systematically analyse key research and literature on digital policy
- Develop methodological skills for analysis and evaluation of data and information
- Engage in independent and collaborative research and analysis with peers, educators and stakeholders
- Collect or source data using research methodologies taught on the programme

### 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
- Increase employability prospects by networking with government, industry and non-governmental organisations in Ireland and internationally

### Student Requirements and Engagement

- 24 lecture hours over semester
- 100 autonomous research hours over semester
- Students are assessed via a practical skills assignment and essay

## Why study at UCD?



### Graduate Education

Ireland's leader in postgraduate education with over 12,000 graduate students



### 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 for international students



### Global Community

Over 9,000 international students and over 310,000 alumni networked across 185 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. Our graduates have secured employment in a wide range of organisations, from technology industry, to governments and non-governmental organisations. The programme offers multiple networking opportunities for interaction with a wide range of stakeholders.

- "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"

## Applicant Requirements

- 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.

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

Programme Director Elizabeth Farries

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w: [digitalpolicy.ie](http://digitalpolicy.ie)

x @DigitalPolicyIE | UCD Centre for Digital Policy

## Why Study it?

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.

As evidenced by the EU's Digital Services Act, the developing AI Act and Ireland's Online Safety Code, Digital Policy has never been of more importance. With the growing impact and transformative power of digital technologies on societies, businesses, economies and the environment, expertise in this field has never been more necessary.

"Microsoft is delighted to support the UCD Digital Policy Masters programme as it brings a unique mix of academic disciplines, government expertise, industry insights and crucial civil society voices to the conversation. Numerous Microsoft colleagues and other industry and Trade Association executives have taken the courses and all have positive feedback"

**Ciarán Conlon**

Director of Public Policy, Microsoft Ireland/WE

## 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](mailto:elizabeth.farries@ucd.ie).

*\*Fees are subject to change*

## Related Educational Offering

**MSc Digital Policy**

## Academic Profiles



**Dr Elizabeth Farries** | Programme Director

Dr Elizabeth Farries is Programme Director of the MSc, Graduate Diploma and Professional Certificate programmes in Digital Policy, Director of the UCD Centre for Digital Policy (with Prof Siapera), an assistant professor in the school of Information and Communities Studies. Liz is a fellow with the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations, qualified as a barrister and solicitor in Canada, and is commencing EU Horizon Funded research in successful AI regulation (2025 - 27).



**Dr. Tijana Milosevic**

Assistant professor, UCD School of Information and Communication Studies

Dr. Tijana Milosevic is an Assistant professor at UCD School of Information and Communication Studies (ICS). Tijana's main area of study is children and young people's digital media use and how it impacts their wellbeing; as well as exposure to online risks, such as cyberbullying. Tijana has published over 20 academic articles in interdisciplinary journals such as *New Media & Society*, *Social Media & Society* and *International Journal of Communication*, among others, and she is also the author of "Protecting Children Online: Cyberbullying Policies of Social Media Companies" (MIT Press, 2018). She is currently a member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and European Commission.

### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online:

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)



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