



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 seminar 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 interactive seminar (synchronous online and off) lectures, adaptable learning opportunities and engagement with industry and policy based stakeholders.

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

Programme Highlight

The programme welcomes regular stakeholder engagement and interaction, with guest speakers from the IT and tech industry, civil society and more, 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 from multiple stakeholders perspectives
- 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



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland for international students



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Community

Over 9,000 international students and over 310,000 alumni across 185 countries



Global Profile

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



Welcoming Campus

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



Career Opportunities

The programme has welcomed professionals seeking to upskill from a range of companies and organisations, including Microsoft, X (formerly Twitter), Meta, the Media Commission, the Department of Justice, Digital Action and the 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.

Alumni Testimony:

"Bowled over by how fantastically run this course was" | "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" | "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 6.5 (no band less than 6 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-serve basis so early application is recommended. Entry to the programmes is very competitive and the number of places is limited.

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.

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 & AI 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 Communication. 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).



Adj. Prof. Ciarán Conlon
UCD SPIRe
Microsoft director of Public Policy, Ireland

Microsoft are proud to support the UCD Centre for Digital Policy as we understand and embrace a collaborative and open dialogue on the important public policy issues related to the wider digital agenda. With over 400 students having taken part in the courses (MSc, Diploma and Prof. Cert.) run by the programme since commencement in 2020, the work of the Centre is becoming an increasingly important contributor to, and facilitator of, these conversations between academia, government, industry and civic society. In a policy arena as fast paced and complex as the digital arena, the role and purpose of the Centre for Digital Policy Studies and the courses it runs is only going to grow in importance.

CONTACT US

EU Students

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in UCD Centre for Digital Policy

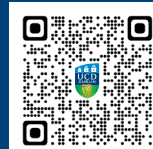
International Students

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

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online:

www.ucd.ie/apply



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