



National  
College of  
Ireland

# Free College Places for the unemployed

## ICT Skills Programme

If you are an unemployed graduate wishing to convert your skills to a career in information and communications technology, it is now possible for you to do the following courses at National College of Ireland free of charge.

**Higher Diploma in Web Technologies (level 8)**

**Higher Diploma in Computing in Software Development (level 8)**

Places are strictly limited.

ICT Skills Programme



National College of Ireland, Mayor Street, IFSC, Dublin 1  
www.ncirl.ie Tel: 1850 221 721 Email: heaict@ncirl.ie

# Higher Diploma in Web Technologies

## Programme Description:

The programme will allow you to make the transition into the world of computing and web technologies. Initially you will receive an excellent grounding in the fundamentals of computing and then move on to more specialist skills in web technologies in the second semester.

As a graduate of this programme you will be able to create a web application, understand the latest web 2.0 technologies, create rich internet applications and engineer a web application from requirements through analysis design and testing. The course is highly practical and will give you real skills that mean you can access one of the fastest growing job areas in Ireland today.

The programme also includes a Career Bridge element which aims to help you use your valuable new qualification to get back into the workforce. This will include specialist advice on career management, how to find a job, CV and interview training, networking advice and a range of specialist advice from career experts. The programme also includes a work placement element within a computing role. This placement will greatly enhance your employability and give you access to the many companies in Ireland today who are actively seeking to employ graduates from programmes such as this one.

## Career Prospects

Web technologies and cloud computing are set to be some of the main areas of job growth over the coming years and this programme provides graduates from other disciplines with the opportunity to transfer into this area. This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills to take up roles such as web application developer, webmaster or other business roles where a strong understanding of the possibilities of web technologies is required. This programme has been developed due to demand from industry for skilled graduates in this area as there are currently a large number of unfilled positions in indigenous Irish companies and multinationals.

## Who the Programme is For

It is ideal for graduates with a level 8 degree who are coming from a different background but wish to transfer into the world of information technology and the web. It is also ideal for those thinking about establishing an online business. While you do not need to be coming from a computing background, it should be noted that the programme contains a large amount of technical content, as well as independent study on projects and assessments. Given the content and the timescale you will need to have a strong commitment to the programme and a willingness to fully engage with the technical content.

## Award and Progression

The Higher Diploma in Science in Web Technologies is awarded by HETAC at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Students who successfully complete this programme may progress to a major award at level 9 such as the NCI Master of Science in Web Technologies or other MSc programmes in computing.

### Duration

1 year – 2 academic semesters  
of 13 weeks each

### Indicative Schedule

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
18.30 - 22.30 and every second  
Saturday 09.00 - 17.00

### Application

All applications must be submitted  
on [www.bluebrick.ie](http://www.bluebrick.ie)

### Location

IFSC Campus

### Start Date

Exact start dates to be confirmed.  
The course is expected to commence  
the 16th April 2012.

### Fees

Free to eligible unemployed persons.  
Please note the scheme does not cover any allowance for  
books or other materials. NCI has a number of online  
resources and a well-resourced library for all students.



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## Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants holding an honours degree (level 8 or equivalent) in any discipline will be considered for the programme.

Candidates will ideally be able to demonstrate technical or mathematical problem solving skills as part of previous programme learning. Typically holders of more technical, numerate degrees are likely to gain a higher ranking in any order of merit in selection for the programme. Typical disciplines which would fall into this category would be:

- Engineering
- Architecture
- Mathematics
- Physics

Some candidates will also have gained a minimum of a level 8 qualification in a programme with a significant IT component and/or significant numerate element. Such programmes vary greatly in mathematical and information technology content and assessment would be by detailed examination of subject content, assessments and syllabi. Typical programmes which would fall into this category could include:

- Management Information Systems
- Accounting
- Business
- Management

Candidates with other level 8 honours degrees will also be considered on a case by case basis, built upon their ability to demonstrate technical or mathematical problem solving skills and a commitment to fully engage with the programme. This may require an interview and candidate assessment session.

The college operates a Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme meaning applicants who do not meet the normal academic requirements of a level 8 degree for this programme, may be considered based on relevant work and other experience. This may be assessed using a portfolio of learning, demonstration of work produced and interview.

## Assessment

The course will be assessed with a limited number of exams (counting for approximately 30%), continuous assessment during semester and project work. The aim is to give you skills you can take to the workplace immediately and much of the assessments will be real-world based projects and continuous assessment.

## Programme Content

### *Semester 1*

- Introduction to Computing and Web Technologies
- Client Side Web Technologies
- Server Side Web Technologies

### *Semester 2*

- Web Application Development
- Rich Internet Applications
- Project
- Career Bridge
  - Work Experience (non-credit bearing)

**Note:** First semester exams will take place in early August. Second semester will commence in late September with final exams in January 2013. The final project is scheduled to commence in the second semester and to be completed after January. Work experience element is planned for after January. (Some timings may be subject to change)



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# Higher Diploma in Computing in Software Development

## Programme Description

Initially, this programme will give you a general grounding in computing. As you progress, it will provide you with more specialist skills in developing software to solve real world problems, and to avail of the many job opportunities available in software development.

In the first semester you will cover a broad range of topics which will give you an ideal grounding in the world of computing. You will cover the fundamentals of computing and areas such as software development, systems analysis and testing, databases, architecture, operating systems and web design. If you are coming from a non-computing background this semester will give you a solid foundation in the theory, concepts and methods employed in the modern information and communications technology industry.

Moving on from this foundation, in the second semester you will progress to developing detailed knowledge, problem-solving and technical skills in the area of software development. You will learn how to use various tools to design and develop software applications.

The programme also includes a Career Bridge element which aims to help you use your valuable new qualification to get back into the workforce. This will include specialist advice on career management, how to find a job, CV and interview training, networking advice and a range of specialist advice from career experts. The programme also includes a work placement element within a computing or software role. This placement will greatly enhance your employability and give you access to the many companies in Ireland today who are actively seeking to employ graduates from programmes such as this one.

## Career Prospects

The skills you learn on this programme will enable you to work as a software engineer and developer individually and in a collaborative group environment. There is currently a significant skills shortage with companies unable to fill roles in software development. This programme has been developed in partnership with industry and reflects the real needs of companies in the ICT sector and will enable the successful graduate to avail of these opportunities.

## Who is the Programme For?

It is ideal for graduates with a level 8 degree who are coming from a different background but wish to transfer into the world of information technology and software development. While you do not need to be coming from a computing background, it should be noted that the programme contains a large amount of technical content, as well as independent study on projects and assessments. Given the content and the timescale you will need to have a strong commitment to the programme and a willingness to fully engage with the technical content.

## Award and Progression

The Higher Diploma in Computing in Software Development is awarded by HETAC at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Students who successfully complete this programme may progress to a major award at level 9 such as the NCI Master of Science in Web Technologies or other MSC programmes in software

### Duration

1 year – 2 academic semesters of 13 weeks each

### Indicative Schedule

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
17.30 - 22.30  
and every second Saturday 09.00 - 13.00

### Application

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## Programme Content

### *Semester 1*

- Object Oriented Software Engineering
- Software Development
- Web Design
- Computer Architecture, operating systems and networks
- Introduction to Databases

### *Semester 2*

- Advanced Programming
- Data Structures and Algorithms
- Web Services and API Development
- Project
- Career Bridge
  - Work Experience (non-credit bearing)

**Note:** First semester exams will take place in early August. Second semester will commence in late September with final exams in January 2013. The final project is scheduled to commence in the second semester and to be completed after January. Work experience element is planned for after January. (Some timings may be subject to change)



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## Eligibility

This scheme allows for 100% funding of the tuition cost of these programmes. The scheme is open to all those who are in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance or Benefit prior to the commencement of the course.

## Application

All applications should be submitted through [www.bluebrick.ie](http://www.bluebrick.ie)

You will be required to provide relevant documentation and confirmation of eligibility for funding under the scheme from your local social welfare office.

Please note participants must meet NCI's academic admission criteria for any courses. Eligibility for funding does not infer eligibility for the course.

All courses run subject to student numbers.

## Social welfare payments

For social welfare payments, participants on these programmes will retain their payments subject to them meeting the normal requirements of being available for and seeking employment.

## Course Funding in the event of obtaining a job

Should you obtain a job during your course of study the funding will remain in place for the duration of your course. The timing of the classes is aimed to allow people to work and study at the same time. If you do gain employment during the course please contact us to see how we can best facilitate you completing your course.

## About NCI

National College of Ireland is located in the heart of Dublin's IFSC. We are five minutes from Busáras and Connolly Station and are well served by buses. We are also on the red line Luas with our stop at NCI/Mayor Square.

National College of Ireland has almost four thousand students studying from Certificate to PhD level at our IFSC campus. The college has particular expertise in management education and computing and has been recognised as a national centre for cloud computing and web technologies. NCI has over 60 years' experience working with adult learners. All our programmes under this scheme are accredited by HETAC, so they are recognised nationally and internationally. The college provides a supportive learning environment and tailored facilities and assistance for students who may be returning to education after a number of years. NCI has been very successful with previous educational initiatives for the unemployed and for those who are looking to change career direction. Our programmes offered under this initiative will allow you to move into the areas of information and communications technology, web technologies and cloud computing. There is currently a strong market demand for those with cloud computing and web technology skills and student feedback has been that our courses in this area have accelerated their return to the workforce. In particular we offer support to help you use your new qualification to access new job opportunities through our careers service and strong links to industry. All our programmes are practical and are delivered by industry experts.

## For Further Information Contact

Admissions  
Tel: 1850 221 721  
Email: [heaict@ncirl.ie](mailto:heaict@ncirl.ie)  
Web: [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)

## Information Sessions

National College of Ireland will host information sessions so you can discuss the programme and decide which course is right for you. See our website [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie) for more details.