

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in AI for Business

(Online Directed E-Learning delivery)

This is an online learning course that features Directed E-Learning activities such as live online classroom sessions and tutorials/videos on the College's e-learning system. This allows for online class time to be interactive, practical, and focused, with theory-based content being covered outside of class time with self-paced tutorials/videos, and practical content being covered in live online classes with support from lecturers.

Location: Online

Start Date: This course is expected to start in the week commencing 21st September 2026.

Indicative Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 18.00 - 22.00.

There will also be on average four hours self-paced learning per week on NCI's Learning Platform weekly. This will not appear on your timetable.

Career Bridge classes will be delivered one day per week in Semester one from 17.00 to 18.00. Day to be confirmed.

Duration: September to December 2026, January to May 2027 and May to August 2027.

Applications: Apply online at <https://springboardcourses.ie>

Fees: A student contribution fee of €700 is applicable if you are in employment. No fees applicable if you are unemployed. The scheme does not cover any allowance for books and materials.

If a student contribution fee is applicable this must be paid in full no later than Friday 13th of November 2026.

Course Description

This Postgraduate Diploma in Science in AI for Business aims to produce high-quality, technically competent graduates with strong business acumen, alongside the leadership and innovation skills required to apply artificial intelligence effectively in organisational contexts. The programme prepares learners to design, implement, and lead AI-driven solutions that deliver strategic value and support data-informed decision-making across industries. The PGD in AI for Business contains modules that aim to provide learners with a high level of AI knowledge, understanding the impacts of human factors and engagement in AI, and understanding the operationalisation and application of AI. All students will gain a deeper understanding of the complete development lifecycle of AI software applications, from requirements elicitation and analysis, implementation, decision making, evaluation, and documentation. The course will be delivered using academic research, industry defined practical problems, and case studies. This approach will naturally provide a deeper knowledge of AI for business and create skills required in industry such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creative thinking, communication, teamwork and research skills.

On successful completion of this programme a learner will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of AI systems (ML, DL, GenAI, optimisation), key tools, and their appropriate application in professional contexts.
- Design, implement, and evaluate practical AI solutions using contemporary industry practices and foundational MLOps (versioning, testing, packaging, basic deployment).
- Select and apply suitable AI techniques and tools to defined problems; compare alternatives and justify choices using appropriate metrics and evidence.
- Communicate and document AI designs

and evaluations clearly; work effectively in teams using reproducible, professional engineering practices.

- Critically assess and evaluate ethical, sustainable, and responsible issues associated with the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence systems.

Career Prospects

The Postgraduate Diploma in Science in AI for Business is designed to meet the evolving needs of the IT sector while advancing graduates' career opportunities. This programme equips students with in-demand skills at the intersection of artificial intelligence and business innovation.

Award and Progression

The Postgraduate Diploma of Science in AI for Business is awarded by QQI at level 9 on the National Framework for Qualifications. Students who successfully complete this course may top up to the MSc in AI for Business at National College of Ireland (This is not included under Springboard + - an additional fee would apply).

Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to hold a minimum of a Level 8 honours qualification (2.2 or higher) or equivalent on the National Qualifications Framework in either STEM (e.g., Information Management Systems, Information Technologies, Computer Science, Computer Engineer) or Business (e.g., Business Information Systems, Business Administration, Economics) discipline.

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

programming ability of the applicant will also be assessed.

Non-English speaking applicants must demonstrate fluency in the English language as demonstrated by an IELTS academic score of at least 6.0 or equivalent. Visit <https://www.ncirl.ie/English-Language-Requirements-International> for more information.

Laptop Requirements

This programme has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy. Specifically, students are expected to successfully participate in lectures, online lab works and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration.

A suitable minimum specification is 16GB RAM (32GB recommended), a modern Intel i7 /AMD Ryzen 7/ Apple Silicon equivalent processor, at least 256GB SSD storage (512GB recommended), reliable Wi-Fi, and a recent version of Ubuntu, macOS, or Windows. Students must have full administrator rights on their device in order to install and configure required software and development tools. Access to a webcam, microphone, and power supply for extended lab sessions is also expected.

For online examinations, students will require access to both a webcam and a smartphone for online proctoring.

Assessment

The course will be assessed with a blend of continuous assessments and/or project work and exams. This varies between modules but typically assessment is 50% continuous assessment and 50% exam Please note that in some instances exams may take place in the daytime, evenings, and at weekends.

Course Content

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Semester 1

- Data Governance, Ethics and Sustainability
- Principles of Artificial Intelligence
- Strategic AI for Business and Leadership
- Career Bridge*

Semester 2

- AI Technologies
- AI for Society and Enterprise
- Customer Experience and Product Management

Semester 3

- Intelligent Agents and Process Automation
- Generative AI for Business
- Explainable and Emerging AI Technologies

*Career Bridge is a compulsory (non-accredited) module of the Springboard+ programme. Students are required to participate unless formally exempt. For full details, please see page 16).

Your Careers Advisor will support you during the course and for up to three months after completion, helping you to prepare for and apply to relevant employment opportunities.