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 22nd September 2025.

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 2025, January to May 2026 and May to August 2026.

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 14th of November 2025.

Course Description

Postgraduate Diploma in AI for Business is a blended/online one-year course delivered over three semesters that provides students with essential knowledge, skills, and competence to understand the impacts, design, application, and operationalisation of AI solutions in business contexts. Students will gain in-depth AI knowledge, understanding of impacts of human factors and engagement in AI and understanding the operationalisation and application of AI in various fields through sustainable solutions. The course features Career Bridge, a non-credit module enhancing employability skills and job coaching. Learners can also apply their knowledge through a three-month work placement.

The course was developed in consultation with leading tech firms and data-driven enterprises in Ireland which include Microsoft, IBM, Accenture, SAP, Mastercard, Fenergo, Workday, and Citi Bank. Regular feedback from industry partners ensures that the curriculum aligns with current market needs. Enterprise demand for this course is evidenced by partnerships with local tech companies that have committed to offering internships and project collaborations. With Ireland's growing Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector and government initiatives supporting AI innovation, the demand for qualified professionals in this field is steadily increasing.
The course targets graduates from STEM disciplines, professionals seeking career transitions into AI integration across industries, and individuals wishing to upskill for AI-related roles in various business context Special emphasis is placed on applicants with backgrounds in computing, engineering, mathematics, and data science. Machine learning engineers, AI specialists, data scientists, and automation engineers are among the most in-demand professions, particularly in fintech, cybersecurity, and cloud-based AI services. This course meets these demands by integrating industry-aligned content and practical applications of AI/ML technologies.

Ireland's Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector is experiencing significant growth, contributing to record employment levels across the country. As of the third quarter of 2024, the employment rate reached 80.3%, surpassing the euro area average of 75.4%. This robust job market reflects the country's economic resilience and the success of government policies aimed at fostering innovation and job creation. The demand for AI professionals is evident in various sectors, including information and communications technology (ICT), pharmaceuticals, construction, and renewable energy.

To address the growing need for specialized skills, the Irish government has identified AI as a critical area for job growth. The National AI Strategy, 'AI – Here for Good,' launched in July 2021 and refreshed in 2024, serves as a roadmap for leveraging AI to unlock productivity, address societal challenges, and deliver public services. This strategy emphasizes the necessity for professionals with deep analytical talent, combining advanced statistical and analytical skills with business acumen and effective communication abilities. It also highlights the importance of enhancing educational and training programs to meet these demands.

Furthermore, the share of AI talent in Ireland grew more than 500% between 2016 and 2022, from 0.34% to 2.09% of LinkedIn members, indicating a substantial increase in professionals equipped with AI skills.
This course bridges national strategies with current skill gaps, offering a clear route into rapidly expanding AI careers. It equips graduates with future-ready skills that align with Ireland's AI workforce priorities.

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 in 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 and a minimum of three years of relevant work experience in industry, ideally but not necessarily, in management.

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, laboratories and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration. A suitable configuration is 8GB of RAM (16GB are recommended); a modern 64-bit x86 processor (Intel i5 or superior); 250+ GB of available space in hard disk; WiFi card; and a recent version of Ubuntu, macOS or Windows. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their laptop is functioning correctly and that they have full administrator rights to the machine. NCI IT does not provide support for personal devices. This course requires internet access. You will be required to ensure you have sufficient broadband speed and reliable connectivity from your place of study.

Free Laptop loan for eligible students on this course:

Students who are eligible for HEA funding for this course may also be eligible for a free laptop provided on a loan basis for the duration of the programme. This will be a suitable specification machine for completion of the programme but must be returned once you have finished your course. Overall numbers of laptops available are subject to maximum numbers and no other alternatives can be offered.

Visit **https://www.ncirl.ie/Laptop-Loan-Scheme** for updates on the next opening date for applications.

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 and Ethics
- Foundations of Artificial Intelligence
- Artificial Intelligence Technologies for Business
- Career Bridge

Semester 2:

- Intelligent Agents and Process Automation
- Risk and Change Management
- Human Centred AI

Semester 3:

- Customer Engagement and Artificial Intelligence
- Data Analytics for Business
- Emerging Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Sustainability

Your Careers Advisor will support you in identifying relevant employment during the course or within three months following completion of the course.