

Certificate in Science in Computing

(Online Directed E-Learning Delivery) (1 Semester)

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

Duration: One Semester, September to December 2026.

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

Applications: Apply online at <https://springboardcourse.s.ie>

Indicative Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 18.00 - 22.00.

Fees: A student contribution fee of €215 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.

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

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

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

Course Description

This online course is ideal for non-technical individuals coming from different industry backgrounds who want to gain a good understanding of all the latest technologies and how to apply them to their businesses and sectors. It is flexibly delivered with guided videos and tutorials for you to watch and take time over during the week and then a live online class where you can discuss and learn from your lecturer and classmates. This programme gives you flexibility in how you study, an accredited qualification and a thorough understanding of key technology areas in 12 weeks of online delivery.

The course gives learners the fundamental computing knowledge needed to enter into the computing industry, or to progress on to further higher education courses. This course is designed with flexibility in mind, allowing learners to work through bespoke video content and guided tutorials during the week, with live online practical classes at the end of the week. Self-paced content is broken into small manageable chunks, and live sessions are designed for live questions and answers based around industry issues and practical problems. The core modules focus on Programming and Databases, specifically Java Programming and SQL. The course also offers two specialisations to choose from. Each specialisation element is a focused module designed to bring the learners quickly to the industry entry standard for the chosen specialisation. Students will be asked at Registration to choose their Elective in advance of course commencement. The specialisations (subject to availability) are:

- Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks
- Statistics

The Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks specialisation provides learners with the knowledge and skills to work with core computer systems. Learners will gain practical knowledge and skills in core areas of computing such as:

- VMware
- PowerShell
- CommandLine
- Windows OS
- Linux OS / Ubuntu
- Cloud Services (AWS / Azure)
- PC Hardware

The Statistics module will give learners the core skills needed to clean and analyse data using a variety of popular industry ready skills and tools such as:

- Data Analytics
- Descriptive Statistics
- T-Tests
- Probability
- SPSS/Excel

As graduates are from other disciplines and with work experience, learners will have life skills and experiences that they bring with them on to the programme and into a new subject domain. Therefore, they are eligible for a number of roles. They could work in positions that are in-line with their skills but in the ICT sector or apply ICT knowledge gained through this programme to their current role.

Academic Entry Requirements

Learners who have a level 5 or higher awards in the areas of computing, computer science, IT etc., will be considered. For those without a computing background, a level 8 degree or its equivalent in any discipline is required. Applicants who do not meet the above criteria will also be considered on an individual basis. 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 extensive relevant work and other experience. This may be assessed using a portfolio of learning, demonstration of work produced, and interview.

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.

Award and Progression

The Certificate in Science in Computing is awarded by QQI at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Students who successfully complete this course may be eligible to progress to a major award at Higher Diploma or Masters level on the NFQ.

Assessment

Please note in some cases exams and assessments may take place in the daytime, evening or weekends.

Modules

- Software Development
- Introduction to Databases
- Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks (Elective)
- Statistics (Elective)
- Career Bridge*

*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).

Electives will run subject to student demand.

