HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTING

FACTFILE

Application: Apply online at **www.ncirl.ie**

Part-time Schedule

Start Date
Sept 2026

Duration
2 years; 3 semesters per year. Use of blended learning

Delivery
Blended - Livestream with some on-campus stream classes, scheduled in advance

**Please note that in September 2026, classes may be online only. Students will be informed in advance*

Indicative Timetable
Two evenings per week, 18.00 - 22.00 and Saturdays 09.00 - 18.00

Fees
€4,350 per annum
(Fees revised annually)

Spread the cost with our direct debit plan

Course Description

This Higher Certificate in Computing is an excellent start for those looking to build a career in the world of computing. This course will give you expertise in hardware, software applications, software development, operating systems and data communications. It will give you the skills to pursue a career in the information and communications technology industry.

You will learn how to install new hardware and software, and to configure networks, software and hardware to user requirements. The course will also give you a detailed knowledge of the theory and practice of application development and support including the essentials of multimedia, hardware, software, operating systems and networking.

Who is the course for?

This computing course is ideal for those wishing to develop a career in the information technology sector. You will have the ability to act as a technical support person capable of independent problem-solving and teamwork approaches. It is also an ideal start for further studies.

Award and Progression

The Higher Certificate in Science in Computing is awarded by QQI at level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Upon successful completion students have a number of options open to them. They can progress to year 3 of the BSc (Hons) in Computing (level 8). The course also prepares students for industry-recognised certificates in leading technologies.

Entry Requirements

There are no specific academic requirements as applicants are considered based on relevant work and other experience. Applicants under 21 will be assessed based on Leaving Certificate or equivalent.

Laptop Requirement

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. *he recommended configuration is as follows:*

Processor:
Intel 11th Gen or newer, Core i3 / i5 /i7 or Ultra 3 / 5 /7
Or
AMD 5000 Series or newer, Rzyen 3 / 5 /7
Random Access Memory (RAM): 16GB or greater

Storage:
SSD (Solid State Drive) 256GB or greater

Wireless Card:
802.11 n/ac/ax capability

Recommended Operating Systems:
Windows 11
Later Version of MAC OS should also be fine.
Chromebook's are not recommended.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their computer is functioning correctly and that they have full administrator rights. NCI cannot provide support for these personal devices.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1

Semester 1
- Discrete Mathematics
- Operating Systems
- Computational Thinking
- Programming Concepts

Semester 2
- Computer Architecture
- Introduction to Programming
- Introduction to Data Modelling and Databases

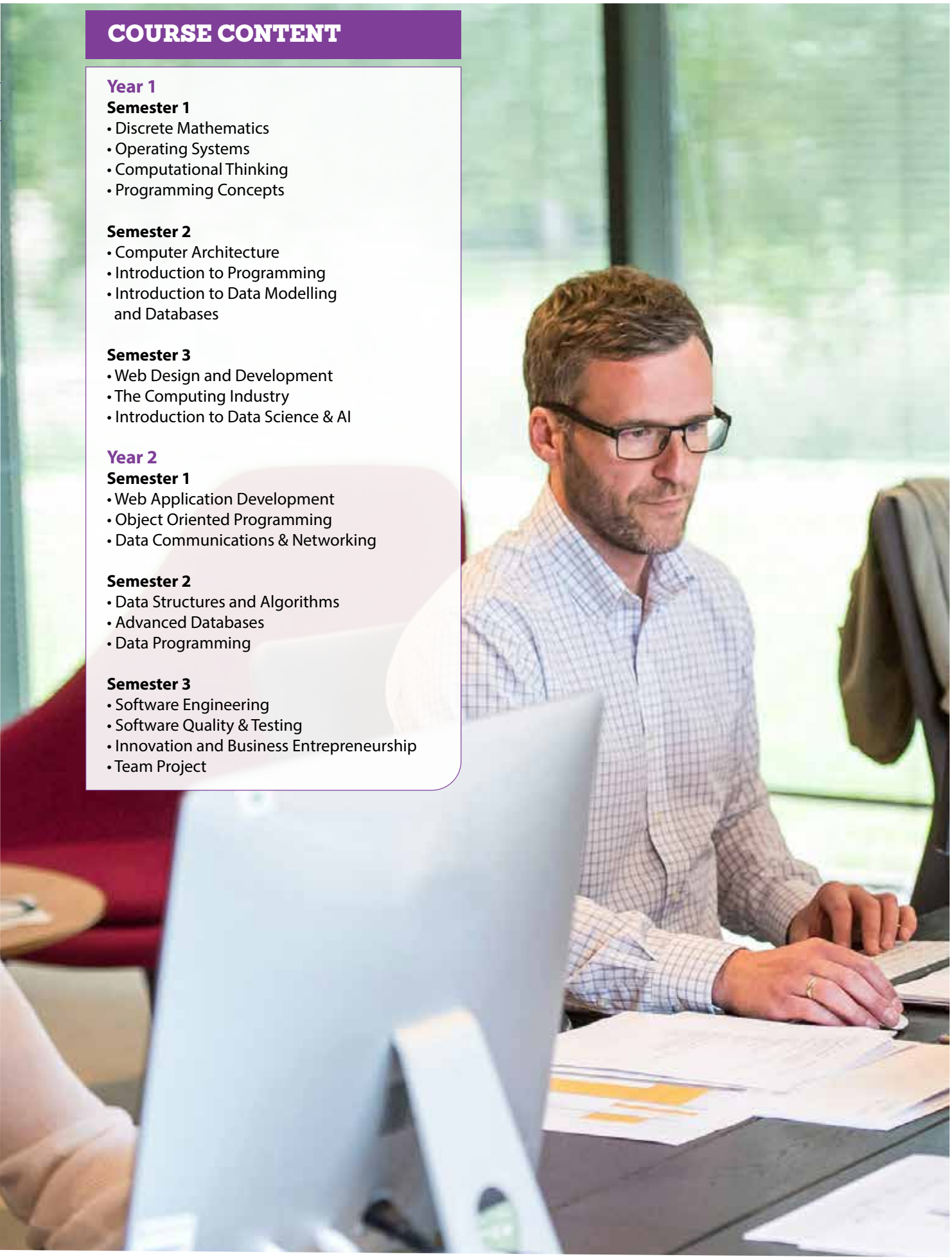
Semester 3
- Web Design and Development
- The Computing Industry
- Introduction to Data Science & AI

Year 2

Semester 1
- Web Application Development
- Object Oriented Programming
- Data Communications & Networking

Semester 2
- Data Structures and Algorithms
- Advanced Databases
- Data Programming

Semester 3
- Software Engineering
- Software Quality & Testing
- Innovation and Business Entrepreneurship
- Team Project



Assessment

The course will be assessed with a blend of continuous assessments and/or project work and exams. Please note that in some instances exams may take place in the daytime, evenings and at weekends.