

# FREE COLLEGE PLACES

at **National College of Ireland**



National  
College of  
Ireland

**100% Funding for all applicants who are unemployed\* | 90% Funding for all applicants who are employed\***

## SKILLS PROVISION COURSES at National College of Ireland

All of these courses are available to eligible participants, regardless of employment status \*

### Courses for December 2020

#### Online Delivery\*

- Higher Diploma in Science in Computing (Level 8) (Cybersecurity)
- Higher Diploma in Science in Computing (Level 8) (Web Development)
- Certificate in Science in Computing (Level 8)

All applications must go through [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)

For more information check out [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)  
or call **1850 2217 21** (then select option 4)

\*The Higher Diploma in Science in Computing courses will be delivered fully online in the first semester, some in-class delivery may be offered in later semesters subject to public health advice. The Certificate course will be delivered fully online for its duration.

\*With restrictions. All eligibility criteria is set out on the website  
<https://www.ncirl.ie/Study/Skills-Provision-Courses/Eligibility-Criteria-for-Skills-Provision-Courses>

# Higher Diploma in Science in Computing

## (With specialisation in Cybersecurity)

Delivered fully online in the first semester, some in-class delivery may be offered in later semesters subject to public health advice.

**Start Date:** The course is expected to start in the week commencing 14th December 2020

**Indicative Schedule:** Online Delivery will take place Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 18.00 - 22.00 and a number of Saturdays 09.00 - 18.00.

**Duration:** Dec to April 2021, May to August 2021 & September to December 2021

### Cybersecurity Specialisation

#### Semester 1

- Software Development
- Object Oriented Software Engineering
- Introduction to Databases
- Web Design and Client Side Scripting

#### Semester 2

- Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks
- Security Principles and Secure Programming
- Network and Web Penetration Testing
- Digital Forensics

#### Semester 3

- Project

### Course Description

This programme will equip you with all the skills to avail of the growing employment opportunities in cybersecurity. It is an ideal programme for those with a qualification in another area who wish to transfer into the world of ICT and to specialise in cybersecurity. The first semester will give you a solid grounding in the computing fundamentals allowing you to move onto more specialist cybersecurity modules.

The Cybersecurity stream provides detailed knowledge, problem-solving and specialised technical skills required for application security development, forensics investigation, application/service vulnerability detection and incident detection.

It is not possible to transfer course streams post registration.

### Career Prospects

In particular this specialisation will equip the graduate for entry-level ICT related positions that require digital forensics investigation, application vulnerability detection, and designing and implementing secure applications.

Of our 2018 graduating class, 90% were in employment within 3 months of completing the programme. Of the 80% employed in a related industry 38% used the programme to upskill and obtain roles within the Cybersecurity industry.

Students who completed this Cybersecurity course have secured roles in: EY (Assistant Manager), ESB (Technical Delivery Lead), CWSI (Service Operations Manager), Veritas Technologies (Senior Business Analyst).

### Who is the course for?

This course will typically appeal to graduates with a level 8 degree from different backgrounds who would wish to change their non-ICT qualification into the computer science field through a level 8 award in computing. Nonetheless, it is noted that the course is technical in nature and will entail a significant amount of independent study. Given the content and the timescale you will need to have a strong commitment to the course and a willingness to fully engage with the technical content.

### Academic Entry Requirements

A level 8 degree or its equivalent in a non-cognate discipline. Non-standard applications will be also 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 entry requirements may be considered based on extensive relevant work and other experience. This may be assessed through a portfolio of learning, demonstration of work produced, an interview and assessment.

### Laptop Requirements

Students are expected to successfully participate in lectures, laboratories and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration. A suitable configuration is 6GB of RAM (8GB or more are recommended); a 64-bit x86 processor (Intel i5 or superior); 250+ GB of hard disk; wifi card; and a recent installed release of Windows operating system. 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 cannot provide support to personal devices.

The 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.

Check <https://www.ncirl.ie/Students/Student-Services/Support-Services/Student-Laptop-Fund> for updates on the next opening date for applications.

### Assessment

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

### Award and Progression

For all streams regardless of specialisation your final award will be a Higher Diploma in Science in Computing as 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 level 9 on the NFQ.

**Fees:** A student contribution fee of €594 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.

# Higher Diploma in Science in Computing

## (With specialisation in Web Development)

Delivered fully online in the first semester, some in-class delivery may be offered in later semesters subject to public health advice.

**Start Date:** The course is expected to start in the week commencing 14th December 2020

**Indicative Schedule:** Online Delivery will take place Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 18.00 - 22.00 and a number of Saturdays 09.00 - 18.00.

**Duration:** Dec to April 2021, May to August 2021 & September to December 2021.

### Web Development Specialisation

#### Semester 1

- Software Development
- Object Oriented Software Engineering
- Introduction to Databases
- Web Design and Client Side Scripting

#### Semester 2

- Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks
- Cloud Application Development
- Advanced Client Side Development
- DevOpsSec

#### Semester 3

- Project

### Course Description

This course is ideal for those who are coming from a different area but who wish to bridge the gap into a career in ICT and to focus on the development of websites and web applications. You will gain the core skills of IT in the first semester such as software development, databases and operating systems, before moving on to modules in web development. The programme provides the opportunity to work in a wide variety of IT roles or to apply web development skills to your current industry sector.

The course teaches students the computing fundamentals, complemented with detailed knowledge, problem-solving and specialised technical skills required for designing, developing and deploying software.

The course offers a specialisation in Web Development, which brings the participants quickly to the graduate standard in this area.

The Web Development stream provides learners with technical and development skills in core topics of web programming covering topics such as advanced client side development, cloud application development and DevOpsSec.

It is not possible to transfer course streams post registration.

### Career Prospects

Graduates from NCI's Higher Diploma in Computing programmes have progressed to successful roles in a wide variety of technical and non-technical roles. This web development specialisation opens up particular opportunities in a broad range of web development roles.

### Who is the course for?

This course will appeal to graduates with a level 8 degree from different backgrounds who would wish to change their non-ICT qualification into the computer science field through a level 8 award in computing.

It will also appeal to technical and nontechnical professionals who would like to upgrade their skills in one of the specialisations provided by this course, helping them to progress faster in their employment or to apply the knowledge in their current role.

### Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants holding an honours degree (level 8) in any discipline will be considered for the course. 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 interview.

### Laptop Requirements

Students are expected to successfully participate in lectures, laboratories and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration. A suitable configuration is 6GB of RAM (8GB or more are recommended); a 64-bit x86 processor (Intel i5

or superior); 250+ GB of hard disk; wifi card; and a recent installed release of Windows operating system. 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 cannot provide support to personal devices.

The 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.

Check <https://www.ncirl.ie/Students/Student-Services/Support-Services/Student-Laptop-Fund> 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. Please note that in some instances exams may take place in the daytime, evenings and at weekends.

### Award and Progression

For all streams regardless of specialisation your final award will be a Higher Diploma in Science in Computing as 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 level 9 on the NFQ.

**Fees:** A student contribution fee of €594 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.

# Certificate in Science in Computing

Delivered fully online.

**Start Date:** The course is expected to start in the week commencing 14th December 2020

## Indicative Schedule

**Online Delivery:** Tuesday and Thursday 18.00 - 22.00. There will also be three hours self-paced learning per week on NCI's Learning Platform. This will not appear on your timetable

**Duration:** This course is one semester.

## Modules

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

**Fees:** A student contribution fee of €194 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.

## Course Description

This online Certificate 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. 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.

Graduates may also avail of entry-level ICT-related positions, depending on the selected specialisation,

such as software developer; cloud application developer; cloud solutions architect; application developer; software tester; technical data analyst.

## Academic Entry Requirements

A level 8 degree or its equivalent in any discipline. Applicants without level 8 qualifications 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.

## Laptop Requirements

Students are expected to successfully participate in lectures, laboratories and projects using a laptop computer with a substantial hardware configuration. A suitable configuration is 6GB of RAM (8GB or more are recommended); a 64-bit x86 processor (Intel i5 or superior); 250+ GB of hard disk; wifi card; and a recent installed release of Windows operating system. 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 cannot provide support to personal devices.

The 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.

Check <https://www.ncirl.ie/Students/Student-Services/Support-Services/Student-Laptop-Fund> for updates on the next opening date for applications.

## Assessment

The course will be assessed with a blend of in course assessments and/or project work and exams. This varies between modules but typically assessment is split 50:50 or 60:40 between continuous assessment and/or project and exam. Please note that in some instances exams may take place in the daytime and at weekends.

## 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.

# APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

## Why Choose NCI

NCI has almost 70 years' experience working with part-time students. All Skills Provision programmes are accredited by QQI, so they are recognised nationally and internationally.

The College provides a supportive environment and tailored facilities for students returning to education after a number of years.

All our programmes are practical and are delivered by industry experts.

We benefit from a convenient location with the LUAS just outside the door and we are minutes from Connolly Station.

## Laptop and Internet Access Requirements

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure they have a computer device of sufficient specification to complete their course and adequate internet connectivity where appropriate.

## Eligibility for Funding

Priority in the awarding of places must be given to those who are long-term unemployed as well those who have not previously undertaken a Springboard+ course. Applicants are not eligible if they are currently undertaking another publicly funded higher education course such as Springboard+, HCI Pillar 1 or July Stimulus Postgraduate or Modular skills provision courses.

Funding eligibility and applicable fees are outlined below and are payable by the participant. Any fees due must be paid in full by Friday 19th March 2021. The fees quoted are the student contribution for the full course. These can be paid on the NCI website, see [www.ncirl.ie/NewStudents](http://www.ncirl.ie/NewStudents) for details. Applicants can also have their employer fill out a sponsorship form indicating the employer's commitment to pay the student contribution element. Completed sponsorship forms should be returned to [fees@ncirl.ie](mailto:fees@ncirl.ie) within two weeks of accepting your place on the course.

## Postgraduate Skills Provision

Fees: The Springboard+ scheme allows for 100% funding of the tuition cost of these programmes if you fall into one of the below categories;

- Returners
- Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) or Jobseekers payment

For those in employment or formerly self-employed a student contribution fee is required.

Returners and employed applicants: In addition to the academic entry requirements, returners and employed applicants, will be required to meet

nationality and residency requirements for Springboard+ courses. Returners' are defined as people that have been out of the work environment for a number of years due to childcare or other caring obligations and have a previous history of employment but may require upskilling, reskilling or cross-skilling to transition back to the workforce. More information can be found on our website <https://www.ncirl.ie/Study/Skills-Provision-Courses/Eligibility-Criteria-for-Skills-Provision-Courses>.

Unemployed : Formerly Self- Employed, People in receipt of PUP or a jobseekers payment can participate on approved July Stimulus part time postgraduate courses. Recent graduates : Full and Part time Postgraduate courses are open to recent graduates.

## Modular Skills Provision

Fees: The Springboard+ scheme allows for 100% funding of the tuition cost of these programmes if you fall into one of the below categories;

- Unemployed and in receipt of an eligible DEASP payment or signing for credits
  - Returners
  - Previously Self-Employed
  - Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)
- For those in employment a student contribution fee is required.

Returners and employed applicants: In addition to the academic entry requirements, returners and employed applicants, will be required to meet nationality and residency requirements for Springboard+ courses. Please see 'Springboard+ Participant Eligibility' at [www.springboardcourses.ie/faq](http://www.springboardcourses.ie/faq) for more information. 'Returners' are defined as people that have been out of the work environment for a number of years due to childcare or other caring obligations and have a previous history of employment but may require upskilling, reskilling or cross-skilling to transition back to the workforce. More information can be found at 'Am I Eligible for a Springboard+ Course' at [www.springboardcourses.ie/eligibility](http://www.springboardcourses.ie/eligibility).

The Modular Skills Provision programmes are available to both the employed and the unemployed however NCI must prioritise those in receipt of a social protection payment and those categorised as 'returners' so that they can upskill and reskill and re-enter the workforce. Therefore, a number of places will be reserved for

these on our Modular Skills Provision programmes. Unemployed applicants must be Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) customers and in receipt of an eligible DEASP payment, signing for social insurance contribution credits or be previously self-employed to be eligible for a funded place on a Springboard+ programme.

## 1.1 Places Available:

Demand for these courses is expected to exceed the number of available places and places are limited. Priority in the awarding of places must be given to those who are long-term unemployed. Decisions are communicated by email from [admissions@ncirl.ie](mailto:admissions@ncirl.ie). If you do not meet the normal academic entry requirements, please do not delay in applying as you may be required to submit additional documentation and/ or participate in an interview. Programmes may close at any time without warning when they reach capacity. It is therefore advisable that applicants apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment

## Department of Social Protection Payments

We advise that all payment queries should be addressed to your local Intreo, Social Welfare Office to confirm continuation of a Social Protection payment.

More information can be found at 'Social Protection FAQs' [www.springboardcourses.ie/faq](http://www.springboardcourses.ie/faq)

## 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. If you do not qualify under Springboard+ you may apply directly to National College of Ireland for our fee-paying courses at [admissions@ncirl.ie](mailto:admissions@ncirl.ie)

## For Further Information Contact

Tel: 1850 221 721

Web: [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)

Email: [admissions@ncirl.ie](mailto:admissions@ncirl.ie)

# Career Bridge and Relevant Employment / Placement

NCI Career Development & Employability Office won the AHECS “Excellence in Employability Award” for 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018.



**Órla O'Sullivan MSc** - Órla has worked for over 5 years as an NCI Careers Advisor, advising Springboard and ICT skills students who are upskilling or changing career. She has an MSc Guidance & Counselling from DCU where she also worked as a Career Advisor. With skills in Life Coaching (QQI Level 6) and a Postgrad in Learning & Teaching she brings a student-centred approach to her role.

## **A sample of services the Career Development and Employability office provide include:**

- Individualised career counselling and development.
- Individualised, strategic career planning addressing advancement and transition.
- Professionalised, targeted CVs and high impact applications.
- Expert interview coaching.
- Career networking and personal branding strategies.
- Practical skills workshops and one to one consultations.
- Online effective career resources available 24/7.
- Access to the NCI Jobs board – updated daily.

We collaborate and work in partnership with employers to support students in both identifying and achieving their future ambitions. Our career service has won the National AHECS award for Employability for 5 out of the last 8 years. We are front-line, we innovate and we promote experiential learning.

## **In partnership with employers we host events such as;**

- Interview marathons
- Sector-specific mock interviews with key employers
- Targeted On-Campus Careers Fair
- Alumni networking events
- Technical and whiteboard simulations
- Employer presentations
- Skill- and competency-focused workshops

Embedded into each programme schedule, the Career Bridge module is delivered in Semester 2 and results are included on final transcripts. Students are required to engage with Career Bridge by completing module assignments. These are practical and aimed at enhancing students career prospects. Students will also have opportunities to engage with employer events, CV Clinics, mock interviews, and one-to-one consultations with their Careers Advisor, across all Semesters.

## **Employment and Placement**

A key piece of Career Bridge is the placement requirement which provides a pathway to develop your new skills in a real-world experience. We work with industry partners and students who are unemployed or in unrelated work to identify suitable relevant employment / placement opportunities. We work proactively and collaboratively with these students to help them search for, identify and secure relevant employment or placement. The reality is that placements, in today's environment, are usually paid and lead to more permanent roles. Relevant Employment / Placement can be completed within the course timeline, generally 2nd or 3rd semester, or commenced within 3 months of course completion.

Active engagement with your Work Placement Advisor and with the Career Bridge module markedly increases the likelihood of successful career transition or progression.

## **Skills Provision Courses**

Live webinar on course content with lecturer

**Thursday November 19th, 2020**

1pm to 2pm & 6pm to 7pm

### **Online Information evening**

Wednesday December 9th, 5 to 7pm

All events will be highlighted on our website,  
To register for your chosen event go to **[www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)**