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*National College of Ireland is now offering a limited number of funded places under the Springboard+ initiative. All of these courses are available to eligible participants. There are eligibility conditions and requirements that must be met to obtain funding, please visit https://springboardcourses.ie/eligibility for more information.

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.

COURSES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

ONLINE BLENDED DELIVERY

- Certificate in Science in Computing (1 Semester)
- Higher Diploma in Science in Computing (Software Development) (1 Year)
- Higher Diploma in Science in Computing (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning) (1 Year)
- Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics (1 Year)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence (1 Year)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence for Business (1 Year)

All applications must go through
https://springboardcourses.ie

For more information check out
www.ncirl.ie or call 1800 221 721 (Option 4)

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

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 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 from 17.00 to 18.00. Day to be confirmed.

Duration: One Semester, September to December 2025.

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

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.

If a student contribution fee is applicable this must be paid in full no later than Friday 14th of November 2025.

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, 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.

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.

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

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

Electives will run subject to student demand.

Higher Diploma in Science in Computing
(With specialisation in Software Development)
(Online Directed E-Learning delivery)

The Software Development stream provides learners detailed knowledge, problem-solving and technical skills in the area of software development using a modern programming language, such as Java, and application development framework(s).

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.

Online Directed E-Learning Delivery (1 Year)

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 five 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 €595 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

This course will appeal to non-technical professionals or graduates with a level 8 degree from different backgrounds who would like to upgrade their skills in the computing domain, helping them to progress faster in their employment or to apply the gained knowledge in their current role.

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

The course offers a specialisation in Software Development, which brings the participants quickly to the graduate standard in this area. This course is designed with flexibility in mind, allowing learners to work through bespoke video content and guided tutorials the week before class, then polishing their knowledge with live online practical classes. 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 Software Development stream provides learners detailed knowledge, problem-solving and technical skills in the area of software development using a modern programming language, such as Java, and application development framework(s).

It will help you to enhance your employability skills and improve your overall career prospects. Students will be assisted in identifying relevant employment or a placement during or within three months of completing their course.

Graduates may avail of many entry-level ICT-related jobs, such as software developer, web development engineer and software engineer. **Note:** The prospective students are required to specify the specialisation they would like to follow when they apply for a place within the Higher Diploma in Science in Computing programme. It is not possible to transfer course streams post registration.

Career Prospects

This course is designed to meet the needs of the IT sector and secure future employment opportunities for graduates. Companies who hired 2023 students include: Software Engineer (IBM), Product Owner (Accenture), Information Technology Service Desk (SAP), Software Developer (Citi), Software Engineer (Cubic Telecom), Software Systems Engineer III (Crowdstrike), Software Developer (Department of Social Protection)

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, interview and assessment.

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 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.

Course Content
(Online Directed E-Learning Delivery)
(1 Year)

Semester 1
· Software Development
· Object Oriented Software Engineering
· Introduction to Databases
· Web Design and Client Side Scripting
· Career Bridge

Semester 2
· Computer Architecture Operating Systems and Networks
· Data Structures
· Algorithms and Advanced Programming
· Distributed Systems

Semester 3
· Project

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

Higher Diploma in Science in Computing

(With specialisation in Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning)
(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.

Online Directed E-Learning Delivery (1 Year)

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 five 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 €595 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

The course teaches students the computing fundamentals, complemented with detailed knowledge, problem-solving and specialised technical skills required for analysing, designing and developing technical software solutions. The second semester consists of a focused set of modules that are specific to the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning specialisation. The course aims to impart awareness and appreciation of relevant topics in the area of specialisation.

The Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning stream provides learners an understanding and application development of AI-powered products by leveraging expertise in machine learning and computational methods.

Career Prospects

The Higher Diploma in Science in Computing with specialisation in Artificial Intelligence//Machine Learning is tailored to address the demands of the IT industry and enhance graduates' employment prospects. Over the past two years, companies that have hired graduates from the Higher Diploma in Science in Computing include: ICT Graduate Programme (Kerry Group), Software Developer (Merkle), Business Information Specialist, Analytics (AIB), Technical Support (Survey Monkey), Senior Technical Support Engineer – Service Cloud (Salesforce), System Engineer (Jaguar Land Rover)

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. 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 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, interview and assessment.

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. 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 award will be a Higher Diploma in Science in Computing 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.

As graduates from other disciplines and with work experience, learners will have life skills and experiences that they will bring with them on 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.

Course Content
(Online Directed E-Learning delivery)

Semester 1
· Software Development
· Object Oriented Software Engineering
· Introduction to Databases
· Web Design and Client Side Scripting
· Career Bridge

Semester 2
· Computer Architecture Operating Systems
  and Networks
· Artificial Intelligence
· Machine Learning Fundamentals
· Statistics

Semester 3
· Project

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

Note: The prospective students are required to specify the specialisation they would like to follow when they apply for a place within the Higher Diploma in Science in Computing programme.

Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics

(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.

Online Directed E-Learning Delivery (1 Year)

Location: Online	Duration: September to December 2025, January to May 2026 and May to August 2026.
Start Date: This course is expected to start in the week commencing 22nd September 2025.	Applications: Apply online at https://springboardcourses.ie
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.	Fees: A student contribution fee of €595 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

The overall goal of the Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics programme is to provide learners with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to collect, analyse, interpret and present data effectively.

The programme aims to equip graduates with the competencies required to apply data analytics techniques across different domains, enabling data-driven decision making and problem solving.

It is designed to support career changers or upskill professionals seeking roles in data science, analytics, management and related fields.

Upon completion of this course, graduates will be able to:

- Ability to approach complex data problems and conduct substantial analysis in the field of Data Analytics.
- Implement novel ideas using current and emerging industry practices.
- Demonstrate expert knowledge and in depth understanding of data analysis, statistical techniques, machine learning and data-driven decision-making.
- Use different tools and platforms such as Python, R, SQL, Excel and data visualization tools like Tableau or Power BI.
- Critically assess, evaluate, and communicate business and technical strategies related to Data Analytics.
- Critically assess and evaluate issues related to security, privacy, sustainability, and ethics in the storage, transfer, and processing of data for analytical purposes.

The course will be delivered using academic research, industry-defined practical problems, and case studies. This approach will naturally foster a deeper knowledge of the subject area and create transferable skills for work such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creative thinking, communication, teamwork, and research skills. The course is completely delivered by faculty and industry practitioners with proven expertise in data analytics.

Career Prospects

Graduates from the previous 2 - 3 years leveraged the course to enhance their skills or secure positions such as Statistics Analyst (Central Bank of Ireland), Business Analyst (Commission for Communications Regulation), Data Scientist (Pfizer), Quality Analyst (Tik Tok), Digital Client Support (Citi), Senior Technologist (Enterprise Ireland), Data Analyst (VHI)

Employers who recruited graduates from the 2023 cohort of the Higher Diploma in Data Analytics include: Data Quality Analyst (Tik Tok), Credit Portfolio Manager (Google), Data Operations Analyst (TD Securities), QA Analyst (SEB Life International), Fund and Data Platform Analyst (Legal and General Investment Management), Technical Lead (IMGS), Data Analyst (Glovo).

Who is the course for?

This course will appeal to non-technical professionals and college graduates from non-technical disciplines who wish to upgrade their skills or simply advance their career in the domain of Data Analytics. The programme is particularly suitable for those with numeracy and analytical skills. You do not need to have previously studied programming. However, given the content and the timeframe you will need to have a strong commitment to the course and willingness to fully engage with the technical content.

Award and Progression

The Higher Diploma in Science in Data Analytics is awarded by QQI at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Students who successfully complete this course may progress to a major award at level 9 such as the Masters of Science in Data Analytics.

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants are required to hold a level 8 honours degree or equivalent in any discipline. Candidates with level 7 degree in a cognate area (STEM) are also considered for direct access into the programme. 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 through a portfolio of learning, demonstration of work produced, interview and assessment (e.g. logic test).

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

Semester 1
· Statistics I
· Programming For Data Analytics
· Data Governance
· Career Bridge

Semester 2
· Statistics II
· Databases for Analytics
· Business Intelligence

Semester 3
· Machine Learning
· Project

Springboard Careers Advisors will proactively support you in finding relevant employment during the course or within 3 months following completion of the course.

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence

(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

This course aims to produce high-quality, technically competent, innovative graduates that will become leading practitioners in the field of artificial intelligence.

This course contains modules covering fundamental and specialised AI topics as well as topics related to operationalisation and application of AI to solve real-world problems. 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 and create skills required in industry such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creative thinking, communication, teamwork, and research skills.

Upon completion of this course, graduates will be able to:
• Demonstrate expert knowledge of Engineering Artificial Intelligence systems, Machine Learning, Optimisation Techniques, and the tools, techniques and technologies of Artificial Intelligence utilised in real world contexts.
• Formulate, design, implement, and evaluate novel real-world solutions at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence using the latest industry practices and standards.

Career Prospects

Graduates of the 2023 Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Artificial Intelligence used the programme to build on their existing skills and transition into roles across the tech industry, including Enterprise Solution Specialist (Microsoft), Enterprise Architecture Support (Primark), Data Analyst (Bank of Ireland), Business Data Analys (DAA), Business Integrity Data Analyst (Google), AI/ML Data Analyst (Apple).

Award and Progression

The Postgraduate Diploma of Science in Artifical Intelligence 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 at National College of Ireland (This is not included under Springboard + - an additional fee would apply).

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a level 8 primary degree in Computing or a cognate area with a 2.2 award or higher or equivalent on the National Qualifications Framework in Computing or a Cognate area. Candidates are expected to have programming ability. Cognate area means a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degree that also taught programming/ application development related modules. An assessment and/ or interview may be conducted to ascertain suitability if necessary for candidates who do not meet the normal academic requirements.

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. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure their computer is functioning correctly and that they have full administrator rights.

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. Please note that in some instances exams may take place in the day-time, evenings and at weekends.

Course Content
(Online Directed E-Learning Delivery)
(1 Year)

Semester 1:
· Data Governance and Ethics
· Foundations of Artificial Intelligence
· Programming for Artificial Intelligence
· Career Bridge

Semester 2:
· Engineering and Evaluating Artificial Intelligence Systems
· Intelligent Agents and Process Automation
· Data Analytics for Artificial Intelligence

Semester 3:
· Emerging Artificial IntelligenceTechnologies and Sustainability
· Machine Learning
· Artificial Intelligence Driven Decision Making

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

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
(Online Directed E-Learning delivery)

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.

APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Why Choose NCI

NCI has over 75 years' experience working with part-time students. All programmes under Springboard+ 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. In particular for Springboard+ a dedicated programme leader will look after the organisation of your course and make sure all your needs are met.

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. Career Bridge, Work Placement, industry based projects and a dedicated team of career development professionals will work with you to help you gain the most from your qualification and get back into the workforce, or develop your career.

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.

Restrictions Regarding Previous Participants

· You can take a maximum of three springboard+ courses in any five-year Period. After that, you will need to wait 2 years before enrolling on another Springboard+ course.
· If you have failed to successfully complete two Springboard+ courses in the past, you are ineligible to apply again for a period of 2 years.
· If you have taken two courses in the past but were unsuccessful in the second, you are ineligible to apply again for a period of 2 years.

In order for the above to be assessed, you will need to have fully completed any Springboard+ course you enrolled on in the past - i.e. have completed all assignments, received a final grade, and had your status updated to "Complete" by the course provider. Until then you will not be able to apply for another Springboard+ course. You should also note that priority will be given to applicants who are long-term unemployed and to those who have not taken a Springboard+ course before.

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.

More information can be found at 'Am I Eligible for a Springboard+ Course' at Https://springboardcourses.ie/eligibility.

Application

Please feel free to contact us on 1800 221 721 (Option 4) to enquire about an application. Alternatively you can email springboard@ncirl.ie. We are not permitted to accept applications directly from candidates as all Springboard and ICT Skills applications must be made online through https://springboardcourses.ie/. Please note that all applicants must meet NCI's academic admission criteria for any courses and as per previous years all courses and specialisations run subject to numbers. Eligibility for funding does not infer eligibility for this course.

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 as well those who have not previously undertaken a Springboard+ course. Decisions are communicated through www.springboardcourses.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. A cut-off date for applications will also apply and this will be posted on the https://springboardcourses.ie/ website when you make an application to NCI. This date is subject to change based on programme demand and programmes may close at any time without warning when capacity is reached.

Note: Programmes are available for study within Republic of Ireland only.

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' https://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

For Further Information Contact

Tel: 1800 221 721 (Option 4)
Web: www.ncirl.ie
Email: springboard@ncirl.ie

Career Bridge
Part of the NCI Careers & Employability Service

NCI Career Development & Employability Office won the AHECS "Excellence in Employability Award" for 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 (Highly Commended) and The Education Awards 2021 for Career Impact Strategy.

Career Bridge
Part of the success of your Springboard course to meet your career goals is the Career Bridge module which is integrated into your programme. Practical career management classes take place in your 1st Semester one day a week between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. This module is designed to complement the technical skills of your course and provide you with the skills employers seek such as identifying your strengths and addressing skills gaps, developing your online and offline brand, networking effectively and managing your career path.

What Career Bridge will offer you:
· Individualised career counselling and development.
· Customised, strategic career planning addressing advancement and career transition.
· Professionalised, targeted CVs and high impact applications.
· Industry-approved LinkedIn profiles and personal branding strategies.
· Expert interview coaching.
· Career networking.
· One to one career consultations.
· Online effective career resources available 24/7.
· Access to the NCI Weekly Vacancy newsletter and the LinkedIn Group Tech Network for Students and Graduates for jobs and events

The NCI Career Development and Employability office works 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 9 years.

The partnerships with employers are in the form of:
· Mock interviews
· Alumni networking events
· Employer presentations
· Sector-specific mock interviews with key employers
· Targeted On-Campus events
· Technical and whiteboard simulations
· Skill- and competency-focused workshops

Career Bridge, similar to the other modules on the programme, will have learning outcomes relevant to your career aspirations.

Employment
We work proactively and collaboratively with you and industry partners to support you in securing employment during or within 3 months of completing your course. Active engagement with the Career Bridge module markedly increases the likelihood of a successful career transition or progression. We look forward to working with you to realise your career goals.

What springboard students say…

I really like the fact that the college offers a service to help you find work after you're finished your course. The classes help you to build an employable version of yourself and the personal help you get improves your chances of getting a job.
Student of HDip in Science in Computing (Software Development)

Career Bridge is a great resource to have in the college. Even though you won't feel like using it until the second semester, it's a really good idea to engage with the service early on to take advantage of the services they offer. All in all, highly recommended…
Barry, Postgrad in Data Analytics

The student must be proactive and take accountability for their own job search and if they do the staff in the careers section are genuinely fantastic.
Student of HDip in Science, Data Analytics

Thanks to a great career advisor, ……. I was able to get on the internship within the IT company and at the end of the internship was offered a job in that company.
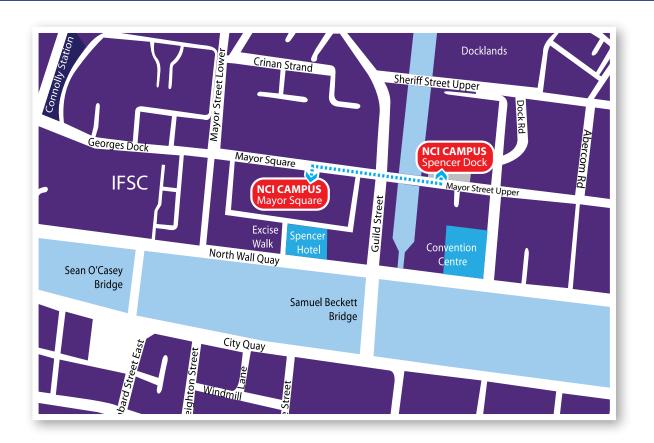Joanna, HDip in Science in Web Technologies

The course was really enjoyable and the emphasis on careers rather than just exam results sets NCI apart from any other institutions I've attended.
Student of HDip in Science in Computing (Software Development)

Students should develop themselves technically but also awareness of what prospective employers look for should help you adapt your approach to a job application accordingly.
Student of HDip in Science in Computing (Cloud stream)

Participate in full. The course is very rewarding and there is great support. NCI listens and is willing to change if things are not working out. Career Bridge is excellent and you should attend the classes even if you have a solid job.
Toby, HDip in Science Data Analytics

I believe that it was this kind of integration between course and career guidance that led to my success at NCI. I was a gardener by trade and now I'm a Software Test Automation Engineer in Java. I get well paid and now I have a well-paid career ahead of me
Robert, Software Development graduate

INFORMATION EVENINGS

**Speak to the lecturers at one of our
Online or On Campus Open Evenings**

On Campus: Wednesday 11th June **5 - 7pm**

Online: Thursday 17th July **5 - 7pm**

On Campus: Saturday 23rd August **11 - 1pm**

On Campus: Wednesday 3rd September **5 - 7pm**

ONLINE TASTER CLASSES

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE IN DATA ANALYTICS
Thursday 3rd July 6 - 8pm
Tuesday 2nd September 6 - 8pm

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE IN COMPUTING
Thursday 26th June 6 - 7.30pm
Thursday 4th September 6 - 7.30pm

FSC™ Forest Stewardship Council

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