University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

UCD School of Information and Communication Studies | **iSCHOOL**

MSc Human Computer Interaction (HCI)

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)

Technology is ubiquitous in our everyday life. We have countless interactions whether it be through mobile apps, smart devices, or more traditional desktop systems. It is vital now more than ever that these interfaces are designed with a deep understanding of the user, their desires and needs as well as how these interfaces will impact society more widely.

The MSc in Human Computer Interaction (HCI) combines core elements and skills to prepare you to work within user experience and human computer interaction. The programme is unique in Ireland, harnessing the world-class expertise in the School of Information & Communication Studies to explore the discipline of human-computer interaction (HCI), from a social science perspective.

Innovative Programme

This innovative programme focuses on giving students the knowledge and skills to use social scientific approaches and theory to inform the design of user-centred technology interactions and to understand the effect that design and technology interaction has on people's behaviours, perceptions and emotions encapsulating both at an individual and a societal level.

The Masters will use a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials including self-directed and autonomous learning activities to introduce students to principles, theory, practice and critique, combining approaches from computer science and social sciences. Several modules will also utilise e-learning tools and online content and delivery. A core part of the programme will involve you using these knowledge and skills to conduct a cutting edge research project in the area of HCI.

Why study at UCD?

Tradition
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

Global profile
UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide

Global community
Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD

Global careers
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; Two year stay-back visa for Non-EU students

Safety
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

90 credits Taught Masters

65 credits Taught Modules

25 credits Research Thesis
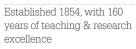
All 3 Tracks experience the same 60 credit core modules, giving all a grounding across key skills and knowledge areas needed for a career in HCI. The different tracks allow students to specialise in specific areas, focusing on faculty specialisms at UCD.

Option Module Tracks:

Track 1: Communicative Interfaces	Track 2: Interaction Science & User Research	Track 3: Interfaces, Ethics & Society
Media Production Cultures	Introduction to Cognitive Science	People, Information & Communication
Human Language Technologies	Research Experience	Data & Society
Topics in Digital Media & Comms	Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)	The Digital Self
Communication Theory	Foundations of Info Studies	Information Ethics

Careers related to this programme include:

User Experience Researcher	Media Analyst	Product Designer
Interaction Designer	Digital Policy Expert	Ergonomic Specialist
Conversation Designer	Quantitative Data Analyst	PhD Research in HCI

Career Opportunities

Human Computer Interaction is a hugely diverse area, with key skills being applicable to a wide variety of domains and is complimentary to degrees from natural sciences, computer science, arts, business and law amongst others. The MSc focuses on giving students the skills to understand and problem solve around user and societal issues facing us in an increasingly digital world.

Dublin is one of Europe's digital hubs, with leading international technology companies such as Twitter, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, PayPal, Yahoo, eBay having Headquarters in Dublin, with Intel and Apple outside Dublin. These companies rely on HCI expertise when developing their interfaces, experiences and products.

Careers related to this programme include: User Experience Researcher; Interaction Designer; User Interface Researcher; Conversation Designer; Media Analyst; Digital Policy Expert; Quantitative Data Analyst; Product Designer; Ergonomic Specialist; PhD Research in HCI

Who should apply?

People who are interested in the design and use of computer technology, and on the interfaces between people and computers. HCI studies the relationship between people and technology for design and assessment of useful and usable applications and systems. Those who like to think creatively on the design of user-centred technology interactions and the effect that design and technology interaction has on people's behaviours, perceptions and emotions. All applicants should already hold an undergraduate degree.

Entry Requirements

- This programme is intended for applicants with an undergraduate degree in any discipline. An upper second-class honours or international equivalent is required.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element) or equivalent.
- Names and contact details of two referees who can assess their intellectual ability, maturity and motivation.
- While applications are accepted up to August of the year of entry, offers are made to suitably qualified candidates on a first-come-first-served basis so early application is recommended. Entry to the programmes is very competitive and the number of places is limited.

Contact Us

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Academic Profile

Dr Benjamin Cowan
Assistant Professor | Programme Director

Benjamin completed his undergraduate studies in Psychology & Business Studies (2006) as well as his PhD in Usability Engineering (2011) at the University of Edinburgh.

His research lies at the juncture between psychology, human-computer interaction and communication systems in investigating how design impacts aspects of user behaviour in social, collaborative and communicative technology interactions. His recent research has focuses specifically on how theory and quantitative methods from psychological science can be applied to understand and design speech and language technologies as well as how we can design for habit change across of number of domains and contexts.

Dr Cowan is the co-founder and co-director of the HCI@UCD group (www.hci.ucd.ie), one of the largest HCI groups in Ireland and is a funded investigator in the SFI funded ADAPT Centre.

Related Masters

MSc Information Systems
Grad Dip Information Systems

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