



MSc Human Computer Interaction (HCI)

(One Year Full-Time or Two Years Part-Time)



Introduction

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.

This MSc combines core elements and skills to prepare you to work within user experience and human computer interaction.

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.

Programme Highlight

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.

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.

Programme Content and Structure

90 credits
Taught Masters

=

60 credits
Taught Modules

+

30 credits
Research/Design 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	HCI Research Experience	Data & Society
Topics in Digital Media & Comms	Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)	The Digital Self
Communication Theory	Foundations of Info Studies	Information Ethics

Please see www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions for a full list of modules.

Why study at UCD?



Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



Global Profile

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



Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



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.

About the School

The UCD School of Information and Communication Studies (ICS) is the only Irish member of the prestigious iSchools consortium, an international, university-level organisation devoted to understanding the role of information in society.



Applicant Profile

- 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.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships for further information.

Related Masters

- MSc Information Systems
- Grad Dip Information Systems

Academic Profile



Dr Benjamin Cowan
Associate 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 co-Principal Investigator in the SFI funded ADAPT Centre.

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.

CONTACT US

EU Students

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International Students

e: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie

w: www.ucd.ie/global

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

www.ucd.ie/apply