

GradDip Environmental Sustainability Implementation

1 Year Full Time (September start)



Introduction

Sustainability is on the agenda for many sectors. All sectors are responding to sustainability goals, with many organisations setting targets to be achieved by 2030 for compliance, consumer or market retention purposes. Consultation with a range of industry stakeholders has identified that there is a deficit of expertise in the market to address the implementation of sustainability agendas, however the scale and speed of the change required is urgent. Drivers of this demand are the National Sectoral Emissions Ceilings, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development

(2021) Act, Future Jobs initiative 'Transition to low carbon economy', Ireland's National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reporting).

This full-time Level 9 Graduate Diploma equips students with the core skills to quantify the sustainability of a product, process or system, identify areas for improvement and devise and manage measures for implementation to improve sustainability.

Pathway

This 60 ECTS Graduate Diploma is a Pathway programme that can build to a Masters degree award. Students who complete the Graduate Diploma have the option of completing a 30 ECTS project which builds to a Masters degree award.

Course Content and Structure

This Graduate Diploma comprises 60 credits of modules (10 modules). These modules are offered across the Spring and Autumn Trimesters. All synchronous lectures, tutorials and practicals are delivered during normal working hours in Ireland and recorded to allow asynchronous engagement. It is possible for students to complete the programme entirely online. However, for those who want to attend campus, students enrolled in the programme are free to attend timetabled face-to-face lectures and practicals on campus if they wish.

Modules offered

- Circular BioEconomy Principles
- Sustainable Energy & Environmental Impact
- Carbon & Sustainability
- Carbon Footprinting
- Sustainability Design Challenge
- Green Technologies Project
- GHG Accounting
- Biomass innovation, green technology and business

Why study at UCD?



Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



Global profile

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



Global careers

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





Career Opportunities

There is very significant industry demand for engineers and scientists with knowledge on methods to quantify sustainability for internal benchmarking, process improvement, and reporting purposes. In August 2025 there were >1000 sustainability-related jobs advertised in Ireland (based on data from LinkedIn). Upon completion of this Graduate Diploma, graduates will have the skills needed to lead the sustainability agenda for a company either individually or as part of a team.

Industry Partner

Kathleen Moore
Senior Brand & Sustainability Manager,
Innopharma Education



Entry Requirements

- Recent graduates, jobseekers or are in full time employment, with a Level 8 Honours degree with minimum 2:1 award (NFQ level 8) or international equivalence in disciplines which include strong mathematical, technological and analytical skills. Examples of acceptable disciplines are engineering, physical science, geography and planning, architecture and environmental related degrees.
- Those without a Level 8 honours degree in a relevant subject but with >5 years relevant professional experience in a relevant field will be considered.
- 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.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. This programme is also eligible for springboard funding, if you believe you are eligible please apply first on www.springboardcourses.ie

Related Programmes of Interest

- GradDip Carbon Accounting & Life Cycle Assessment PT
- GradCert in Carbon and Climate Assessment

Having completed a level 8 in sustainability for enterprise the year prior, I decided to do this level 9 in environmental sustainability implementation to equip myself with the technical skills needed in the space of sustainability, specifically Carbon Footprinting, Life Cycle Analysis and GHG Accounting. Through these modules on the course I gained practical experience in assessing and reporting according to the relevant International Standards (ISO) for each framework. I found these modules in particular invaluable for getting to grips with the detail and data needed to measure sustainability progress. I found the course robust in nature, and very challenging. And for me, with multiple life commitments including work and children, the online mode was the best format for accessing this type of education and managing the workload. I found the lecturers very knowledgeable and overall am so proud of my achievement, and have really deepened my knowledge beyond my initial expectations.

CONTACT US

Katie O'Neill, Marketing Manager - **E:** katie.oneill@ucd.ie **T:** +353 1 7161781 **W:** www.ucd.ie/eacollege
Dr Joseph Sweeney, Programme Director - **E:** joseph.sweeney@ucd.ie **T:** +353 1 716 7249

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/apply