National MSc in Artificial Intelligence - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will the course be heavy on programming/coding or more on theories and applications?

The course uses an appropriate mix of theory and applications. Students will be able to apply machine learning theory to real-world problems in all modules. Python will be used throughout and experience in this language is advantageous, but not a prerequisite. The first module on the programme allows students to obtain sufficient coding skills for the programme.

Q. Will the course be mainly exam based or assessment based and if it is a mix approximately how does this break down?

Modules use mostly continuous assessment with a few modules using a relatively small end-of-semester exam. Assessments form a large part (around 50% or more) of most modules.

Q. What fees do I need to pay?

The fees are subsidised by Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet for eligible participants, which brings the cost of the MSc down to €2,950 per annum. There is an additional cost of €1,490 for the 12 week compulsory preparatory course. This means a cost of €4,440 in Year 1 and €2,950 in Year 2. All fees in each year are payable prior to the commencement date in that year.

Q. How much time do I need to commit to the programme

Candidates should bear in mind that this is a level 9 programme. Contact time will vary from 2 to 4.5 hours per week over the semester, but students will be expected to make about a 15-20 hour commitment per week on average to include lecture time, study, research, assignment time etc.

Certificate in AI -The programme is delivered entirely online but there will be a face to face induction on commencement in UL (not compulsory but it is advisable to attend). There will be typically one hour of lectures and tutorials in total per week from Weeks 1-14 with further engagement through forum interactions.

MSc in AI - The programme will be delivered completely online with nominally two active modules per semester (generally 1 hour of online lecture tutorial/discussion sessions per week per module with the rest of the engagement through forums).

Q. What is covered on the Certificate in AI?

In advance of the MSc, candidates take two separately funded preparatory modules in the preceding Autumn semester which leads to the award of a Level 8 Certificate in AI. The objective is to introduce

the associated scientific computing, programming language and host platforms. The first module will focus on relevant scientific computing using Python and its core packages. The second module will introduce Deep Learning and the associated frameworks e.g. TensorFlow.

Q. Is there any further detail on the module content

There are module descriptors that you can access via the UL website https://bookofmodules.ul.ie/. Enter the module title (or module code, if you have it) into the search bar.

Q. Are lectures live?

The online lectures normally go live in the evenings but they are also reordered for you to access at any time, so there is no requirement to take time off work.