

Frequently Asked Questions

Programme Title	Mode of Delivery	Attendance required	Main Modules
MSc in Computing (Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies)	Online	Campus attendance required for exams only	Research Methods & Professional Skills Cryptography and Number theory Blockchain: Basics and Applications Cloud Systems Blockchain Scalability Public Key Cryptography and Security Protocols Developing Blockchain Systems Computer Security Practicum (Blockchain)

Q. How long does the programme take to complete?

A. The MSc programme takes a two-year part time commitment to complete.

Q. What level on the NFQ is the programme?

A. All Masters programmes are at level 9 on the NFQ.

Q. I have a Master's Degree already; can I still take a DCU Skillnet MSc programme?

A. Yes, you can. The aim of the Skillnet programmes are to upskill or reskill people in employment to fill anticipated skills shortages in key areas. So, if you have a Masters or PhD already, you can still register for the above programme.

Q. What are the academic entry requirements?

A. *These programmes are only open to those working in Irish based companies within the private or commercial semi-state sectors.*

MSc in Computing (Blockchain-Distributed Ledger Technologies Major)

For entry onto this programme, candidates must hold, a second-class honours degree or higher in Computer Science, software engineering or cognate discipline.

International candidates who are non-native speakers of English must satisfy the University of their competency in the English language. More information about DCU's English language requirements can be found [here](#).

Students who meet the minimum entry requirements are not guaranteed a place on the programme and DCU reserves the right to interview candidates to confirm their suitability for the programme. Non-Native English speakers must submit evidence of competency in the English language as per DCU entry requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I apply?

A. All candidates must send their CV to Skillnet in the first instance to info@ictskillnet.ie for initial eligibility screening. If you are deemed eligible, you will be asked to formally apply to the programme of interest through the Student Application Portal. At this point, candidates will be advised about what documents are needed to apply, i.e transcripts, degree parchment, translation into English if required, photo, CV etc.

Q. Do I have to attend Dublin City University?

A. All programmes can be studied online, but you may have to attend campus for a *limited number* of workshops during the semester on some programmes. The dates of these workshops will be known at the start of the semester. There will also be an orientation day at the start of the semester where attendance is strongly advised. Attendance is required for exams for ALL programmes irrespective of the mode of delivery. Exams will be held in January and May, with specific dates available at least one month in advance.

There is an exam in all modules on the programme with the exception of Developing Blockchain systems and the Practicum, both of which are 100% CA.

There will also be a continuous assessment component in each module, which students will have to complete by various deadlines.

Q. When does the academic year start, when does it end?

A. Please see the Academic Calendar for key University dates including exam periods and start dates [here](#)

Q. How often are the online lectures streamed?

A. All the course materials will be on the Futurelearn platform, which means that the method of teaching is very different to teaching face to face in a classroom. In other words, there is no need to stream lectures or have them recorded as all the course materials will be online for the students to work through at their own pace. These course materials will be very interactive with frequent self-assessment milestones. There will also be some assessment deadlines which students will have to work to, as well as the exams in relevant modules at the end of each semester

Q. Are heavy development skills required and if so, which language?

A. Students on the programme will need to know Python as a minimum.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the hours per week / time commitment required?

A. The approximate time commitment is about 20 hours per week, based on students having to study two X 7.5 credit modules per semester. However, because the programme is delivered online, students can study whenever suits them, so some weeks they may spend less time studying and others more depending on their other commitments.

Q. Will the final certificate be the same for full and part time? Or would it say distance education?

A. The final parchment for the various MScs will not mention the mode of delivery of the programme and will simply state the programme title.

Q. Will there be graduation ceremony?

A. Yes, there will be a graduation ceremony in the November of the year you successfully complete the programme.

Q. Is it possible to defer Year 2 modules to complete in an additional year?

Yes, in exceptional cases, with prior approval/agreement from the Programme Chair in DCU, Year 2 students may be allowed defer one or more year 2 modules to complete the following year.