

The School of Computer Applications in Dublin City University has a world-wide reputation for its high-calibre computing graduates. The B.Sc. in Computer Applications produces software professionals who work in software companies, finance, government, engineering, and wherever computing technology is deployed.

A DEGREE FOR LIFE

A B.Sc. in Computer Applications from DCU gives you all of the following advantages:

- The computing degree that is most sought-after by employers.
- Six months work placement that gives you real-world experience and boosts your employment value.
- A choice of three different degree programmes, where you can shop around before you choose.
- A "go anywhere" degree, recognised world-wide.
- Lots of tutoring support to see you successfully through your first year.
- Guaranteed scholarships for high points earners.
- The opportunity to study other subjects such as a language.



ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Every first year applicant who enters through the CAO with 500 points or more will be awarded an Entrance Scholarship that includes the guarantee of accommodation in an apartment on DCU's campus. No special application procedure is required other than making the degree your first choice.

Full details of the scholarships will be published soon on our website at www.computing.dcu.ie, well in advance of the CAO closing date. Make sure you check the details. Normal charges apply for use of accommodation.

THREE DEGREES TO CHOOSE FROM

There are three kinds of computing degrees, but most computing schools offer just one. In DCU we are big enough to offer all three, and you get to learn about them before you choose the right one for you. We've made first year common, so you can delay your choice till the end of first year.

1. Software Engineering is the most common kind of computing degree. It equips students to create software, and encourages them to invent new ways of using it. Examples of software include web browsers such as Internet Explorer, computer games, accounts packages for managing financial information, and the controllers inside mobile phones. Software engineers are technically-oriented and inventive. They typically find work in computing and electronics companies such as Microsoft, Intel, IBM, Iona, and many specialised software companies. Some start their own companies.

2. Information Systems degrees intermix computing and business. Graduates focus on integrating computing technology into companies to help people to work together, and to enable the company to compete effectively in the market. Information Systems graduates are people-oriented and business-oriented problem-solvers. Most of them do not work in the IT sector but wherever computing technology happens to be deployed such as banks and insurance companies, manufacturing companies, TV companies, the health industry, and logistics companies.

3. Computer Scientists are specialists who work on problems underlying the design and development of software. For example, they may solve problems in cryptography, invent new strategies for searching the web, discover new techniques for designing software, or find new ways to generate more life-like screen graphics. Computer Scientists are innovative thinkers, good at abstract reasoning. They are typically employed by large and small software companies or by research institutes including universities.

DCU is unique in that you don't have to decide on the kind of degree that's right for you before you start. Just enroll for the B.Sc. in Computer Applications, and choose at the end of first year.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Students spend half their time on core computing subjects in Year 1, both hardware and software. The other half is taken up by a choice of modules drawn from languages, business, mathematics, electronics etc, or further optional computing topics. Some optional subjects such as languages and business can be continued into second year, or even third year. Half of Year 3 is given over to work placement, and project work is a big part of Years 3 and 4.

An annual display of fourth year projects provides an opportunity for the industrial and business communities to experience the high standard and broad range of the development work carried out on the course. Many students base their final year projects on the work undertaken during their third year work placement.



WORK PLACEMENT

The School's work placement or "INTRA" programme integrates your academic study with closely related realistic jobs. This gives you an understanding of the professional and practical world of industry and commerce. The blending of theory and practice also strongly influences motivation and goal-setting for the final year of study.

All students go on work placement for six months in their third year. The DCU INTRA Office finds suitable employment, although students may find their own. The University liaises with employers and students during the placement to ensure that the work is a good learning experience. Nearly all students on work placement are paid. Some do their placement abroad, typically in the U.K. or U.S.A., but anywhere is possible.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There is a high demand for graduates who have the skills to apply computer technology to the practical problems of business and industry. Our students are much sought after and can be found working in the best blue chip corporations in the world, both within and outside the IT sector. Many are heading up their own

companies designing new products.

Our graduates are not dependent on the state of the IT sector for jobs. They have the skills to work wherever computing technology is deployed and that is in every sector of the economy.

The B.Sc. in Computer Applications is accredited by the Institution of Engineers of Ireland. It is recognised throughout the world, and with suitable experience can lead to chartered engineer status and the C.Eng. title.

ENTRY TO THE PROGRAMME

The number of CAO points for entry to the programme in recent years has been in the range 350 to 410 points (350 points for entry in October 2002). The formal minimum entry requirements (currently under review) are (for the Leaving Certificate) Grade C3 in two Higher Level subjects and Grade D3 in four Ordinary or Higher Level subjects (which must include English or Irish), and at least a Grade C3 in Ordinary Level or Grade D3 in Higher Level Mathematics. Note that you are not expected to have any previous experience of computing.

MORE INFORMATION

You can get more information about the programme by visiting our web site at www.computing.dcu.ie. Course details are also given in the Faculty of Computing and Mathematical Sciences Booklet, obtainable from www.dcu.ie/prospects/prospectus or by post from The Registry, Dublin City University, Dublin 9.

You can find out more about studying in DCU by visiting the University's website at www.dcu.ie



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