

LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN

Sector Background

Logistics and supply chain management is concerned with the management of the flow of goods and information through the value chain from materials acquisition to final consumption. More simply it has been described as getting the right product, in the right quantity, of the right quality, in the right place, at the right time, for the right customer at the right cost. In achieving all of this, logistics takes place in many of the functions of a business including customer relationship management, forecasting, inventory management, purchasing management, warehouse management, information technology and transport management.

Today, logistics and supply chain management is widely recognised as a critical contributor to the competitive competence of firms and of the national economy. Management professionals in logistics and supply chain management functions also work closely with other areas of the business including human resource management, manufacturing, marketing and finance.

Technology is having a major impact on the skills requirements in this sector. Logistics is moving from being cost-orientated to customer-orientated. This has led to the development of automation of warehousing activities, radio-frequency identification (RFID), real time location systems (RTLS) and in-cab technology, including computer assisted support of vehicle drivers. Greater use of data analytics throughout the supply chain now affects all aspects of work. Those who work in the sector today need IT skills, even for entry level positions. These skill-sets enable skilled workers to progress to more senior positions.

Typical Roles

Some roles in this sector include;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing Manager • Logistics/ Supply Chain Manager • Distribution Manager • Supply Chain Analyst | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping Clerk • Forklift Operator • Warehouse Manager • Transport Planner |
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Entry Routes

Graduates of any discipline can enter the field of supply chain and logistics. However, there are a limited number of specific undergraduate, and a larger number of popular postgraduate courses in Supply Chain and Logistics Management available in Ireland if potential candidates would like to gain a competitive advantage when seeking employment.

Undergraduate Study

- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Logistics & Supply Chain Management](#), Dublin Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Engineering \(Ordinary\) in Road Transport Technology & Management](#), Limerick Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Business \(Hons\) in Supply Chain Management](#), Institute of Technology Carlow

Students aged 21 or over, with a minimum of three years industry experience can also apply for:

- [Higher Certificate/ Diploma in Supply Chain Management](#), University College Cork

Postgraduate Study

There are a number of colleges offering postgraduate courses in Supply Chain and Logistics in Ireland at present. An example of four of these are below. Search on [Qualifax](#) and [Mastersportal](#) for more.

- [Masters of Science in Supply Chain Management](#), University College Dublin
- [Masters of Science in Supply Chain Management](#), Dublin Institute of Technology
- [Postgrad Dip/ Masters of Science in Supply Chain Management](#), University College Cork
- [Higher Diploma in Business in Supply Chain Management](#), Institute of Technology Carlow

Relevant Bodies & Professional Associations

<u>Efficient Consumer Response (ECR) Ireland</u>	<u>National Institute for Transport & Logistics</u>
<u>Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport</u>	<u>National Transport Authority</u>
<u>IPICS - The Supply Chain Management Institute</u>	<u>The Irish International Freight Association</u>
<u>Irish Institute of Purchasing & Materials Management</u>	<u>Irish Exporters Association</u>