# University College Dublin
## Ireland's Global University

**UCD School of Information and Communication Studies** | **UCD iSCHOOL**

# MSc Digital Policy
## (One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)

This MSc in Digital Policy is a one-year interdisciplinary programme (or two years part-time), designed to offer graduates the opportunity to study some of the core policy issues that arise in the context of digital technologies, infrastructure, and production in all dimensions of life. It will also allow students to study the underlying social conditions (economic, political, and cultural) that give rise to such technologies and their governance, as well as the multiple public sector and commercial contexts where policy is made and enacted.

The innovative programme mixes the theoretical and the applied with core modules from the School of Information and Communication Studies and optional modules from other Schools in the College of Social Sciences and Law (COSSL) and Computer Science. This programme introduces students to basic concepts and issues in digital policy, giving a historical and critical understanding of how to theorise digital objects and environments by learning to situate them in perspectives such as platform capitalism, governance, data infrastructures, information analytics, interface critique and software studies.

## Innovative

Microsoft

With support from Microsoft Ireland, UCD's School of Information and Communication studies is establishing the Microsoft-UCD Digital Policy Programme with the goal of building digital policy training and capability in Ireland and Europe.

UCD School of Information and Communication Studies is the only academic institution in Ireland to provide undergraduate and postgraduate degrees leading to research and professionally accredited qualifications in Information and Communication Studies. Our School is the only member of the iSchool consortium in Ireland.

## Why study at UCD?

**Tradition**
Established 1854
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

**Global profile**
TOP 1%
UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide

**Global community**
Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD

**Global careers**
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; Two year stay-back visa for Non-EU students
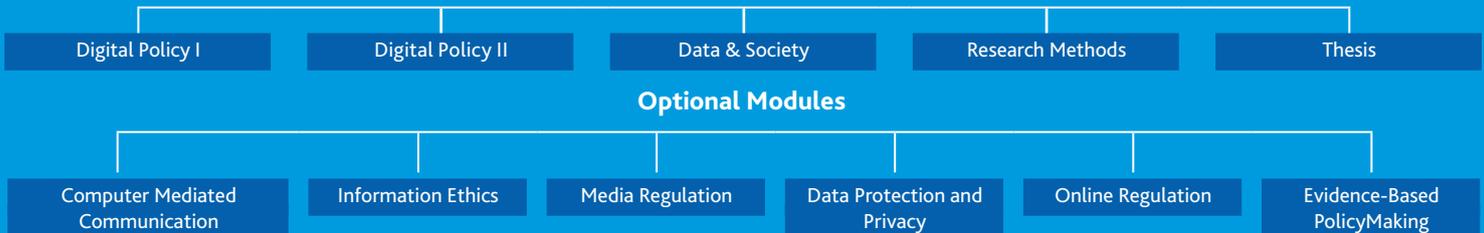
**Safety**
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

# Programme Outcomes

| 90 credits Taught Masters | 75 credits Core Modules | 15 credits Optional Modules |
| --- | --- | --- |

| Knowledge and understanding | Applying knowledge and understanding | Making judgements | Communications and working skills | Learning skills |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Understand both theoretical and applied issues in digital policy | Critically appraise evidence from research papers concerning topics in digital policy | Systematically analyse the research literature in a key area of digital policy as part of their dissertation | Articulate theoretical concepts, current debates and research findings to both specialist and non-specialist audiences from a digital policy perspective | Collect or source data using research methodologies taught on the programme |
| Demonstrate advanced conceptual knowledge of digital technologies and their implications for socio-political life | Critically evaluate existing digital policies and policy proposals and their limitations | Decide, under guidance, on appropriate methodology and materials to be analysed for their dissertation | Work effectively with peers in learning, research, and presentation | Engage in independent research and analysis under supervision |
| Understand the dilemmas and tensions involved in regulating digital technologies | | | | Write to a high academic standard |

## What Modules Can I Take?

| Digital Policy I | Digital Policy II | Data & Society | Research Methods | Thesis |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

## Optional Modules

| Computer Mediated Communication | Information Ethics | Media Regulation | Data Protection and Privacy | Online Regulation | Evidence-Based PolicyMaking |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

## Career Opportunities

This new MSc degree aims to produce future professionals with a deep understanding of both theoretical and applied issues in digital policy. On graduating, our students will be able to embark on a variety of careers in Ireland and globally, the MSc in Digital Policy is designed to prepare graduates for careers in evaluating, implementing, and studying core topical, theoretical, and methodological issues that arise in digital policy today, both in the public and private sectors.

Different suggested tracks will allow students to develop the knowledge to specialise for a specific setting. All three tracks include 75 credits of core modules that cover basic knowledge and skills with a thesis or project option, with 15 credits of optional modules according to track choice. Students will gain an international perspective from lectures and seminars as well as guest talks, combining professional experience with a strong theoretical background.

## Who should apply?

The MSc in Digital Policy is designed to prepare graduates for careers in evaluating, implementing, and studying core topical, theoretical, and methodological issues that arise in digital policy today. This course is for people who already have an undergraduate degree with academic and professional interests in how digital technology gives rise to policy and governance challenges and with an interest in technology, society, data governance, ethics of data, law, technology, privacy, surveillance, and policymaking. The MSc Digital Policy can be applied to a variety of fields, such as government or public sector, law, private sector, charities/nonprofits/civil society, because policy making transcends sectors.

## Entry Requirements

- Applicants should present with a primary (bachelor's) degree in any subject with an overall score of 2.1 or higher.

- Names and contact details of two referees who can assess their intellectual ability, maturity and motivation.

- 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.

- While applications are accepted up to August of the year of entry, offers are made to suitably qualified candidates on a first-come-first-served basis so early application is recommended. Entry to the programmes is very competitive and the number of places is limited.

## Contact Us

UCD School of Information and Communication Studies, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4.
**Telephone:** +353 (0)1 716 8359   **Email:** Kalpana.shankar@ucd.ie   **Web:** www.ucd.ie/ics

## Apply Now   Apply online at www.ucd.ie/apply

## Academic Profile

### Kalpana Shankar
Programme Director

Kalpana Shankar is Professor of Information and Communication Studies at UCD. Her areas of research include scholarly infrastructures and data and society. She is currently working on a project funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York on the sustainability of social science data archives and a Science Foundation Ireland funded project (UCD SPRING) on peer review and research evaluation.

## Fees

**MSc Full Time**
- EU fee per year - € 7455
- non-EU fee per year - € 18700

**MSc Part Time (two years)**
- EU fee per year - € 4815
- non-EU fee per year - € 9350

**www.ucd.ie/fees**

## Related Masters

Msc Communication and Media

MSc Digital Information Management

Professional Cert Digital Policy