

# Frequently Asked Questions

Programme Title	Mode of Delivery	Attendance required	Main Modules
MSc in Computing (Artificial Intelligence)	Online	Campus attendance required for exams only	Foundations of Artificial Intelligence Professional and Research Practice Data Analytics and Data Mining Machine Learning Topics in Artificial Intelligence Data Management and Visualisation Practicum (Artificial Intelligence)

## How long does the programme take to complete?

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

## What level on the NFQ are the programmes?

All Masters programmes are at level 9 on the NFQ.

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

Yes, you can. The aim of the Skillnet programmes is 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 one of the above programmes.

## What are the academic entry requirements?

To be eligible for the grant aided fees participants must be working in a private or commercial semi-state sectors organisation registered in the Republic of Ireland.

## MSc in Computing (Artificial Intelligence 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.

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## How do I apply?

All candidates must send their CV to Skillnet in the first instance to [info@ictskillnet.ie](mailto: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.

## Do I have to attend Dublin City University if I wish to study on one of Skillnet funded programmes?

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.

## How often are the online lectures streamed?

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. Finally, except for the exams and the orientation session at the start of the academic year, there will be no need for students to come to campus at all.

## When does the academic year start, when does it end?

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

## Time commitment required in terms of lecture/ study time per semester?

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.

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

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

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## **Will there be graduation ceremony?**

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

## **Throughout the course will there be access to hardware to allow for the training of deep learning models, either through a physical machine or remote access to any GPU's on site?**

We have set aside labs with machines with multiple GPUs on site and current MSc students are using them remotely successfully at the moment. There will be many assessments and having a GPU machine of your own is never a bad idea, but you will have remote access too.

## **Is there a possibility 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 in year 3.