

School of Computer Science

H.Dip Software Design and Development – Industry Stream

Frequently Asked Questions 2021-2022

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Q1 What is this course about?

The overall goal of this postgraduate conversion programme is to strategically increase the supply of skilled graduates to meet the needs of Ireland's high-growth software industry. It will provide graduates with a fast track, focused computing qualification, and presents them with an opportunity to obtain valuable industry work experience. Applicants are paired with an industry partner from the start of the programme and are then trained in key technologies for that employer's needs, so they are then able to maximise the impact of a paid industry internship towards the end of the programme.

Q2 What is the duration of this course?

The Higher Diploma is a full-time programme, commencing in September 2021 until 31st August 2022. You will complete two semesters here in NUI Galway, September-December and January to May. Finally, you will complete a 3-month paid internship June-August with one of our industry partners.

Q3 What is the application process?

Applicants for the programme apply through the CRM application system. The direct link is: <https://nuigalway.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login>

Applicants are required to have an active email account to use this website and applicants are guided through the system until the online application form is completed. A FAQ is also provided on this website to assist with the application process. Applicants are also requested to provide each of the following documents, a birth certificate and transcript of results and a personal statement.

- **Official qualifications and exam results (transcripts) to date:** required for all non-NUI Galway applicants and for NUI Galway graduates who did not receive their undergraduate degrees from NUI Galway. Copies of originals must be certified as true copies - CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES may be obtained by bringing the original document and a photocopy to the University/College that you graduated from, Garda Station (Local Police Station), Solicitor, Courthouse, or Commissioner of Oaths, and having the photocopy certified and officially stamped as a true copy of the original. Photocopies that are not certified will not suffice. Please note that these documents will not be returned. Applicants who have still to graduate must send these in on receipt.
- **Personal Statement (Essential for All Applicants):** - The personal statement of approximately 1 A4 page should detail why applicants wish to undertake the programme, how it fits into career objectives and specifically what makes applicants most suitable for a career in software development.
- **Birth Certificate – non-NUIG applicants only** – a copy of your birth certificate must be submitted.
- **English Competency.** All applicants whose first language is not English, or who have not been educated through the medium of English language during their two most recent eras of study, must attach your English competency examination transcript as evidence of English competency. For more information please see: <https://www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad-admissions/faqs/>.

Q4 Is there an interview?

Yes, applicants will be shortlisted and called for an interview.

Q5 Who will be interviewing me?

The interview panel is made up of representatives from all our industry partners. The interview panel is essentially a random allocation, and if applicants are successful with their application, applicant could be placed with any of these companies for their work placement.

As with the normal placement process in the University, the final placement is decided by the University and Companies.

Q6 What will I need for the interview?

It is not necessary to formally prepare for the interview. But some applicants may choose to bring along a CD or DVD of sample project work (and leave it with us). Also, if applicants wish to illustrate their work, they can also bring a high level architecture diagram or portfolio to discuss this when outlining their previous project experience.

Q7 What are the eligibility criteria?

Applicants with a Level 8 degree or alternatively a Level 7 with relevant practical work experience in the area of information technology and computing are eligible to apply. Those currently completing their studies and will not graduate until November are still eligible to apply.

Q8 What industry partners am I likely to be working with?

- Aspect Software,
- Cisco,
- Storm Technologies,
- Schneider Electric,
- INSIGHT,
- Avaya,
- The Marine Institute,
- Channel Mechanics,
- SAP,
- Rocudo,
- Genesys

Q9 Are there language competency requirements?

If necessary, evidence of English language competency should be provided. This refers to all applicants whose first language is not English or who have not been educated through the medium of English language during their two most recent years of study. Details are available on: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/entry-requirements/>

Q10 Will I need references?

Applicants must supply the names and contact details of two referees when they submit their application. References can be from an academic reference and an employer in the case of applicants currently in employment.

Q11 I do not have all my documentation such as exam transcripts yet.

Applicants can upload these any time, however, applications will not be processed until all required documentation has been received.

Q12 When will I know if I have been accepted into the course?

The Postgraduate Admissions office notify applicants as quickly as possible once an application has been reviewed and a recommendation made.

Q13 What do I need to do in order to register for this course?

On being offered a place on the course, registration information will be sent via e:mail to all incoming students for 2021/22 who have accepted their offer. Further information can be found at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/registration/>

Q14 What are the course fees?

For specific details of course fees applicants should contact the Fees Office at fees@nuigalway.ie. Fee details are available on: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses/fees-and-funding/fees.html#tab2>

Q15 Am I eligible for social welfare or other forms of funding?

This would be determined on a case by case basis and you will have to examine these options yourself. You may be eligible for some schemes such as:

County Council Grants (contact your local Authority).

Back to Education allowances or other social welfare payments (Contact the Department of Social Welfare).

Further information can be found on <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/>

Q16 Where will I find information for international applicants?

The International Office (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/>) have a detailed website with information for international students. Entry requirements for your country are available also on this webpage.

Q17 Do I require a visa?

Study visa application and guidelines can be found on:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/prearrival.html>.