



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

School of Computer Science
College of Science and Engineering



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020 | 2021

School of Computer Science, IT Building, NUI Galway

NUI Galway School of Computer Science requires all students to have exclusive use of a laptop for use in lectures and labs, for home use of online materials and for participation in online sessions.

The minimum and recommend spec are detailed at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/science-engineering/school-of-computer-science/currentstudents/laptops/>.

We also operate a laptop loan scheme for students who cannot afford a suitable laptop (see same address).

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Please note: This handbook is for information only and is correct at time of compilation. However, processes and procedures may change throughout the academic year. Please contact the relevant websites and Administrative Offices for up to date information.

Section 1: Programme Descriptions

1.1 M.Sc. in Software Design & Development (GYE03)

This two year MSc is aimed at candidates with little or no IT experience. In the first year, it provides a comprehensive academic foundation and focused technical training in software design & development techniques and tools, and also develops students' research capabilities. In the second year, students pursue a substantial research project in some aspect of computing, culminating in a thesis submission.

Graduates can expect to compete effectively for positions in the software industry as software developers and/or researchers in a specific domain.

Students can exit this programme after year one with a Higher Diploma.

Section 2: General Information

2.1 Academic Calendar 2020-2021

The Academic Calendar is available on:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/academic_dates/academic_term_dates.html

Academic Year 2020-2021	
Semester 1	
Start of Teaching (UG years (excluding Year 1) and Postgraduate Taught programmes)	Monday 28th September 2020
End of Teaching all years	18 th December 2020
Semester 1 Exams	11 th – 22nd January 2021
Semester 2	
Teaching (All Years, UG & PGT)	Monday 8 th February 2021 – Friday 2 nd April 2021
Easter	Good Friday 2nd April -Easter Monday 5th April 2021
Field Trips	Tuesday 6th April – Friday 9th April 2021
Teaching (All Years, UG & PGT)	Monday 12th April – Friday 7 th May 2021
Semester 2 Exams	18 th May – 4 th June 2021
Easter Holidays: Good Friday 2nd April to Easter Monday 5th April 2021	
Bank holidays: Monday 26th October 2020 / Wednesday 17th March 2021 / Monday 3rd May 2021 / Monday 7th June 2021 / Monday 2nd August 2021	

2.2 Key Contact Details

Programme Directors

Programme	Programme Director	Room	E:mail
M.Sc. in Software Design & Development	Dr. Seamus Hill	428	seamus.hill@nuigalway.ie

Administrative and Technical Staff

Administrative Staff		Room	E-mail
Ms. Mary Hardiman	Administrator	414	Mary.hardiman@nuigalway.ie
IT Technical Staff			
Mr Peter O’Kane	Chief Technical Officer	435	Peter.okane@nuigalway.ie
Mr John Hynes	Senior Technical Officer	420	John.hynes@nuigalway.ie
Mr Joe O’Connell	Senior Technical Officer	434	Joe.oconnell@nuigalway.ie

The School of Computer Science is located in the IT Building, Floor 3.

Student Contact Centre

The Student Contact Centre (tel: (091) 495999) provides the following services and is located on the ground floor of Áras Uí Chathail, which is situated on the main campus:

- Registration, Exams and Admissions queries
- Prospectus pick up
- Replacement ID Cards
- Transcript Requests
- Validation and stamping of forms e.g. social welfare, medical card, drug payment,
- USIT visa (Student Travelcard forms are stamped by SU)
- Change of Name/ Change of Address requests
- Statements e.g. letters of attendance

Useful Contact Numbers (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/about-us/contact-us/>)

Student Information Desk	(091) 495999
ISS Help Desk	(091) 495777
Admissions Office	(091) 495999
Accommodation Office	(091) 492760
Disability Liaison Office	(091) 492813
Fees Office	(091) 492386
Health & Safety Office	(091) 492678
Campus Security / Emergency	(091) 493333
Student Counselling	(091) 492484
Student Health Unit	(091) 492604
Students Union Shop	(091) 492411
General Emergency	999
Local Garda Station	(091) 538 000
Hospital (UCHG)	(091) 580580
Samaritans	(091) 561222

2.3 Maps

NUI Galway Campus map can be located on the University's website at:

http://www.ptba.nuigalway.ie/images/campus_map_.pdf

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/internationalstudents/files/Campus-Map-Sept-2014.pdf>

2.4 Examinations

The Examinations Office posts all results to the home address of each candidate. It is the responsibility of students to inform the **Admissions Office** of any change of address.

Results

Results will **NOT** be given on the telephone to candidates, or to anyone acting on their behalf.

Examination Timetables

Examination timetables may be viewed on the NUI, Galway web page at the following address: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/timetable-advice/examtimetable/>. Personalised timetables will be available on the WEB on a date to be advised by the Exams Office.

Timetables will NOT be posted to students.

Please be advised:

- Check the timetable OFTEN as changes may occur
- Revisions to timetable will be published on the Examinations Office WEB page only
- Revisions to timetable will not be posted to individuals

Repeat, Appeals and Re-checks

Appeals and rechecks should be addressed to the Examinations Office. In the case of Appeals, candidates must first consult the Head of the College of Engineering & Informatics for advice. A fee must be lodged with both the Appeal and Recheck Forms. Appeals from summer examinations must be lodged within four weeks after the issue of results (and up to three weeks after the issue of results in autumn where). Rechecks must be lodged up to three weeks after the issue of summer examination results. Fees are refunded if the outcome is positive.

Exam Board Sitings

The examinations board will sit in June and October where relevant examination, project and theses grades will be processed by the College of Engineering & Informatics.

Deferral of Exams

A guide for exam deferrals is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/timetable-advice/deferrals/>. This guide is to assist students with the process and provides a link to the application form and guidelines.

2.5 Student Services

Coming to University is a major milestone in your life and a point of changeover in your life. You are facing into some challenges and many opportunities. You will encounter the enjoyment and challenges of independence and decision-making and responsibility for your own well-being and lifestyle.

Student Services is a team that are core to the personal and academic development of students. Student Services is under the management of the Vice President for the Student Experience. Student Services is committed to enhancing the individual student experience by providing an excellent service which supports the holistic development of the person, thereby enabling each student to achieve their full academic potential. Through valuing, recognising and supporting each staff member and by forging strong alliances within the University Community, Student Services will assist NUI Galway to become a truly Student Centred University.

Student Services provides support as follows:

- Personal Support: Accommodation, Chaplaincy, Counselling, Disability Support, Mature Students office, Health Unit, Student Connect Mentoring Programme.
- Career and Professional Support; Job Search; Postgraduate Study & Student Abroad, Career and occupation information, Work Experience (PEP and GEP).
- Social and Recreational Opportunities; Sport Facilities, 40 Sports Clubs, 77 Societies and Sports Centre.

Detailed information on all the Student Services offered by NUI Galway may be found at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/student-support/>

Student Services Staff

Mr. John Hannon
Director
Aras Uí Cathail
Tel: 091-493586 ext. 3586
E-mail: john.hannon@nuigalway.ie

Ms. Teresa Kelly
Administrative Assistant
Aras Uí Cathail
Tel. 091-492364 ext. 2364
E-mail: Teresa.Kelly@nuigalway.ie

Ms. Una McDermott
Administrative Assistant
Aras Uí Cathail
Tel: 091-495282 ext. 5282
E-mail: Una.McDermott@nuigalway.ie

Ms. Angela Walsh
Administrative Assistant
Aras Uí Cathail
Tel: 091-493540 ext. 2364
E-mail: Angela.Walsh@nuigalway.ie

2.6 International Students

The International Office provide advice, information and support service for all International Students. For incoming international students information is available on <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/covid-19/>. The International Student Officer, Ms. Louise Kelly may be contacted at International Office, National University of Ireland, Galway. Tel 353 91 493581, E-mail: louise.kelly@nuigalway.ie. Ms. Kelly acts as an identifiable point of contact with the various Student Services in the University to ensure that any problems of adjustment are minimised. She helps International Students adjust as quickly as possible to their new environment, so that they can derive maximum benefit and enjoyment from their life at NUI Galway.

2.7 Computer Science Account and Swipe Card Access to Labs

The School of Computer Science has a number of undergraduate and postgraduate rooms which are for the use of our own students. Within these rooms are computers and printers. All students who are taking a module/course with the School of CS are entitled to an account to access the open access labs in the IT Building (Note: IT 106 is available to all NUIG students using main NUIG account). Depending on their course they may also have swipe card access to further project labs in the IT Building.

Accounts are setup automatically after a student registers for one of our modules/courses, and students will receive an email to their NUIG email to indicate the account is ready for use. Students must then log on to a URL to retrieve their password: <http://www2.it.nuigalway.ie/accounts/>. This will give the password, weekly print quota and list any swipe card access to rooms. Students who have issues with their Computer Science computer account, a PC or swipe access in the IT Building should log a call to Computer Science Technical officers: support@it.nuigalway.ie. Useful link for further related info: <http://www.cs.nuigalway.ie/currentstudents/>. Students who have issues with their main NUIG account, Wifi, Blackboard, personal laptops or any PC/printer on the rest of campus should refer to the NUIG helpdesk: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/>. Students who have issues with their main NUIG account, Wifi, Blackboard, personal laptops or any PC/printer on the rest of campus should refer to the NUIG helpdesk: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/>

2.8 DISC - Computer Programming Drop-In Support Centre

Computer DISC is a Computer Programming Drop-In Support Centre for all NUI Galway students who are taking any programming/software development courses. The DISC is a free service that supports all students with their self-directed learning in computing topics at all years and levels in NUI Galway. The centre is located in Room 205 on 1st floor of the Information Technology (IT) Building.

What services does Computer DISC provide to students?

- Facilities for students to sit and work on programming problems
- One-to-one advice and support for students, and focused small group tutorials

- Books, courseware, web links, and other learning resources for programming students
- A website with information and an email service for all queries
- Advice for students who wish to learn new programming languages autonomously
- Assistance with new technologies for project work such as Final Year Projects

2.9 Student Counselling

The counselling service is part of a network of support services offered by NUI, Galway. It provides professional counselling, which is **free** and **confidential** to all students of NUI, Galway. Life as a student is exciting and challenging, an achievement usually gained after much hard work and preparation. It can also be stressful at times. You may find you are experiencing personal difficulties which are affecting your ability to study and to take full advantage of the opportunities available to you at NUI, Galway. This is where we can help. We are a team of qualified and experienced counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists. The service operates within the Code of Ethics and Practice agreed by the Irish Association of University and College Counsellors (IAUCC). The services provided include:

- Pre-counselling assessment
- Individual counselling and psychotherapy
- Group work
- Information and referral
- A consultation service for those who may have concerns about a student – such as tutors, university staff, friends or parents

A drop in service is open every weekday in term time from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Further information is available <http://www.nuigalway.ie/counsellors/about-us/>

Counselling Staff

Ms. Geraldine Connolly, Head of Counselling

Direct Tel: 091 – 495202, Ext. 5202, E-mail: geraldine.connolly@nuigalway.ie

Ms. Emer Casey, Counsellor

Direct Tel. 091 – 495633, Ext. 5633, E-mail: emer.casey@nuigalway.ie

Contact Address: Counselling Services No. 5 Distillery Road NUIG.

Tel: 091 492484 ext. 2484.

E-mail: counselling@nuigalway.ie

2.10 Blackboard

Blackboard is the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in use at NUI Galway. Blackboard is a web based application that gives students access to all their courses at NUI Galway. Blackboard allows students to download lecture notes, reading lists, assessment information and other course-related material. Students have access to their online Blackboard courses once they have registered with NUI Galway. When a student registers for a course or module with the NUI Galway Student Records System, they are automatically enrolled in the

corresponding course on Blackboard. These changes are recognised by Blackboard within 24 hours.

If students require additional assistance with their login, they should contact the Service Desk within Information Solutions and Services (ISS). ISS can assist students with queries they may have relating to Blackboard including logging in to Blackboard or queries relating to their password or e-mail account. If students are unable to see courses when they log into Blackboard, they will need to check their registration statement to ensure they are correctly registered. Students who are not registered, will need to contact Admissions or the Student Contact Centre on the ground floor of Áras Uí Chathail to process their registration details prior to gaining access to Blackboard.

2.11 Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to copying another author's work without due reference or acknowledgement of the author. Plagiarism is not acceptable. It is essential that the candidate acknowledge other people's work, when used by the student. The submitted work must be prepared by the candidate alone, and must be the result of the candidate's own effort, skills and knowledge. It is unacceptable for candidates to knowingly permit others to copy their work. NUI, Galway has a strict code of practice for dealing with plagiarism, please refer to this link for more details – <http://www.nuigalway.ie/plagiarism/>

2.12 Information Solutions and Services (ISS)

ISS aim to provide students with access to the ICT facilities which they need to succeed in their studies at NUI Galway. These facilities include high speed Internet access, an NUI Galway email account, and access to the resources of the James Hardiman Library and the Blackboard virtual learning environment. These services are accessible from the on-campus PC suites and from suitably equipped laptops using the on-campus wireless network. A Campus Account (CASS) provides students access using a single User ID and Password to all computing services, other than E-mail. Students should refer to their Registration Guide for their temporary activation password. To activate your Campus Account, student need to go one to <https://cass.nuigalway.ie/> and login using their current student ID number and the activation password.

ISS Service Desk (Service Desk is located in the foyer of the James Hardiman Library).

E-mail address: servicedesk@nuigalway.ie

Direct Phone: 091 495777. **Extension:** 5777

2.13 Career Development Centre

The Career Development Centre is focused on facilitating and empowering students of NUI, Galway to manage their own career development and empowering students to make successful transitions towards fulfilling careers. Careers send out weekly emails to students with upcoming events during term to all students.

Details of the services provided to students by the Career Development Centre include:

- finding out options with your degree
- getting information on careers
- finding out about further study
- finding out or applying for a job
- develop skills that employers want
- Internships and Work Experience Fair
- Professional Associations Expo.

The Careers Development Centre host workshops to help students with applications and job search. One-off sessions are also offered to students and are bookable through Careers Connect and include:

- CV workshops - held monthly during semester.
- Interview workshop - held once a semester.
- LinkedIn workshop - typically 3 per semester.
- Personal Statement workshop - held once a semester

Further information on the range of services provided by the Careers Development Centre can be found at: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/career-development-centre/>

Career Development Centre

Location: Arts/Science Building (1st Floor)

Tel: +353 (0)91 493589

2.14 Out of Hours Working

Out of hours work refers to all University operations conducted outside normal hours. There are two relevant time-scales:

- **5.30pm – 11pm (week-days) and 8am – 11pm (weekends)**

When University buildings are accessible and while not in full operation, there may still be many people on site.

- **11pm – 8am (week-days and weekends)**

When University buildings are locked by Security and therefore only accessible to personnel with keys.

All such out of hours working are high risk because:

- Fewer staff and students are on-site to raise the alarm and/or give assistance in the event of an accident or incident
- Modified emergency measures may apply
- Personnel may be working alone

The listed below are the controls/arrangements to be used in reducing the risk of out of hours working:

- Out of hours working must be eliminated as much as possible. In particular high hazard work, or work/study by inexperienced persons, e.g. undergraduate students, **MUST** be restricted to normal University hours, when they can be appropriately supervised
- Hazardous work, e.g. laboratory operations, must be planned in advance to eliminate the hazardous procedures that need to be conducted out of hours*. Any work, which must be carried out outside normal working hours, must be conducted in pairs (buddy-system) or with a colleague within easy calling distance
- Persons working out of hours must receive written permission from the Head of department/section. This permission must be restricted to personnel who can justify the requirement to work out of hours
- A register of late night work is to be maintained by Security. This will be made up from the lists of those personnel authorized to work late, submitted by the Head of the department/section. Any personnel not listed and found in the department/section after 11pm will be requested to leave by Security. Where a later finishing time has been approved by a Head of department/section, this will be made known to Security and treated as the final finishing time
- Ensure necessary emergency equipment/measures are available and made known to persons working out of hours, e.g. which emergency escapes are available, accessible phones with outside lines for emergency phone contact
- *Operations/experiments – if left running without supervision, must be as safe as possible in advance, and should be identified by an Unattended Experiment Form. The Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Night work and Shift work) Regulations 2000 S.I 11 of 2000 must also be complied with, when and where applicable

2.15 Parking on Campus

Parking spaces in NUI, Galway fall into a number of categories:

- Staff Only
- Student Only
- Pay and Display (P&D) spaces
- "Reserved" spaces and loading bays

The parking permit payment system can be accessed via the Buildings Office website at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/buildings/parking.html>. Please note that you will be required to login, using your normal NUI Galway username/password authentication.

To purchase/renew your Student Parking Permit please log on to <https://permits.apcoa.ie/>.

If you park in a "Pay and Display" space, you must display a valid Pay & Display ticket and park only in spaces marked "Pay and Display". Should you have any queries, please consult our *Frequently Asked Questions* on <http://www.nuigalway.ie/buildings/faq.html>

A park and ride service operates from Dangan car park. Further information and timetable details are available from

http://www.nuigalway.ie/buildings/documents/park_and_ride_timetable

Parking Office Location: Room 103A, Ground Floor Arts Millennium Building

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 0930 - 1200 and 1400 - 1600

Contacts:

E-mail: parking@nuigalway.ie Tel. 353 91 495063 (ext. 5063)

2.16 Registration

Online registration opens on Tuesday 15th September for postgraduate taught students. Details of relevant dates can be found on: (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/registration/quick-links/registration-dates/>). Students will receive an email from registration before Online Registration opens inviting students to register online. Students should register as soon as possible for their programme to gain access to University services such as Student ID Card, Library, Blackboard, etc. Further registration details can be found on: http://www.nuigalway.ie/registration/reghelp_home.html/newstudentpostgrad/

2.17 Library

The Student ID card also acts as a Library card. Students must have a current card in order to gain entrance to the Library. Details on the services provided by the library are available at <http://library.nuigalway.ie/usingthelibrary/accessingthelibrary/> The Library and IT Service Desk is located on the ground floor of the library and provides advice and support to students on both Library and IT services (e.g., User ID/passwords, book loans, printing Wifi access).

2.18 Module Descriptions

No	MF1	Modules		Year 1 (60 Credits)
1	Core	CT5117: Research Project	Semester 1 & 2	Credits: 10
2	Core	CT537: Software Engineering 1	Semester 1	Credits: 5
3	Core	CT870: Internet Programming	Semester 1	Credits: 5
4	Core	CT853: Algorithmics & Logical Methods	Semester 1	Credits: 5
5	Core	CT511: Databases	Semester 1	Credits: 5
6	Core	CT874: Programming I	Semester 1	Credits: 5
7	Core	CT861: Computing Architecture & Operating Systems	Semester 1	Credits: 5
8	Core	CT875: Programming II	Semester 2	Credits: 10
9	Core	CT548: Object Oriented Software Design & Development	Semester 2	Credits: 5
10	Core	CT5127: Computer Networks and Data Communications	Semester 2	Credits: 5

CT5117: Research Project

This module involves completing a research project; this involves reviewing state of the art, preparing a literature review, identifying research questions and hypotheses, developing a prototype and writing a final report of research finding.

CT537: Software Engineering 1

This module is concerned with the methods, tools and procedures of software engineering. It takes a three-pronged approach to the study of the development of software systems: namely process, product and project.

CT870: Internet Programming

Design and implement web pages. Connect a website to a database. Create dynamic web content

CT853: Algorithmics & Logical Methods

This modules is delivered in two distinct half's that each last 6 weeks. Over the first 6 weeks, the module is designed to assist students that are new to programming and initially mirrors many of the concepts covered in Java Programming. Topics include structured programming, pseudocode, algorithmic design and complexity. Sorting algorithms are covered in detail with a significant assignment associated with assessing the ability of students to understand a complex sorting challenge, design a suitable algorithm and explain the overall complexity and design of their solution. In the second half of the module a range of concepts around searching are covered via a range of practical examples and leveraging core computer science concepts.

CT511: Databases

This module will provide the student with the information and technical know-how to establish, manage and optimally use databases. This will be essential information for those interested in Clinical Research administration.

CT874: Programming I

Introduction to Object Oriented Programming using the Java programming language.

CT861: Computing Architecture & Operating Systems

This module explores basic organisation and types of computer systems.

Important processor architectures. Outlines the basic structure and operation of microprocessors. Key features and operations of digital circuits and memory systems.

Input/output operations and components. Understand and describe the purpose, organisation and main features of an operating system. Research the main requirements and operations of operating systems. Foundational process management (including scheduling and concurrency) Understand memory-, file system-, storage- and I/O device-management. Learn basic security requirements in the context of operating systems.

CT875: Programming II

Understand and describe the architecture and components of Enterprise Java software systems, selected tools, frameworks and concepts for the development of Enterprise Java software systems. Analyse, create and debug Enterprise Java software. Explore advanced Java concepts (such as polymorphism, collections, complex class relations and types, generics, networking and client/server, I/O, concurrency, GUIs) Create and analyse Java programs involving concepts such as polymorphism, collections, complex class relations and types, generics, networking and client/server, I/O, concurrency, GUI frameworks.

CT548: Object Oriented Software Design & Development

Object-oriented programming fundamentals: variables and operators; control structures; objects and classes; methods; inheritance and polymorphism; exception handling; code style and quality.

Data structures and algorithms: stacks, queues, searching and sorting, analysis of algorithms.

CT5127: Computer Networks and Data Communications

This module provides an introduction to computer networks and data communications.