Employability in the Curriculum: developing future-ready graduates through work-integrated learning

26th to 28th May 2025

All training will take place on and near the "Hub" Building in the centre of the main UCC Campus (next to the historic "Quad" building) and with panoramic views of Cork City. All training sessions will be within a 5-minute walk of the Hub (no. 48 on the Campus Map).

Monday 26th May Evening Schedule (Theme: Welcome to UCC and Cork!)

17:00 – 21:00	We will meet at the UCC Visitor Centre at 5 pm for a Tour of Campus and surrounds followed by networking event at the nearby River Lee Hotel, a 5-minute stroll from campus.	UCC Visitor Centre (No. 59)

Tuesday 27th May Day 1 Schedule (Theme: Employability in the Curriculum)

Tuesday	Title/Topic	Speaker/ Facilitator (s)
9.00- 9.10	Arrival and Registrations	Dora Allman Room, The Hub Building (No. 48)
9.10 – 9.30	**Welcome to UCC** *Prof. Paul, McSweeney, Head of Teaching and Learning, UCC* *Eleanor Donoghue, Head of Career Services UCC*	
9.30– 10.15	**Keynote - Learning for Life through Work-Integrated Learning:** *re-imagining the student experience and curriculum design to optimise employability* Associate Professor Sonia Ferns	
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee	
10.45 - 11.45	**Employability in Work Placement and Work Integrated Learning in UCC: A Panel Discussion** • **Chair**: Clodagh Kerr, Work-Integrated Learning Manager • **Panellists**: Work Placement Managers Aileen Waterman, Amy McMullan, Jillian O'Mahony and Ruth McConaill	Aine Hyland (No. 48)

11.45 – 12.30	**A Transformational Journey to Employability through the Applied Economics degree in UCC**
	    • Mary McCarthy, Careers Advisor, UCC Career Services
	    • Dr. Daniel Blackshields, Lecturer, Cork University Business School
		Aine Hyland
		(No. 48)

12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 14.45	**Taking the LEAP: Embedding Employability into the Curriculum** Bernie Burke, Smurfit College, UCD	Aine Hyland (No. 48)
14.45 – 15.15	**Embedded Experiential Learning at the University of Limerick** Brendan Lally, University of Limerick	
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee	
15.30 – 17.00	**The Employability Hackathon – A Fresh Take on Integrated Employability Involving Key Stakeholders:** Facilitated by Deirdre Parker and Dr Sonia Ferns Introductory Presentation The Hackathon will be interactive, creative group exercise involving *industry*, *academic* and *student* representatives.	Aine Hyland and nearby rooms (No. 48)

Wednesday Schedule: Day 2 - Student Engagement with All Employability Initiatives

9.00 – 9.40	**From UCC Works to EmployAgility: The Value of Co-Curricular Awards and Digital Badges in Developing Key Graduate Attributes** David Jones, Graduate Attributes Programme Manager	The "Shtepps" The Hub Building (No. 48)
9.40 – 10.15	**UCC Micro-credentials: Win-Win Opportunities for Learners and Industry Partners** Mags Arnold, Project Lead, UCC Micro-credentials	
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee	

10.30 – 11.05	**The Impact of Generative AI on Graduate Recruitment** Professor Ronan Carbery, Cork University Business School	G27 O'Rahilly Building (No. 65)
11.05 – 11.50	**Leveraging AI and Digital Technologies to Enhance Student Employability and Engagement** Alan Reidy, IT Analyst, UCC Career Services	
12.00 – 13.00	**A Visit to the Assert Centre's state-of-the-art facility for Simulation Based Training and VR- Based Training** for application to the education of healthcare professionals.	Room 2.103 Brookfield (No. 11)
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch	
13.45 - 14.15	The "**Odyssey Programme**" for Postdoctoral Researchers and PhD Students of UCC Mary-Kate O'Regan, HR Business Manager (Research), University College Cork	G27 O'Rahilly Building (No. 65)
14.15 – 14.45	**Supporting Students with Disabilities through the Employability Programme in UCC** Shay Nolan, Employability Project Manager, UCC Disability Support Service	
14.45 – 15.15	**The Challenges and Rewards of Running Alumni Mentoring Programmes – A Sharing of Experience and Best Practices** Panellists: Clodagh Kerr, Work-Integrated Learning Manager Deirdre O'Shea, Associate Director of Stakeholder Engagement	
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee	
15.45 – 16.30	Next Steps and Plans for Future Collaboration	G27 O'Rahilly Building (No. 65)
16.30	Close	