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# DIPLOMA IN CREDIT UNION STUDIES BY DISTANCE LEARNING



**ucc**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland



IRELAND



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University College Cork, Ireland

The Diploma is normally taken over two years, with Part A taken in the first year of study and Part B taken in the second year of study. Students may opt to take the course over one year.

### PART A (30 CREDITS)

Students take 25 credits from

- ▶ History and Development of the Credit Union Movement (5 credits)
  - ▶ The Principles and Practices of Credit Union Management (5 credits)
  - ▶ Operations Management in Credit Unions (5 credits)
  - ▶ Decision-making and Organisational Issues in Credit Union Development (5 credits)
  - ▶ Credit Union Placement (5 credits)
  - ▶ Communications: Issues and Skills (5 credits)
- and take
- ▶ Summer School (5 credits)

### PART B (30 CREDITS)

- ▶ Research Project (5 credits)
- ▶ Research Methods (5 credits)
- ▶ Mutual Business Case Analysis (5 credits)
- ▶ Financial Services and Practices (5 credits)
- ▶ Business Finance Law and Credit Unions (5 credits)
- ▶ Information Management (5 credits)

### STUDENT COMMENTS

*"I really enjoyed the diploma course. It gave me a great grounding in what credit union is all about. It was a very professionally run course throughout, particularly the reading material, and there was a great sense of camaraderie in my study group."*

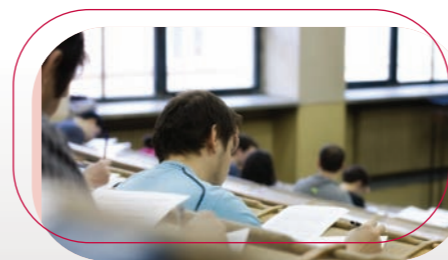
*"It was a great opportunity to gain a third level qualification. I felt a great sense of personal achievement on completing the course."*

*"The knowledge gained through the course gave me the confidence to express my views at meetings. Distance learning lectures were excellent and the lecturer encouraged participation by everyone. The course was definitely worth doing as knowledge and friendships were gained plus an insight into the workings of other credit unions both in Ireland and abroad."*

### Why study for a Diploma in Credit Union Studies?

The Diploma in Credit Union Studies is designed for people with experience in credit unions, as employees or as volunteers. There have been approximately 800 graduates to date, equally representing credit union employees and credit union volunteers including board members and committee members, from both small and large credit unions in urban and rural areas. The mixture of backgrounds, educational qualifications, motivations and ambitions is an ideal basis for the generation of new ideas which benefit the students as individuals, their respective credit unions, and indeed, the movement as a whole.

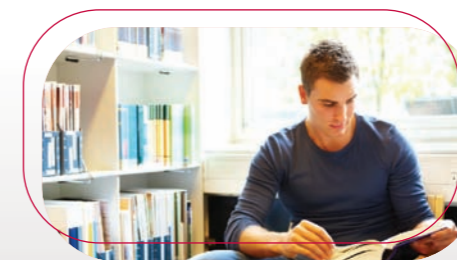
The Diploma is offered on a distance learning basis which gives students the flexibility that is not available from traditional classroom based learning. Distance Learning caters specifically for students who, due to work or other commitments, are unable to attend formal structured lectures or classes.



### Programme Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- Work and communicate more effectively as a volunteer and/or a staff member at an appropriate level in a credit union, as an individual or in a team.
- Explain the unique ethos, history and development of the credit union movement.
- Describe and analyse key governance, accounting, and operational issues in credit unions.
- Recognise the importance of business and credit union legislation.
- Use information technology tools and demonstrate knowledge of information resources and information technology.
- Research and report on credit union practice.
- Discuss and debate credit union issues with their colleagues.
- Reflect on and enhance their own credit union practice.
- Communicate their professional opinion in both verbal and written form.



### What are the entry requirements?

Applicants will normally be required to:

have reached 21 years on or before the 1st January of the year of enrolment and satisfy the minimum entry requirements of the Faculty of Commerce.

or

have at least two years' experience in operations/management, either as an employee or volunteer or comparable experience in similar co-operative organisations.

### Exemptions

Holders of the Advanced Certificate in Credit Union Practice awarded by the University of Ulster, will be eligible for exemptions of a total of 10 credits from Part A.

### What is the application procedure?

The closing date for receipt of applications for the 2009/2010 academic year is the 28th August 2009. Applications will continue to be accepted in September for any places still remaining, or for inclusion on a waiting list.

