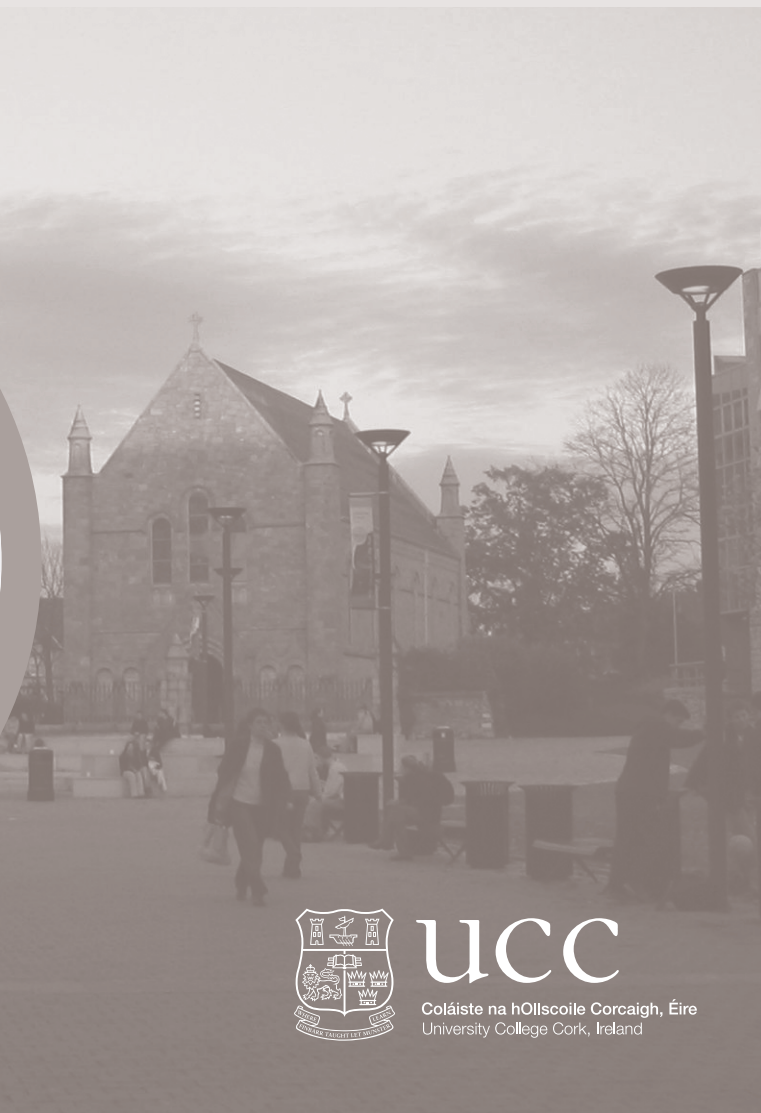


DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL INTEGRATION & ENTERPRISE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS BY DISTANCE LEARNING



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Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This programme will be of interest to those who:

- Want to explore and improve their community development practice, with particular emphasis on social enterprises.
- Are members of a voluntary management board or work in conjunction with voluntary management boards.
- Are trying to get a social enterprise project off the ground.
- Want a fully accredited university qualification.
- Find it difficult to attend traditional classes due to location, work and/or family commitments.
- Would be prepared to attend a weekend workshop once a month.
- Are looking for a programme that provides progression to degree and/or Masters level.

The programme aims to:

- (a) equip graduates for careers and voluntary service in a wide range of community based organisations, local development companies, social enterprises, development agencies, service organisations, and co-operatives and to
- (b) develop the capacity of organisations as innovative, learning organisations, as well as helping them maintain and enhance the effective performance of their core activities.

The programme provides students with:

- An introduction to and exploration of a range of approaches to development – community development, local development, community economic development, co-operatives and other social economy initiatives, and their role in creating sustainable communities and combating poverty and social exclusion in Ireland;
- A range of technical, organisational and managerial skills necessary for the effective management of community based activities;
- Training and practice in the conduct of research, evaluation and project development.

The course consists of a stimulating and essential mix of development, business and other social science subjects. It enables students to identify and evaluate the distinct role and challenges of local and community development and the social economy and draw on solutions from a range of appropriate disciplines. The focus is on developing local resilience and the exploration of practical and effective local responses to issues effecting communities.



The course has to date attracted staff and volunteers from a range of organisations including social economy initiatives, Family Resource Centres, Community Development Projects, partnership and other local development companies, unincorporated community groups, community co-operatives, organisations catering for people with intellectual disabilities and various state bodies. Over 150 students have graduated from the programme.

What's new on the diploma?

- The diploma has been revised reflecting developments in policy, research and practice in relevant sectors.
- A range of Skills Support Sessions have been developed to help students with the requirements of third level education. These include an Academic Writing Workshop and an introduction to both on-line and off-line library services as well as training on the using the dedicated programme website.



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10 reasons to study for the UCC Diploma in Social Integration & Enterprise:

1. The diploma will enable you to identify and evaluate the distinct role and challenges of local and community development and social enterprises and apply solutions from a range of appropriate disciplines in a practical way.
2. The diploma will equip you for voluntary or professional service in a range of settings.
3. You will achieve a level of ability and confidence in your professional/ community as well as personal life.
4. You will develop a set of transferable skills valuable to both you, your community and to prospective employers. These include oral communication, research, presentation, problem-solving, team-work, multi-tasking, time management and written communication skills.
5. Our blended learning model of delivery does not entail weekly trips to a campus or giving up full-time work. In addition, our credit accumulation system allows you to complete the diploma in a flexible manner.
6. The Centre for Co-operative Studies is the only academic unit dedicated to the study of co-operatives and social enterprises on the island of Ireland. Staff of the Centre have developed considerable links with the social enterprise, credit union,

co-operative and community sectors both nationally and internationally. As a student on our programme you will benefit from the latest thinking and research in your chosen topics.

7. The programme recognises and values the prior learning of mature students. This is reflected in the eligibility criteria, delivery and assessment of the programme.
8. University College Cork is one of the oldest universities in Ireland with over 16,000 students and is Ireland's leading research university. UCC is ranked in the top 3% of universities worldwide¹ based to a large extent on the quality of its research output and on peer esteem. Facilities include state-of-the-art, on-line library resources.
9. You will begin a rewarding journey of discovery, skills and personal development.
10. Completion of your diploma offers you the opportunity to progress directly to the second year of an add-on degree programme (contact us for details). The degree in turn offers you a gateway to a wide range of postgraduate studies.

¹Source: Times Higher Education Supplement university ranking 2008 – rank 226 out of 9,000

What will I study on the programme?

- Introduction to the Social Economy.
- Introduction to Development Theory and Practice.
- Participatory Approaches to Development.
- Governance for Social Enterprises.
- Co-operative Management.
- Research Methods.
- Enterprise Skills for Development Workers (marketing and finance).
- Organising Training for Development.
- Project Development for Social Enterprise
- Communications.





Would you like to know more?

For more detailed information on this programme and about us, please contact:

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INFORMATION SESSIONS ON THE PROGRAMME

We will be happy to visit your organisation (or a group of organisations in your area) to discuss the programme in more detail. Just contact us.



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