The Opportunity

The School of Law at University College Cork invites applications for a PhD position, as part of the UCC -Matheson Innovation Partnership.

Applications must be received by **5pm** on **20 June 2025**, with the candidate expected to commence in the September 2025 intake, although there may be some flexibility with a start date.

The scholarship covers fees (fully funded) and a stipend of EUR25,000 per year for up to four years.

The candidate will be supervised by Dr Nessa Lynch, Matheson Lecturer in Law, Innovation and Technology with co-supervision from the Department of Business Information Systems within Cork University Business School.

Applications are welcome in relation to topics on the broad intersection between law, technology, and innovation (including private and public law aspects), but the following topic areas are of particular interest:

- Legal aspects of the digital economy,
- Children, law and emerging technologies,
- Legal and regulatory aspects of cybersecurity,
- Artificial intelligence and corporate governance,
- 'Legaltech' and artificial intelligence in legal practice and judicial settings.

Applicants must show evidence of reflection on a proposed topic, but the topic will be developed further with the successful candidate.

Applications from international candidates are welcomed, but it is expected that the research topic will be of direct relevance to Irish and/or European Union law.

The successful candidate will also be allocated a mentor from Matheson, who will meet with the candidate periodically throughout their candidature.

Candidate Requirements:

Essential:

- A minimum of a high second-class honours undergraduate degree (or equivalent), *and*:
- A master's degree or equivalent, or extensive and relevant research, professional or practitioner experience.

- Applications from non-law graduates are welcome, but the candidate *must* be able to demonstrate the capacity to undertake advanced legal research and writing.
- The candidate must meet UCC's entry requirements including English language standard and verification of qualifications.
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Desirable:

- Experience of university teaching, a record of publication or other research-related activities.

Other Requirements:

The scholarship is available to full-time research students only. The scholarship holder will normally be expected to reside in the Munster region and may have opportunities to teach or tutor while undertaking their PhD (which would be remunerated separately). It is not possible to combine this opportunity with full-time work elsewhere.

We particularly welcome applications from groups that are underrepresented in doctoral study and/or the field of law and technology. You are very welcome to contact Dr Lynch to discuss the requirements, particularly how your professional experience in the field might supplement your academic record, or any accessibility or other needs you might have.

Application Process

You must apply for admission to the doctoral programme through the UCC Apply process: UCC's application system

In parallel, please provide the following documents (ideally in a single PDF file) directly to Nessa.lynch@ucc.ie

1. A 2- page CV, detailing biographical details, qualifications, relevant work experience, and any publications or teaching experience.

2. A short (max 10 pages) sample of academic writing (this could be an excerpt from publication, a research paper from university studies, or an excerpt from a dissertation or thesis).

3. A personal statement detailing why you wish to undertake this research project and how you meet the requirements of the scholarship (up to 500 words).

4. A detailed and original research proposal, in the following format:

a. Description of project, including aims and central research questions (up to 500 words)

b. Methodology, including theoretical framework and investigative and analytical methods (up to 500 words)

c. Relationship to existing literature and proposed contribution to knowledge in the field of study (up to 500 words)

d. Outline research plan, including organisation and timeline of proposed work (up to 500 words)

e. A short bibliography.

5. The names and contact details of two referees who may be contacted to discuss your suitability for the scholarship and to undertake the research.

Shortlisted candidates may be interviewed online.

UCC, the School of Law, and the Department of Business Information Systems

University College Cork is a comprehensive research-intensive public university in the south of Ireland. The research agenda is centred around UCC Futures, UCC Futures is an ambitious programme of research prioritisation coupled with an innovative academic recruitment strategy across ten indicative areas of strategic importance that will build a foundation for economic, societal, and cultural resilience and prosperity: UCC Futures - Securing our future through excellence in research | University College Cork. This scholarship is best aligned to the Artificial Intelligence and Data Futures stream, but there may be intersections with the Children and Collective Social Futures streams.

The *School of Law* is ranked in the top 100 law schools worldwide and has secured an Athena Swan bronze award. The School has national and international experts across the legal discipline and delivers the highest quality research with regularly published outputs in leading national and international academic journals, monographs and texts.

Much of the School's research is focused on its research centres and collaborative research networks and groups. More information can be found here: Research | University College Cork.

The School has one of Ireland's most successful graduate research programmes in Law. Students are provided with an unparalleled experience within a well-established and vibrant community of doctoral scholars, with easy access to experienced supervisors who are internationally recognised experts in their fields and a suite of tailored supports, facilities and activities.

The *Department of Business Information Systems (BIS)* has a large group of active researchers

and PhD students with a focus on these areas:

Data Analytics: digital transformation of activities and its impact on society and organisations particularly in education and healthcare; research on the digital impact on education, data-driven decision-making techniques in higher education, and on the transformative power of emerging information systems on *Financial Services.*

Impact of AI: on organisations, education and society, particularly healthcare, in collaboration with industry and with international academic partners.

Knowledge Representation, Natural Language Processing & Applied Ontology in Information Systems, Virtual Teams, *The Organisation of Collaborative Work*, *Project Management for Virtual Teams*. This focuses on the continued emergence of new technologies for facilitating collaboration within decentralised groups of participants