

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

26 to 28 May 2025

All training will take place in the Hub Building in the centre of the main UCC Campus (next to the historic “Quad” building) and with panoramic views of Cork City.

Full list of speakers with accompanying bios to follow shortly.

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

17:00 – 21:00	Tour of Campus and surrounds followed by networking opportunity – meeting at the UCC Visitor Centre at 5 pm	UCC Visitor Centre
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Tuesday Schedule (Theme: Employability in the Curriculum)

Tuesday	Title/Topic	Speaker/ Facilitator (s)
9.00- 9.15	Arrival and Registrations	Dora Allman
9.15 – 9.30	Welcome to UCC <i>Dr. Paul, McSweeney, Head of Teaching and Learning, UCC</i> <i>Eleanor Donoghue, Head of Career Services UCC</i>	
9.30– 10.15	Optimising graduate employability through Work-Integrated Learning (Keynote): Associate Professor Sonia Ferns	
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee	
11.00 – 11.45	Employability in the Curriculum – Part 1 Best practice examples across UCC including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embedded Employability Modules - Embedded Work-Integrated Learning Brief presentations followed by panel discussion of academic and professional services staff of UCC.	“The Shteppeps”
11.45 – 12.30	Employability in the Curriculum – Part 2: Best practice examples across Irish institutions, including the University of Limerick and University College Dublin, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A university-wide employability module for all registered students; - An award-winning, innovative module for postgraduate students of business. Brief presentations followed by panel discussion.	Aine Hyland
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	

2.00- 2.30	Introduction to the WIL for Employability Hackathon: Overview and Team Introductions Dr Sonia Ferns and UCC Careers Team Members	"The Shtepps"
2.30 – 3.30	Employability in the Curriculum – Part 3: Industry-Led and Industry-Informed Curricular Content: A Moderated Panel Discussion with Industry Representatives and Fellow Educators	
3.30 – 4.00	Coffee	
4.00 – 5.00	Stakeholder Perspectives on Employability - What is employability in your view and to what extent are today's graduates employable?: A moderated panel discussion with industry, academic and student representatives.	

Wednesday Schedule: Student Engagement with Employability Initiatives

9.00 – 9.15	Welcome and Recap/Orientation	
9.15 – 10.00	The Value of Co-Curricular Employability Initiatives such as Digital Badges, Awards and Micro-credentials: Discussion involving managers of co-curricular employability awards and micro-credentials programmes	Dora Allman
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30	WIL for Employability Hackathon: Brainstorming, Collaboration and Team Presentations – facilitated by Associate Professor Sonia Ferns and the UCC Career Services team.	
11.30 – 12.30	The Impact of Generative AI on Graduate Recruitment	
12.30 – 13.00	Leveraging AI and Digital Technologies to Enhance Student Employability and Engagement	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Innovative Approaches to Supporting the Employability of Diverse Student Cohorts (3 Parallel Sessions)	
Session 1	The " Odyssey Programme " for Postdoctoral Researchers and PhDs	Dora Allman
Session 2	Innovative Alumni Mentoring Programmes running in UCC and other UNIC Institutions	"The Shtepps"
Session 3	Supporting Students with Disabilities through the Employability Programme in UCC	Aine Hyland
15.00 – 17.00	Next Steps and Plans for Future Collaboration	Dora Allman