



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration

Prospectus

2025-2026



Undergraduate and
Postgraduate Programmes

WELCOME TO THE IPA AND TO THE WHITAKER SCHOOL

In an era of rapid transformation, the Irish public sector faces an evolving landscape of challenges and opportunities. The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) stands at the forefront of this change, equipping public servants with the knowledge, skills, and strategic foresight needed to navigate complexity and drive innovation.

Central to this mission is the Whitaker School of Government and Management, Ireland's centre of excellence in public administration education. Offering a comprehensive suite of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes - ranging from specialist diplomas to a Doctorate in Governance - the Whitaker School is uniquely positioned to build capacity across the wider public service. Our programmes are designed not only to support individual career advancement but also to strengthen governance, policy development, and public service leadership and delivery at all levels.

Understanding the demands placed on today's public servants, we offer flexible, part-time study options delivered through a blended learning model. This ensures that students - whether based in government departments, local authorities, state agencies, or the non-profit sector - can balance their professional responsibilities while pursuing accredited qualifications from the National University of Ireland.



Our approach is informed by research, thought leadership, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The Whitaker School's programmes integrate contemporary public management challenges with the expertise to lead with confidence in an ever-changing public service environment.

This prospectus outlines the range of opportunities available at the Whitaker School. We invite you to join a dynamic learning community that fosters innovation, builds networks, and enhances the capacity of Ireland's public sector. We look forward to supporting your professional journey and contributing to the ongoing evolution of public administration in Ireland.

Professor Colette Darcy

Head of School, Whitaker School of Government and Management at the IPA

CONTENTS

ABOUT THE IPA AND THE WHITAKER SCHOOL.....	4
Location – Dublin 4 and Nationwide	5
Accreditation	5
Whitaker School Programmes – A Brief Introduction	5
Programme Delivery.....	5
Prior Learning and Progression Opportunities	5
Undergraduate Progression Pathways Within the Whitaker School.....	6
Why Choose the Whitaker School at the IPA?.....	7
IPA Library	7
PUBLIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.....	8
UNDERGRADUATE	
Certificate in EU Essentials for Public Servants	10
Certificate in Project Management.....	11
Certificate in Public Management	12
Certificate in Public Procurement	14
Professional Certificate in Public Administration and Policy.....	15
Diploma in Computer Studies	16
Diploma in Law	17
Diploma in Management.....	18
Diploma in Public Management	20
Professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality	22
Professional Diploma in Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation	23
Professional Diploma in Project Management	24
Professional Diploma in Public Service Innovation.....	25
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) – Law and the Administration of Justice.....	26
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) – Public Management.....	28
POSTGRADUATE	
Professional Certificate in Climate Action and Sustainability Reporting	30
Professional Certificate in Governance	31
Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.....	32
Master of Arts – Public Management	34
Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis.....	36
Doctorate in Governance.....	37

HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.....40

UNDERGRADUATE

Certificate in Health Services.....	42
Diploma in Health Services Policy.....	43
Professional Certificate in Healthcare Management.....	44
Professional Diploma in Health Economics.....	45
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) – Healthcare Management.....	46

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Arts – Healthcare Management.....	48
---------------------------------------------	----

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES.....50

UNDERGRADUATE

Diploma in Human Resource Management.....	52
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) – Human Resource Management.....	54

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Arts – Human Resource Management.....	56
Master of Arts – Leadership and Strategy.....	58

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES.....60

UNDERGRADUATE

Certificate in Housing Studies.....	62
Certificate in Local Government Studies.....	64
Diploma in Local Government Studies.....	66
Professional Diploma in Housing Studies.....	67
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) – Local Government.....	68

POSTGRADUATE

Master of Arts – Local Government Management.....	70
---------------------------------------------------	----

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION, ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, FEES AND APPLICATIONS.....72

How to Apply.....	72
Admission Requirements and Applications.....	72
Paying Fees.....	73
Table of Fees.....	74

ABOUT THE IPA AND THE WHITAKER SCHOOL

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) is the national centre of excellence for building capability and capacity in the Irish public service. It specialises in research-informed and practice-based higher education programmes for public servants.

The IPA's Whitaker School of Government and Management, which brings the Institute's higher education activities together, offers a wide range of accredited programmes. Each year around 1,000 people graduate from the School.

The Whitaker School's programmes have long proved popular with those who want to obtain a high-level qualification while attending to their work and domestic obligations. The programmes are of different duration and students choose how far they wish to proceed, often obtaining interim awards as they do so.

The IPA has long experience in adult education. It knows what busy professional learners are looking

for when they return to education: comprehensive programmes of high standing that are flexible enough to enable students to study in the way that best suits their personal circumstances.

As its students live and work throughout Ireland, the IPA tries to ensure that its part-time programmes can be taken from anywhere in the country. Recognising that many of its students are returning to education, meanwhile, the Institute pays great attention to individual students needs and prides itself on a collegiate, welcoming learning environment. The programmes, which are taught by both academics and experienced practitioners, seek to connect academic theories and principles with current and perennial issues in public management.



LOCATION - DUBLIN 4 AND NATIONWIDE

The IPA is located on **Lansdowne Road** in **Dublin 4**, immediately adjacent to the sports stadium and to Lansdowne Road DART station. It is very well-served by public transport, with bus and train routes just minutes away. Behind the impressive Victorian façade is a modern campus and superb library.

Whitaker School students do not, however, have to live in Dublin. Programmes are delivered through a blended learning model that combines in-person teaching with online components. In short, wherever you live or work, you can take the programmes described in this prospectus.

ACCREDITATION

The IPA is a recognised college of the National University of Ireland (NUI). All the programmes outlined in this prospectus are accredited by the NUI; they are university-level qualifications. IPA programmes sit between levels six and ten on the ten-point National Framework of Qualifications.

WHITAKER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES - A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Whitaker School is, quite simply, the leading provider of public management education programmes in Ireland. No other institution offers a comparable range of qualifications in this area. At undergraduate level, there are certificates and diplomas in numerous specialisms - including in local government, housing, law, and healthcare management - along with an honours BA degree in public management that enables students focus on modules of most relevance to their professional life.

At postgraduate level, the School offers a suite of MA programmes along with qualifications in policy analysis, climate action, and governance. The



School's highest award is a Doctorate in Governance, which provides a unique curriculum for public sector managers and policy makers.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Whitaker School programmes are generally delivered through a blended learning model that combines classroom-based seminars, webinars, and extensive online and other resources. Depending on the programme, seminars and webinars can take place on selected evenings, weekends, or weekdays.

PRIOR LEARNING AND PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Whitaker School recognises prior learning and, where appropriate, offers students with relevant qualifications exemptions from subjects or stages of a programme. The School also enables students to progress from one qualification to another. The table on the next page notes the progression opportunities that exist at undergraduate level within the Whitaker School.

“ The flexible learning options offered by the IPA were invaluable in enabling me to complete my qualification while in full-time employment. I can safely say that the programme really broadened my career options.”

Kathleen Maher, IPA Graduate

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRESSION PATHWAYS WITHIN THE WHITAKER SCHOOL

I WILL STUDY:	I CAN PROGRESS TO:
CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SERVICES	Diploma in Health Services Policy
CERTIFICATE IN HOUSING STUDIES	Professional Diploma in Housing Studies
CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES	Diploma in Local Government Studies
CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT	Professional Diploma in Project Management
CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	Stage 2 of Diploma in Public Management/BA (Hons)
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY	Stage 2 of the BA (Hons) in Public Management*
DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SERVICES POLICY	Stage 2 of BA (Hons) Healthcare Management*
DIPLOMA IN HRM	Stage 2 of the BA (Hons) HRM or BBS (Hons) HRM* (additional exemptions from selected modules also available)
DIPLOMA IN LAW	Stage 2 of the BA (Hons)* (additional exemptions from selected modules also available)
DIPLOMA IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES	Stage 3 of BA (Hons) Local Government*
DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT	Stage 2 of the BA (Hons) Public Management* (additional exemptions from selected modules also available)
DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	Stage 3 of BA (Hons) (chosen stream)
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HEALTH ECONOMICS	Stage 2 of BA (Hons)*
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HOUSING STUDIES	Certificate in Local Government Studies or Stage 1 of Diploma in Public Management/BA (Hons)
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY	Stage 2 of Diploma in Public Management/BA (Hons)*
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT	Stage 1 of BA (Hons)
BA (HONS)	Graduate programmes – see www.ipa.ie

* On completion of an IPA Bridging Studies Programme.

The Bridging Studies Programme is normally delivered online during the summer months.

WHY CHOOSE THE WHITAKER SCHOOL AT THE IPA?

- The Whitaker School is the national authority on public management issues and its programmes cover the subjects essential to a public service career.
- Whitaker School programmes are accredited by the National University of Ireland (NUI), of which the IPA is a recognised college.
- Whitaker School programmes are part-time and expressly designed for those with busy professional and personal lives.
- Programmes are delivered through a flexible blended learning model that combines in-person and online teaching.
- Many programmes offer practical skills development in specific areas and relevant public sector case studies, thereby relating theory to practice.
- Students can specialise in a wide range of fields.
- Prior learning is recognised through exemptions from subjects/stages.
- Students can progress, at a pace of their choosing, from undergraduate certificate awards through to postgraduate programmes.
- Located in the heart of Dublin 4, the IPA's Training and Education Centre provides facilities of the highest order.

IPA LIBRARY

The Library provides information, reference and lending services to students, members, and staff of the Institute. These include web-chat, email, telephone, and postal services. The Library collection includes books, eBooks, print journals, and electronic journals on a wide range of subjects including law, politics, economics, management, governance, the EU, healthcare, finance, local government, and sociology.

IPA librarians are on hand to assist students in their studies. Regular sessions are provided to help students develop the skills to identify, locate, and access appropriate sources to complete their coursework. Books may be borrowed for two weeks, and those already on loan can be reserved. The Library catalogue can be accessed from the IPA website: ipa.ie/library.

The Library manages access to thousands of full-text journal articles. These can be accessed remotely by all students. Materials not held in the Library may be requested through the inter-library loans service, and items can be delivered in hard copy or electronically.

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

During term time (mid-September to late April), the Library is open during the following times:

Monday to Thursday: 09.15 to 19.00

Friday: 09.15 to 17.00

Most Saturdays in term: 09.00 to 14.00

During the summer months, the Library is open Monday to Friday during office hours. Further details of opening hours are available at ipa.ie/library.

Please check for any last-minute changes to opening hours, particularly at weekends and during the Summer, before planning a visit to the Library.



PUBLIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

2025–2026



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration





“

I really enjoyed my first year with the IPA and undertaking a part-time degree course. The course was blended, with online learning and in-person lectures, which I found to be the perfect balance.*

”

** Taken from IPA student survey*

CERTIFICATE IN EU ESSENTIALS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model that combines two week-day webinars with online study materials.

Duration:

10 weeks.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland (NUI).

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025 and January 2026.

Award:

Certificate in European Union Studies.

THE PROGRAMME

This short micro-qualification programme explains and analyses the work of the European Union (EU) from the specific perspective of the Irish public service. Designed for those with no prior knowledge of the EU, it focuses on the fundamental characteristics of the EU as they pertain to Irish public administration. Given the significant influence the EU has on the Irish public service, the programme provides an important opportunity to examine the breadth and depth of the EU's influence on Ireland and how Irish officials and representatives seek to shape EU policies.

Delivered in a very student-friendly fashion combining webinars and some independent study, the programme considers the historical origins of the EU; significant moments in its evolution; how EU institutions like the European Parliament, European Commission and the Council of the European Union function and the powers they exercise; the role of Commission committees and Council working parties; and the practical realities of EU membership for Irish public servants.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

- Modern history of the EU.
- How the EU makes laws and their application in Ireland.
- The powers and function of the main EU institutions.
- EU committee structures and the role of national officials.
- Current Issues in EU policy areas.
- The Irish experience of EU membership.
- How Irish officials and representatives seek to influence EU proposals.
- The Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- The role of the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU

This programme will have wide appeal across the public service to all those who would like to properly understand the fundamental facts about the Irish experience of EU membership. Given the significant influence the EU has on Ireland as a member state, and on the Irish public service in terms of legislative obligations, the programme will be an important opportunity to examine the breadth and depth of the EU's influence and how Irish officials and representatives seek to shape EU policies. A short, introductory programme with a very practical focus, it will work to reinforce the capacity of Ireland's public servants to operate effectively within the EU institutions.

ASSESSMENT

An online assessment takes place when the programme is complete.

CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars at the IPA and, where necessary, online webinars. They are supported in their studies by various online resources and course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€2,400 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Successful students can enrol for the Professional Diploma in Project Management.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme covers critical skills areas, including project initiation; schedule development, monitoring and control; and team management. It also addresses methodologies and frameworks designed to support the project manager. Students will learn from experienced tutors, and from each other, how to manage their projects effectively and to meet the expectations of their stakeholders. The programme closely follows international best practice and the Project Management Handbook for the Civil Service.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will be particularly relevant for public servants who:

- Are new to project management
- Are members of, or work closely with, project teams
- Wish to enhance their awareness and knowledge of project management
- Are interested in learning practical tools and techniques to help them manage projects more effectively
- Wish to improve the inter-personal competencies that are vital for successful project managers.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme will cover the following subjects:

Tools for Managing Projects

- Project Context
- Project Initiation
- Project Definition
- Monitoring and Control of Projects
- Project Close

Projects in their organisations

- Organisation Structure and Culture
- Team Development and Management
- Managing Project Work
- The Role of the Project Manager

DELIVERY

This is a blended learning programme that combines seminars with a range of online resources and course material. Students also receive a specially chosen textbook(s).

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous throughout the programme and consists of assignments, a personal project, and written examinations.

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Minor Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can progress to the second year of the Diploma in Public Management or BA (Hons).

THE PROGRAMME

This one-year, part-time programme provides a systematic introduction to the subjects at the heart of public management in Ireland. Students take four subjects and address such crucial topics as constitutional law, the principles of economics, the Irish system of government and the most influential theories of management.

The Certificate is both a stand-alone qualification and the first year of the four-year BA (Hons) programme. Students who successfully complete this year can enter the second year of the Diploma in Public Management or BA (Hons), where they will have the opportunity to specialise in a field of particular relevance to them. If students do not wish to take all the subjects in one year, they can take the programme on a phased basis.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme has, for decades, proved invaluable to students who require a solid grounding in subjects fundamental to public management. It is an ideal choice for those returning to education and keen to obtain a third-level qualification over one academic year, with an option to continue to degree level. Students on this programme often work at junior to middle grades in:

- Government Departments
- Local Authorities
- State-Sponsored Agencies
- Health Sector

SUBJECTS

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached, monopolies and competition, national income, the financial system and monetary policy.



Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The Irish institutions and systems are compared to those in other countries. The second part of the course

focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration, explaining how the civil service is organised and the management of social welfare services, healthcare, education and housing.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

ASSESSMENT

The programme is assessed by means of assignments and final examinations.



CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

DELIVERED IN ASSOCIATION
WITH GREENVILLE
PROCUREMENT PARTNERS LTD

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars and online webinars. They are supported in their studies by various online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Entry requirements:

Applicants that do not have knowledge/experience of procurement must contact the IPA to determine their suitability for this programme. Interviews may be held.

Place on NFQ: Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: Autumn 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee:

€4,700 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details

THE PROGRAMME

The Certificate in Public Procurement offers a detailed analysis of public procurement in the context of Irish and European Union legislation. The course provides comprehensive detail on all aspects of the procurement process to professionals seeking to enhance their skill base in this important field. It seeks to provide participants with the basic knowledge, skills and tools necessary to ensure an effective and efficient procurement service, which will deliver value for money, manage procurement risks and ensure compliance with all national and EU procurement regulations.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

The course is specifically designed for public sector officials engaged in the procurement of supplies, works and services. Participants should have a working knowledge of public sector procurement and should be involved in procurements at national or EU level.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The Certificate has five modules:

1. Introduction, Rules and Concepts

- Principles and regulations
- Defining contract types
- Procedures

2. Procurement Planning, Risk, and Procedures

- Principles of good procurement
- Value for money
- Risk assessment and management

3. Tender Documentation

- Key documentation
- Request for tenders
- Tender receipt and opening

4. Evaluation, Award and Conclusion

- Award criteria
- Framework agreements
- Remedies legislation

5. Contract Management and Corporate Governance

- Business ethics and corporate governance
- Contract terms and conditions
- Debriefing

DELIVERY

This is a blended learning programme that combines webinars/seminars, course material, and directed home study.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on assignments, a work-based project and a final examination.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

KEY FACTS:

Delivery Method:

Students attend day-long seminars/webinars. Between these events, they study a range of online resources, including bespoke video lectures and specially chosen readings.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 8 (Special Purpose Award) on the 10-point National Framework of Qualifications.

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€2,650 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Graduates can enter Stage 2 of the BA (Hons) after a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme will significantly develop a student's knowledge of Irish public administration and public policy. It will do so through an interdisciplinary approach, blending topics in public administration with public policy theories and real-life case studies. In addition to understanding, and being able to explain to stakeholders, the key tenets of Irish public administration, graduates can also make an effective contribution to real-life implementation or evaluation of public policy within the wider context of public sector reform, development, and innovation.



IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will appeal to all those working in the civil and public service who would like to gain a deeper understanding of why and how Ireland's public service and public policies operate as they do. It will also attract those who want to apply what they learn to their professional lives when they work on projects and engage with the implementation of policies.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme consists of four modules:

MODULE 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

This module examines the role and function of the Constitution, the political institutions in the State, and the legal and economic systems within which they operate.

MODULE 2: INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ROLES - HOW IRELAND IS GOVERNED

This module introduces students to the way that civil service departments and state bodies are governed. It also provides an overview of how local government, agencies, and the EU operate.

MODULE 3: POLICY MAKING AND ANALYSIS

How are public policies formulated and evaluated? This module covers both the theory of policy making and evaluation and such specific evaluative techniques as financial appraisal and project management.

MODULE 4: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN IRISH POLICY

In this module, students will undertake an in-depth exploration of three key policy areas: social policy, tax policy, and climate policy.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment consists of module assignments and an end-of-year exam.

DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER STUDIES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars, seminars (as required), and are supported in their studies by various online resources and course material.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

October/November 2025.

Application

Deadline: September 2025.

Fee:

€2,290 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments (see. p.73 for more details).

THE PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Computer Studies is a part-time programme of training and education leading to a professional qualification in Information Technology. It covers such fundamental topics as the configuration of hardware and software, the project management of IT initiatives, and the principles and practices of contemporary IT security.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme is particularly suitable for both end users with a strong interest in Information Technology who would like to make a career in IT and those already working in IT who would like to extend their knowledge and convert their experience into a formal qualification.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme includes both common and elective modules. These attend to critical areas in contemporary computer studies, including:

- Hardware and Software Fundamentals
- Project and Operations Management
- Security Foundations
- Cloud and Virtualisation
- Big Data and Data Analytics
- Web Design
- Systems Development
- Database Design

DELIVERY

This is a part-time programme that is delivered over two academic years. It is delivered through a combination of online resources and intensive webinars.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through a combination of on-line testing, assignments, project work and examination.



DIPLOMA IN LAW

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 7 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,590 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Graduates can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) on completion of a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Law is a one-year, part-time programme that addresses the basic laws and legal principles that determine and influence the work of the State and private enterprise. It focuses on four key subjects. Students will learn about, among other things, how the Irish courts operate, the rights protected by the Constitution, the legal powers of state bodies, the laws governing contracts and business relationships and the laws that protect employees.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you would like to acquire a comprehensive introduction to law in just one academic year. As the programme moves between constitutional, business, administrative and employment law, it attracts a diverse range of students. Many students are also attracted by the very flexible delivery method, which allows students to study at a time and place of their own choosing and participate in interesting seminars/webinars over the course of the academic year.

SUBJECTS

The Legal System and Constitutional Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Business and Company Law

All transactions in the State, whether public or private, are governed by law. In this course, students will examine the laws that pertain to the creation, performance and dissolution of contracts, the formation of companies, the acquisition of shares and the liquidation of businesses.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. It seeks, in short, to establish the manner in which public bodies can affect the lives of citizens. Students will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

Employment Law

A very significant body of laws regulates the employment relationship. This course explains and analyses that body of law, discussing such key topics as the employment contract, the legislation that protects employees and the laws regulating the employment of non-nationals.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete assignments and sit examinations.

DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Place on the NFQ:

Level 7 (Special Purpose Award).

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,590 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students who successfully complete this programme can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) programme on completion of a bridging programme.

- Financial Management
- Strategic Management

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This one-year programme will be of real interest to those who have some management responsibilities or are eager to obtain the skills and qualifications that management positions require. The delivery method may be an important factor in your decision, as it allows you to study at a time and place of your own choosing.

SUBJECTS

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

Human Resource Management

This course covers several specific topics in the HRM field, including manpower planning, performance management, managing change, health and safety issues, employment legislation and strategic management.

Financial Management

This course provides students with a clear understanding of standard accounting techniques and the proper management of an organisation's finances. Designed for those with no background in accounting, it addresses, among other things, double-entry book-keeping, how profits are measured and the regulations governing financial statements and disclosure.

Strategic Management

Strategic management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both the public and private sector. Among the topics addressed are the history of strategic management in the Irish public sector, why strategic management is seen as critical and the tools of strategic management.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by means of assignments and final examinations.

THE PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Management is a one-year, part-time programme that explores key subjects in modern management theory and practice. It seeks to equip both those currently working in management and those who hope to obtain management positions with the requisite skills to make a valuable contribution to the strategic direction of their organisation and to advance their own career. Suitable for both those working in the public and private sectors, the Diploma addresses four key management subjects:

- Principles of Management
- Human Resource Management



DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS:

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Interim Awards:

Certificate in Public Management (Year 1).

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Minor Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can progress to the relevant stream of the BA (Hons).

THE PROGRAMME

This two-year part-time programme is both a stand-alone qualification and the second year of the four-year (BA) Hons programme. Having completed the first year—Certificate in Public Management—students continue their studies with four subjects from a choice of four streams:

- Public Management
- Healthcare Management
- Law and the Administration of Justice
- Human Resource Management

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme is suited to those working across the wider public service who would like to extend their understanding of public management issues and take a subject especially relevant to a particular sector. The first year provides a solid appreciation of the fundamentals of economics, law, government and management, which the second year builds upon.

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification and the first stage in this programme and the degree. See p.12 for more details.

YEAR TWO

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

Organisation and Management

An organisation's structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation's work.

European Studies*

Ireland's membership of the EU is plainly of huge importance to public management. This course explains the key facts of EU membership, addressing the history of the EU, the power and responsibilities of its institutions, the decision-making process, key EU policies, and different perspectives on the EU's development and reform.

*This subject is not taken by students in the Healthcare Management stream.

**STUDENTS CHOOSE ANOTHER SUBJECT(S)
FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STREAMS:**

Public Management

Social Policy: This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and ‘life cycle’ policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

Healthcare Management

Health Policy and Planning: This course offers an overview of policy and planning in the Irish health system. It examines the historical development of the system, the impact of demographic changes, and current structures for governance, service delivery and regulation. It also analyses the roles of key stakeholders, important policy developments and the challenges in planning and implementing health policy.

Social Policy: This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and ‘life cycle’

policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

Law and the Administration of Justice

Social Policy: This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and ‘life cycle’ policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

Human Resource Management

Organisational Behaviour: Human behaviour is the critical element in organisational success. This course explores the theories that have developed about how people behave in an organisational setting and how management can respond to those behaviours. It considers such topics as motivation, leadership, group behaviour and organisational culture.

ASSESSMENT

The programme is assessed by means of assignments and final examinations.



PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

DELIVERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH IHREC

KEY FACTS:

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars (and periodic webinars). They are supported in their studies by various online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: One academic year.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Commences: September/October 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee: The cost of the programme is €2,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students who successfully complete this programme can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) on completing a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality is a one-year, part-time programme that has been developed in conjunction with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. It seeks to give public servants and others a better understanding of the place that human rights and equality occupy in public management and administration. The responsibility to devise policy, deliver services, and follow processes that protect human rights and further equality has become explicit since the introduction, via legislation, of the public sector duty in this area.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you know you would benefit from a comprehensive education in how human rights and equality influence contemporary public policy and service delivery. Students come from all parts of the wider public service and beyond and work at various grades. They are all keen to understand how the

laws and policies around human rights and equality have become intrinsic to the day-to-day delivery of services and to obtain an informed perspective on the challenges that human rights and equality developments have for the workplace. No prior knowledge of the law in this area is required.

SUBJECTS

Philosophical and Political Perspectives on Human Rights and Equality

This module introduces students to the historical and conceptual foundations of contemporary human rights and equality law. Students will learn about the major historical developments in this area, the key theories that have been advanced in support of the universality of human rights and equality, and the current debates about the application of these theories in national and international contexts.

The International and European Frameworks for Human Rights

Students will be introduced to the United Nations human rights system, the Council of Europe human rights mechanisms (including the European Convention on Human Rights), and the European Union human rights and equality framework. The module is essentially concerned with the international legal framework within which Irish laws and policies sit.

Human Rights and Equality in the Irish Legal System

The main aim of this module is to introduce students to the protections around human rights and equality provided by the Constitution of Ireland and to the very considerable body of legislation and case law that has developed in Ireland, particularly in recent years.

Human Rights and Equality in Public Management

This module will give students the knowledge, resources, and skills they need to apply what they have learned about human rights and equality to their working lives and to their organisations. It will use case studies from different sectors to provide guidance on the human rights and equality issues that regularly arise in the working lives of public servants and those charged with managing and delivering public services of all sorts. This module includes coverage of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on assignments in all modules and final examinations.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS FOR POLICY EVALUATION

DELIVERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars and are supported in their studies by various online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: One academic year.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: September/October 2025.

Application deadline: September 2025.

Fee: The cost of the programme is €2,600 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Diploma in Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation has been developed in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is targeted at decision-makers throughout the public service. It introduces students to important Irish and international official statistics that will help them better understand the structure and trends in Ireland's economy and society. A unique feature of the programme is that course material is prepared and taught by professional statisticians from CSO. This is a practical "hands-on" course, and emphasis is placed on the visualisation and presentation of statistics so that useful policy relevant information or knowledge can be derived. Students are also introduced to data management and metadata best practice and to the broader principles of evidence-informed policy formulation and evaluation.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will appeal to anyone in the wider public service who would like to obtain a specialised knowledge of official statistics and their role in decision-making. It is of great benefit to those who need to present analyses or business cases to peers and to those charged with research and analyses. A working knowledge of Excel would be useful.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is divided into four main areas. The topics covered include the following:

1. Framework for Official Statistics

- Principles of policy evaluation
- Accessing information
- Statistical infrastructure and data management
- Legal and institutional frameworks
- Standards and confidence in statistics

2. Macro-Economy Statistics

- National and international accounts
- Banking and finance
- External trade and balance of payments
- Prices
- Globalisation

3. Business Economy Statistics

- Short- and long-term business statistics
- Science and technology
- Environment and energy
- Transport and travel
- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

4. People, Demography and Labour Force Statistics

- Demography and migration
- Income and social conditions
- Employment, unemployment and earnings
- Health and education
- Well-being, equality and crime

DELIVERY

Students are provided with comprehensive course material that has been specially prepared by the IPA and the CSO. They will attend seminars over the course of the academic year, where, in addition to receiving lectures and demonstrations, emphasis will be placed on understanding key statistics in current employment and social developments.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will consist of written assignments, data lab submissions, and final examinations.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars at the IPA and, where necessary, online webinars. They are supported in their studies by various online resources and course material.

Entry requirements:

The Certificate in Project Management or equivalent or direct project experience.

Duration: One academic year.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: October 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee: €3,590 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme builds on the Certificate in Project Management. It covers additional critical skills areas, including procurement, resource management, quality management, and managing multiple projects. It addresses methodologies, frameworks (including PRINCE 2 and Agile) and technologies that support the project manager. Designed to help students working as project managers or as members of project teams in both the public and private sectors, the programme is based on PMBoK, the body of knowledge of the project management profession. It also follows international best practice and the Project Management Handbook for the Civil Service.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This Professional Diploma is ideally suited to:

- Those who have completed the Certificate in Project Management or who can demonstrate an equivalent level of competence
- Those who are spending, or are likely to spend,

a significant proportion of their time undertaking project work

- Those who are interested in enhancing their abilities in hands-on project management

PROGRAMME CONTENT

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT DELIVERY

Project Management Context

- Systems Thinking
- Strategy, Business Case and Appraisal
- Requirements Management and Facilitation Skills

Initiation and Project Delivery

- Project Initiation
- Project Planning
- Monitoring and Control
- Benefits Management

Frameworks and Methodologies

- PMBOK
- Prince 2
- Agile

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Organisations and Projects

- Organisation Culture
- Organisation Structure
- Organisation Change
- Organisation Maturity and Programme Management

Managing People and Teams

- Team Development
- Project and Personnel Communication
- Managing Risk

Project Leadership and Knowledge

- Quality and Procurement Management
- Role of Project Manager
- Project Leadership

DELIVERY

This is a blended learning programme that combines attendance at webinars/seminars with a range of online resources and course material. Students also receive a specially chosen textbook(s).

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous throughout the programme and consists of a personal project, assignments and written examinations.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICE INNOVATION

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a combination of online webinars and in-person seminars at the IPA. Students are supported in their studies with various online and other resources.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€2,690 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students who successfully complete this programme can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) programme on completing a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme—the only one in Ireland designed exclusively for employees from the civil service, local authorities, and wider public service—explores innovation and transformation ideas and practices. It responds to the fact that public servants are working in an increasingly complex and challenging environment, one where being innovative has become a necessity rather than an option.

Delivered by a team of public service innovation specialists over four immersive and engaging modules, it will enable students to collaboratively tackle multiple real-world government challenges by applying “design thinking”, a widely used and

proven innovation process. Students will develop core innovation skills like empathy, problem framing, ideation, prototyping and iterative testing as well as collaborative skills like nurturing psychological safety.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you wish to present as a public servant that understands the theory and practice of contemporary organisational innovation. Graduates will obtain the confidence and skill sets to lead innovative projects and encourage creative approaches to problems and efforts at reform.

SUBJECTS

Innovation Principles and Applications

This module explores various behaviours associated with innovation that lead to changes in the ways things are understood and done. It examines different aspects of creativity, innovation skills, collaboration and communication.

Leadership and the Management of Change

This module aims to establish the nature of innovation, explore various components of, and stages in, the innovative process and assess major innovative practices and techniques. It also assesses the critiques and limitations of innovation.

Innovative Behaviours

The main aim of this module is to analyse the place of innovation in the work environment and its interactions with leadership and teamwork. It examines the role of leadership in innovation and explores the processes and challenges of leading innovative changes, at both the individual and organisational levels.

Action Learning Project

A project module sees students apply what they have learned to an area of work where they believe innovation can be applied. They will participate in peer groups to exchange and analyse information and practice.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by module assignments and by the action learning project. The latter is a capstone project reflecting all the learning throughout the course.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) – LAW AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

Four years of part-time study.

Award:

Honours Bachelor of Arts.

Interim Awards:

Year One: Certificate in Public Management.

Year Two: Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 8 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can progress to graduate programmes.

penology and law enforcement. This highly-regarded qualification includes two interim awards – at Certificate and Diploma level.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme has wide appeal, but it is particularly relevant for:

- Members of An Garda Síochána
- Prison staff
- Other public servants working in the administration of justice and related fields

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification – Certificate in Public Management – and the first stage of the four-year degree programme. See also p. 12.

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached and competition.

Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The second focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration, explaining how the civil service is organised and the management of social welfare services, healthcare, education and housing.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

THE PROGRAMME

This is a four-year, part-time programme that combines subjects critical to contemporary public management in all sectors with those especially relevant to law and the administration of justice. In addition to learning about the economic, legal and HR issues that affect public administration broadly, students obtain specialised knowledge about such matters as constitutional law, criminology and

YEAR TWO – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The second year is both a stand-alone qualification – Diploma in Public Management – and the second stage of the four-year degree programme. See also p.20.

European Studies

Ireland's membership of the EU is of huge importance to public management. This course explains the key facts of EU membership, addressing the history of the EU, the power and responsibilities of its institutions, the decision-making process, key EU policies, and different perspectives on the EU's development and reform.

Social Policy

This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and 'life cycle' policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

Organisation and Management

An organisation's structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation's work.

YEAR THREE

Criminology and Penology

This course discusses the various theories that have been advanced to explain criminal behaviour. It also addresses contemporary theory on penology.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. It seeks, in short, to establish the manner in which public bodies can affect the lives of citizens. Students will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

Economics

This year's course focuses on public sector economics, a field that is plainly critical to public servants at various grades. The topics addressed include economic growth, forecasting and planning, the finances of central and local government and the principles of taxation.

Financial Management

This course aims to provide students with a clear understanding of standard accounting techniques and the proper management of an organisation's finances. Designed for those who do not possess a background in accounting, it addresses, among other things, double-entry book-keeping, how profits are measured and the regulations governing financial statements and disclosure.

YEAR FOUR

Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice

This course examines how justice is administered in Ireland and related laws. It explores the general principles of criminal law, including the presumption of innocence. It also assesses the legislation that governs the actions of An Garda Síochána, the provisions of the Constitution relating to arrest and trial by law and efforts to balance the needs of society with civil liberties.

Employment Law

A very significant body of law regulates the employment relationship. This course explains and analyses that body of law, discussing such key topics as the employment contract, the legislation that protects employees, equality in the workplace, health and safety law and the law regulating the employment of non-nationals.

Strategic Management

Strategic Management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both public and private sector organisations.

Public Policy-Making

This module examines different ways of understanding policy-making processes, the different influences, and the actors involved. It reviews discrete 'stages' within the policy-making process, such as framing and agenda setting, policy formulation, and implementation, as well as themes such as public service reform.

ASSESSMENT

Students submit assignments and sit examinations in each year.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) – PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

Four years of part-time study.

Award:

Honours Bachelor of Arts.

Interim Awards:

Year One: Certificate in Public Management.

Year Two: Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Major Award).

Commences: September 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can progress to the MA (Public Management), MA (Leadership and Strategy), or other graduate programmes.

THE PROGRAMME

This degree is a four-year, part-time programme that provides a comprehensive examination and analysis of subjects critical to contemporary public management. A highly-regarded qualification, it offers instruction in, among other subjects, law, economics, politics and social policy. It includes two interim awards: Certificate in Public Management (Year 1) and the Diploma in Public Management (Year 2). Students take four subjects in each year.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you work in the wider public service and would like a broad understanding of the subjects that determine public management. Many students work in the civil service but the programme also attracts students from the local and voluntary sectors, the healthcare sector and from state-sponsored bodies. Some may have been unable to pursue a third-level qualification at an earlier point in their career and now wish to do so while remaining in full-time employment.

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification – Certificate in Public Management – and the first stage in the four-year degree programme. See also p. 12.

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached and competition.

Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The Irish institutions and systems are compared to those in other countries. The second part of the course focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration, explaining how the civil service is organised and the management of social welfare services, healthcare, education and housing.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

YEAR TWO – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The second year is both a stand-alone qualification – Diploma in Public Management – and the second stage of the four-year degree programme. See also p.20.

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

Organisation and Management

An organisation's structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation's work.

European Studies

Ireland's membership of the EU is of huge importance to public management. This course explains the key facts of EU membership, addressing the history of the EU, the power and responsibilities of its institutions, the decision-making process, key EU policies, and different perspectives on the EU's development and reform.

Social Policy

This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and 'life cycle' policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

YEAR THREE

Economics

This year's course focuses on public sector economics, a field that is critical to public servants at various grades. The topics addressed include economic growth, forecasting and planning, the finances of central and local government and the principles of taxation.

Financial Management

This course provides students with a clear understanding of standard accounting techniques and the proper management of an organisation's finances. Designed for those with no background in accounting, it addresses, among other things, double-entry book-keeping, the measurement

of profits and the regulations governing financial statements and disclosure.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. It seeks, in short, to establish the manner in which public bodies can affect the lives of citizens. Students will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

Human Resource Management

This course covers several specific topics in the HRM field, including manpower planning, performance management, managing change, health and safety issues, employment legislation and strategic management.

YEAR FOUR

Economics

The study of economics in the final year of the degree turns to economic policy and policy analysis. The course explores such topics as industrial and regional economic policy, economic integration, globalisation and issues around financing and control.

Strategic Management

Strategic management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both the public and private sectors.

Public Policy Making

This module examines different ways of understanding policy-making processes, the different influences, and the actors involved. It reviews discrete 'stages' within the policy-making process, such as framing and agenda setting, policy formulation, and implementation, as well as themes such as public service reform. Significant attention is paid to the different influences and constraints that exist on policy making and the implementation of policy, such as the role played by ideology, globalization, and international relations.

Employee Relations and Law

This course addresses the key topic of employee relations, examining how such relations can determine an organisation's success or otherwise. It considers the main provisions of employment law, participation and partnership in the workforce, health and safety legislation and managerial strategies for healthy employee relations.

ASSESSMENT

Each year of the degree is assessed by means of assignments and final examinations.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

Students attend a number of day-long seminars/webinars. Between these events, they study a range of online resources, including bespoke video lectures and specially chosen readings.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Special Purpose Award).

Micro-credentials:

Students can take individual modules as micro-credentials.

Fee:

The programme fee is €3,990, payable in one or two instalments (or €1,000 per individual module taken).

THE PROGRAMME

This one-year, part-time programme responds to the fact that public servants, at all levels and in all sectors, urgently require significant education and training in climate- and sustainability-related matters if Ireland is to meet relevant national and international goals. Addressing both the theory and practice of climate action and sustainability, it introduces the key concepts, facts, and challenges that need to be understood by public servants as they lead Ireland's transition to an environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will provide public servants with some of the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to effectively contribute to climate action and sustainability efforts. Graduates will also be in a position to help their organisations comply with potentially onerous reporting requirements in the most efficient and effective ways. Addressing topics set to dominate many aspects of public life, the programme will furnish public servants with an

in-depth and practical understanding of what the Irish state has set itself to do around climate and sustainability and of how sectors and organisations will report their activities in local, national, and international contexts.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

THE PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF FOUR MODULES:

Module 1: Climate Action – Context and Challenges

This module introduces students to the climate and wider sustainability emergencies that Ireland and the world are facing. It addresses the challenges facing the public sector, the leadership that is needed, and the EU and international frameworks around climate action and policy.

Module 2: Climate Action Planning & Implementation

The second module turns to Ireland's climate action plans, analysing their content from various perspectives, including those of economics and public policy.

Module 3: Sustainability Reporting: Standards, Protocols and Guidance

This module will focus on the sustainability reporting obligations that public service bodies have to meet. It will consider financial and non-financial sustainability reporting and will examine the various elements of sustainability reports.

Module 4: Sustainability Reporting: Application

The final module attends to the practical tasks involved in sustainability reporting. It will address sustainability reporting in different sectors, frameworks that can be used for integrated reporting, and methods of reporting.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment consists of module assignments and an end-of-year exam.



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN GOVERNANCE

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

Students attend seminars/webinars in each term and are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including online course material and a core textbook.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,100 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Certificate in Governance is a one-year part-time programme that addresses a key area of concern for professionals in the public and private sectors. Governance is a subject used in several contexts and attracts much debate in Ireland and elsewhere. This programme examines governance as a set of structures and processes used in arriving at and implementing decisions.

Addressing such topics as the role and responsibilities of governing bodies and boards, the performance and accountability of directors, assurance arrangements, fiduciary responsibilities, executive and non-executive functions and reserved functions of boards, the Certificate explains the principles of governance and the constituent elements of 'good' governance. In short, graduates will have authoritative knowledge of the principles and practices associated with decision-making and control in organisations.

Students receive comprehensive course material and attend scheduled seminars/webinars. The lecturing team includes experienced governance specialists and practitioners. Study groups and peer interaction are facilitated and encouraged.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you wish to obtain a professional qualification in a field of contemporary and enduring relevance. Yes, if you wish to advance your own understanding of the principles and practices under which commercial, non-commercial, state and public benefit organisations operate. Well-publicised governance, ethical and audit problems have clearly shown that there is a palpable need for board members, senior managers, administrators and policy-makers to critically assess the governance arrangements in place for particular sectors or organisations. This part-time programme will enable graduates to assess and enhance the governance mechanisms that operate in organisations and to clearly articulate and put in practice the ideas that lie behind the rhetoric of governance.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

- Principles of Governance
- Governance in the Public and Private Sectors
- Governance of Agencies
- Governance Roles and Responsibilities
- Best Practice and Professional Models
- Ethics
- Performance and Accountability
- Audit and Assurance
- Control and Risk Management
- Assessing Good Governance

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed on the basis of an assignment, a project and an examination.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each term and are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and module textbooks.

Duration:

One academic year.

Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025 and January 2026.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

how to promote organisational change, public sector financial management and the huge significance of EU institutions and policies for Ireland.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme is suitable for students working in all parts of the public sector, from large central government departments and local authorities to small public agencies. New responsibilities or career ambitions may well mean that you require graduate-level education in public management subjects. As the programme is delivered through a blend of weekend seminars/webinars and extensive course materials, you can work toward a postgraduate qualification while remaining in full-time employment.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

SEMESTER ONE (SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER)

Economics

This course focuses on public sector economics. The State plays a very important role in all our economic lives and in the economic health of the nation. Among the topics that are addressed are taxation, the economics of regulation, efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector, monopolies, project appraisal, sources of funds and portfolio theory.

Managing Human Resources

On completing this course, which attends to both human resource management and organisational behaviour, students will be able to evaluate the human resource management system in their organisation. It considers, among other topics, strategic HR planning, performance and rewards management, theories of leadership, group dynamics, communication in organisations, politics and conflict, organisational change, and job design.

Finance

Public sector managers, like their private sector counterparts, should have a solid understanding of the main principles and tools of contemporary financial management. This course explores financial reporting, financial statement analysis, budgeting and working capital, cost and management accounting, and investment. It also attends to the ideas and practices of modern financial governance, auditing and risk.

THE PROGRAMME

The Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management is both a stand-alone qualification and the first year of the MA programme. It explores public management issues using models and concepts from a range of fields, including economics, human resource management, and organisational strategy.

The programme is divided into two semesters: September to December and January to April. Each of these is devoted to the study of three key public management subjects.

The programme is delivered through a blend of scheduled weekend seminars/webinars and comprehensive course material. Students receive textbooks and course manuals for all subjects.

Over the course of the year, students receive instruction in areas vital to the management of public services, including the cost-appraisal of projects,

SEMESTER TWO (JANUARY – APRIL)

Organisation and Strategy

This course gives students a solid understanding of the evolving role of the State, of different approaches to policy-making and strategy, and of organisational design. Focusing on the public sector, it provides ideas and arguments that students can use to evaluate their organisation, its working environment, and its success. Among the specific topics addressed are the role and evolution of the State, decision-making in organisations, and public management in the 21st century.

Research Methods

This course explores both research theory and design and quantitative techniques. With regard to the former, it considers how knowledge is best obtained, different research strategies, sampling, interviews, and focus groups. Its treatment of quantitative techniques examines how to present data, the application of probability distributions, the estimation of population parameters, and the relationships between quantitative variables.

Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

This course falls into two parts. The first explores some of the main issues around the management of service delivery in the public service. It addresses the changing demands and challenges, the effects of consumerism, and the use of contracting and devolved management. The second part of the course explores the history of European integration, how the EU functions and the debates about its direction and future.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by means of assignments and final examinations.

PROGRESSION

Students may enter the Postgraduate Diploma in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year of the MA. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year of the MA the following September.



“The Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management is an excellent course that is both interesting and challenging. My participation on this programme has enabled me to further develop my skills and abilities as a public servant, thereby enhancing my professional development.”

Emma Jane Morgan, IPA Graduate

MASTER OF ARTS – PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year of the programme, students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each term and are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and essential textbooks. In the second year, under expert supervision and with seminar/webinar support, they prepare a dissertation.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Arts.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The MA – Public Management is a two-year, part-time programme that combines instruction in key subjects in public management with an opportunity for students to research and write about a specific topic in the public management field. It aims to raise the level of analysis of Irish public management and to develop more efficient and resourceful public sector managers.

On completing the first year of the programme, students receive the interim award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management. Six modules are covered in the first year, three before

Christmas and three after. Students attend weekend seminars/webinars and study course material and textbooks. The second year of the course is devoted to the preparation of a dissertation on a topic of particular relevance to a student's professional life. Working under the guidance of an IPA supervisor, students apply the ideas and principles they encountered in their first year to an agreed public management issue. In so doing, they obtain significant, transferable competencies and skills in research and critical analysis.

The research methods module that students take in their first year helps prepare them for the dissertation phase.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme is suitable for students working in all parts of the public sector, from large central government departments and local authorities to small public agencies. The programme is delivered through a blend of weekend seminars, online resources, and course texts. Students can, therefore, pursue this programme no matter where they live and can remain in full-time employment.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management (Interim Award)

The first year of the MA programme is divided into two semesters and each semester is devoted to the study of three key subjects in public management. (See pages 32-33 for more details on the subjects).

Semester One

- Economics
- Managing Human Resources
- Finance

Semester Two

- Organisation and Strategy
- Research Methods
- Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

YEAR TWO

Dissertation

In the second year of the programme, students write a dissertation. The topic they address will be relevant to their professional formation and interests and determined on foot of advice and support from their IPA supervisor. Dissertation seminars/webinars are held at the start of the year to prepare students for their research.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by means of assignments, examinations and a dissertation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students may enter the first year of the MA (Postgraduate Diploma) in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year the following September.

Graduates may wish to consider the IPA's Doctorate in Governance programme.

“I found that the MA in Public Management gave me a bespoke broad understanding of the challenges facing the Irish public service while allowing plenty of scope to focus on issues of real interest to me.”

Diarmuid Hallinan, IPA Graduate.



MASTER OF ECONOMIC SCIENCE IN POLICY ANALYSIS

POSTGRADUATE
DIPLOMA IN POLICY
ANALYSIS

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year – the Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Analysis – students attend lectures at the IPA on one day each week. The second year is devoted, under expert supervision, to the preparation of a dissertation.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Analysis (one year).

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the first year of the programme (Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Analysis) is €8,100 per annum. The fee for the second year (Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis) is €5,790 per annum. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

This two-year, part-time programme addresses the tangible need for the development of policy analysis skills across the wider public service. It explores subjects that are crucial to the expert assessment of contemporary public policy, including project management, economic and financial analysis, social policy analysis and cost-benefit analysis. On completion of the first year of the programme, students receive the Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Analysis. In the second year, they complete a supervised dissertation on a policy analysis issue that they are particularly interested in.

The subjects taken in the first year, including a module on research methods, will help prepare

students to choose and complete an appropriate dissertation. Graduates of this programme are very well-equipped to play a role in the formulation and implementation of public policies in a very wide range of areas.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you appreciate the vital role that policy analysis plays in promoting economic and social progress and want to understand the tools and methodologies that should be applied in such analysis. You may well work in the wider public service and wish to play a professional role in the formulation and analysis of policy.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Analysis

Students take four subjects in each of the two semesters:

Semester One (September – December)

- Elements of Economic Analysis
- Financial Analysis
- Public Sector Economics
- Policy Evaluation

Semester Two (January – April)

- Economic Evaluation and Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Project and Risk Management
- Research Methods
- Social Policy Analysis

YEAR TWO

Master of Economic Science in Policy Analysis

In the second and final year of the programme, students complete a dissertation on a policy analysis issue, building on the knowledge and skills that they have obtained in the Diploma year. Students participate in dissertation workshops to discuss their research and their ideas.

ASSESSMENT

The first year is assessed on the basis of assignments and examinations at the end of each semester. The second year is assessed on the basis of the student dissertation.

DOCTORATE IN GOVERNANCE (DGov)

MSC IN APPLIED GOVERNANCE

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered via seminars at the IPA campus, webinars, directed study, and (under expert supervision) a research project.

Duration:

4 - 5 years.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Interim Award:

Master of Science in Applied Governance (if exiting the programme after the second year).

Place on NFQ:

Level 10 (Major Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €8,700 per annum. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The DGov is a 4-5 year professional doctoral programme. It provides public policy-makers and public sector managers with the advanced knowledge and high-level critical skills that their professional lives demand. Students explore how public policy-making has evolved, and is continuing to evolve, as a result of changes in the structure and practices of the modern state. The programme will enable policy-makers to gain a comprehensive understanding of issues and patterns of governance in Ireland and abroad. A wide range of modules are taught in its first two years before students undertake a research project under expert guidance.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The DGov programme attracts participants from the civil service, local government service, health services, security services, other state services and

the voluntary sector in Ireland, Great Britain and the rest of Europe. Applicants should normally possess a primary and postgraduate degree, or equivalent qualification, of at least upper second class honours (2.1) standard and have at least three years' full-time work experience at an appropriate level in a relevant public service profession. Interviews may be held to assess the suitability of applicants.

The DGov is the Whitaker School's highest qualification and produces graduates with great expertise in issues fundamental to a successful and rewarding career in the public service and related fields. Study groups and peer interaction are facilitated and encouraged.

KEY ATTRIBUTES

The DGov programme:

- Provides a unique curriculum of doctoral level education
- Is delivered under the direction of a team of expert academics and practitioners
- Focuses on applying academic understandings and skills to professional practice
- Facilitates research into, and debate on, key issues affecting policy-making and governance
- Creates opportunities to develop inter-jurisdiction networks
- Includes a doctoral research project on a subject of the participant's choice
- Provides extensive participant support, including an induction workshop, a personal tutor and guidance at each study session

PROGRAMME DELIVERY AND EVALUATION

This part-time programme is delivered by means of directed study and a research project on a subject relevant to the participant's work experience and professional formation. Participants can pursue the programme no matter where they live or work but must attend a number of intensive seminars/webinars. Evaluation is based on assignment papers prepared by participants under the direction of the tutors responsible for the different programme modules and the final research project.

Module Seminars

Seminars comprise lectures and workshops and are scheduled over specific days for each module. They address key areas in the literature and provide guidance on module assessment.

YEARS ONE AND TWO

The first two years of the programme are devoted to ten modules:

- Governance and the Modern State
- Governance in Europe
- Governance and Regulation
- Economics and Governance
- Corporate Governance
- Public Administration and Governance

- Governance, Policy and Implementation
- Social Justice and Governance
- Research Methods
- Professional Practice Module

On successfully completing the first two years, students can exit the programme with the award of the MSc in Applied Governance.

SUBSEQUENT YEARS

The remaining years of the programme are devoted to a research project of 50,000 words on an agreed subject of the participant's choosing. During this dissertation phase, students work under the direction of a supervisor and attend periodic workshops.





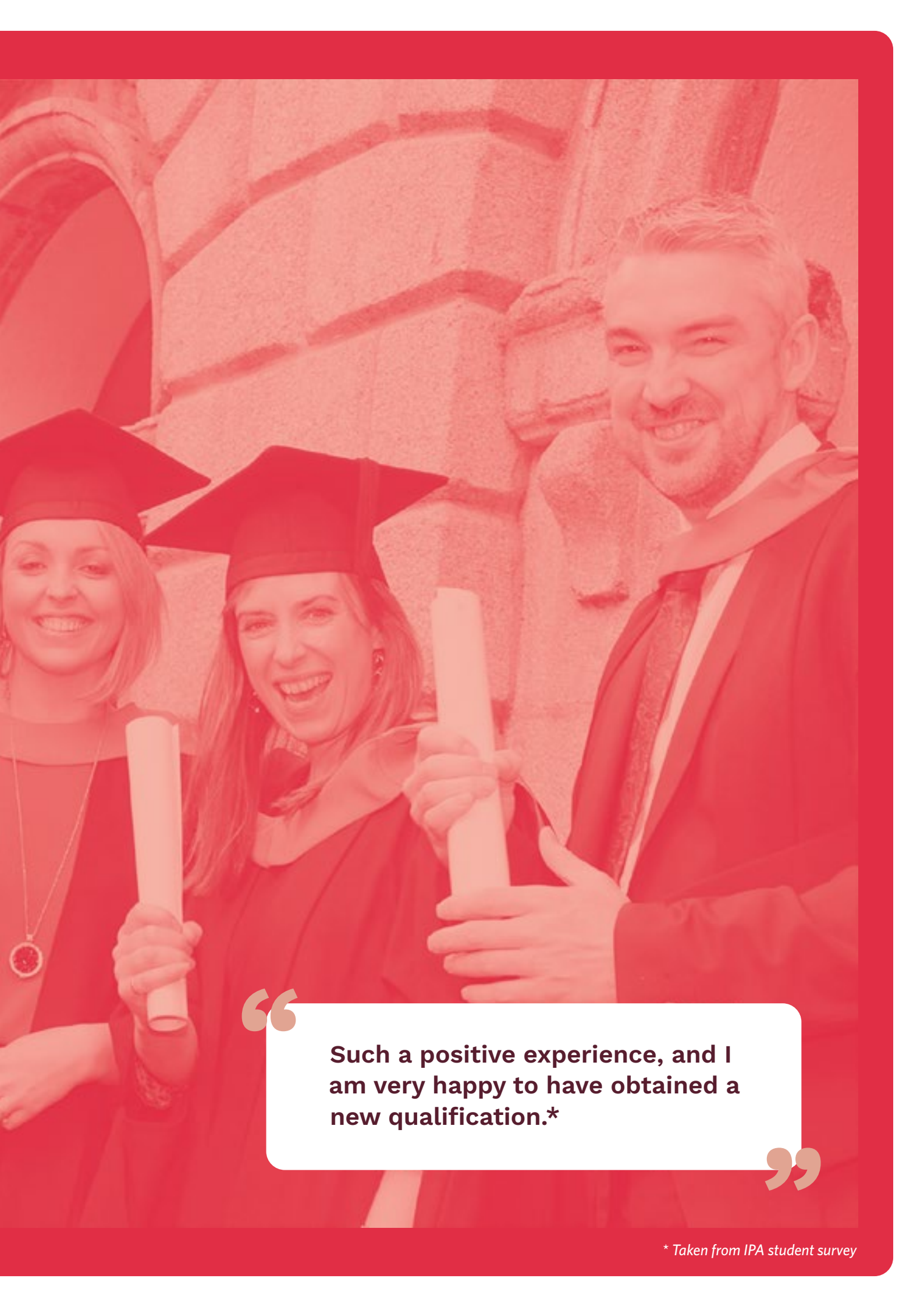
HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

2025–2026



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration





“

Such a positive experience, and I am very happy to have obtained a new qualification.*

”

** Taken from IPA student survey*

CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars and are supported in their studies by various online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFAQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€2,050 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can continue their studies with the Diploma in Health Services Policy.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme offers students a comprehensive overview of the Irish health service, relevant legislation, and the current issues and policies affecting the health system. Students will obtain up-to-date knowledge and a practical understanding of the health service, at national and local levels, which will contribute to their effectiveness and performance in the work environment. Students who successfully complete this programme have the option of progressing to the Diploma in Health Services Policy.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This Certificate is ideally suited to:

- Those working in the health service who need to broaden their understanding of various aspects of the service and recent changes
- Staff from other health systems who need to understand how the Irish health system is structured and how it works
- Those working for agencies with links to the health service (e.g. voluntary agencies, personal and social services) and who wish to familiarise themselves with the health system

Past students have included staff of all disciplines working in the Irish health service: medical and administrative staff, allied health professionals, nursing grades and others working within the sector.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is delivered through three core blocks which provide a comprehensive overview of the current health system.

The Historical Development of the Irish Health System

Students learn about how the Irish system has developed since before the formation of the State up to the most recent reforms within the HSE. Key legislation, strategies, reports and policies will be explored.

Service Delivery

Students learn about the current health of the nation and demographic changes ahead and about policies and structures within key areas of service delivery, including acute care, primary care, social care, and mental health.

Key Stakeholders in the Irish Health System

Students learn about the main stakeholders in the Irish health system, including the Department of Health, the HSE, voluntary bodies, private sector organisations and regulatory bodies.

DELIVERY

This programme is delivered through a blend of scheduled seminars and online resources.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete written assignments and sit a final examination.

DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

This programme is delivered through a blend of scheduled in-person seminars at the IPA and online resources.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Entry Requirements:

Students should possess the Certificate in Health Services.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€2,050 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Participants who successfully complete the Diploma programme may advance to year 2 of the BA (Hons) (Healthcare Management) on completion of a bridging course.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme has been designed as a development of the Certificate in Health Services. Students must have successfully completed the Certificate programme before gaining entry onto this Diploma. The Diploma is designed to amplify and build on the foundation coverage of health services and policy provided in the Certificate programme. The course is intended to constitute an important step in the career development path of healthcare staff who are working in the context of the current reform process in the Irish health services.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This Diploma is ideally suited to:

- Staff of all disciplines who have successfully completed the Institute's Certificate in Health Services
- Those who wish to develop their understanding of health care policy and of the links between policy and practice
- Those who wish to pursue further their academic pathway in the study of healthcare management

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is delivered through three core blocks that deepen students' understanding of health policy within the Irish health system.

Introduction to Health Policy

Students are introduced to frameworks for exploring and analysing health policy. Key health policy priorities within the Irish health system are explored.

Governance, Funding and Quality in the Irish Health System

Students examine broad system issues such as the increasing focus on governance and accountability, trends in funding and spending over recent decades, and drivers and policies relating to quality within the Irish health system.

Case Studies

Students use case studies on current key issues to explore challenges with developing, implementing and evaluating health policy.

DELIVERY

The programme is delivered through a blend of scheduled seminars and online resources. Students receive comprehensive course material and reading lists for all modules.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete written assignments and sit a final examination.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model that combines in-person teaching and online resources.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €2,700, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

This practical, applied programme explores ideas and practices essential to successful management in today's healthcare organisations. It examines, among other things, the specific management and leadership challenges of the healthcare sector, how to lead innovation and change in complex healthcare contexts, and the management of healthcare budgets and financial resources. It will prove valuable not only to those who have recently moved into a management role or aspire to do so, but to more experienced managers who want to develop and formalise their skills and competencies in this area. Applications are encouraged from both those in clinical and non-clinical roles.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will have wide appeal. It will attract:

- Those who aspire to move into a management role.
- Those who have recently assumed such a role.

- More experienced managers who wish to formalise and develop their management skills in the healthcare context.

The programme covers topics such as understanding yourself as a healthcare manager; developing your competencies for managing people, teams and your wider service; and leading change and innovation in the healthcare setting. Applications are welcome from those in both clinical and non-clinical roles.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme consists of four modules:

- Management and Leadership in Healthcare Organisations
- Managing People
- Managing Financial Resources
- Leading Innovation and Change in Healthcare

DELIVERY

The programme is delivered via blended learning. Students attend in-person seminars at the IPA, access supplementary online resources and are supported by a series of online check-ins. The in-person seminars are designed for high levels of reflection, interaction and networking. The online resources and check-ins promote continued student learning, reflection and engagement.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed via assignments, an innovation project, and an examination.



PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HEALTH ECONOMICS CME/CPD APPROVED

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend seminars/webinars and are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: One academic year.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: September/October 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee: The cost of the programme is €2,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression: Graduates can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) on completion of a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Diploma in Health Economics is a one-year, part-time programme that examines the economics of healthcare provision. There is a palpable need for those interested in healthcare in Ireland to understand the economic rationale behind the allocation of resources in this vital sector. To meet this need, the Professional Diploma explores the fundamentals of economics, the distinctive features of healthcare economics and the different mechanisms for evaluating spending on healthcare.

Expressly designed for those who want to obtain a nationally recognised qualification while remaining in work, the Professional Diploma in Health Economics is delivered through a blend of scheduled webinars/seminars, online resources, and programme texts.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

How to provide good-quality healthcare in the most efficient manner remains a source of contentious

debate around the world. This programme will be of great benefit to anyone working in healthcare provision in Ireland. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed.

Students of this programme are very often:

- Front-line medical staff
- Employees of pharmaceutical companies
- Healthcare administrators from the public and private sectors
- Department of Health staff

SUBJECTS

The Fundamentals of Applied Economics

This module seeks to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the central principles of applied economics. Equipped with this knowledge, students will be able to properly comprehend the policy choices available in the allocation of resources to healthcare. Among the topics addressed are supply and demand, the role of the market, consumer behaviour, competition and generating profit.

Health Economics

This module builds on the knowledge that students gained in the Fundamentals module by examining the distinctive features of healthcare economics. Students will learn about the particular economic issues that are integral to this sector. Among the topics addressed are the demand for healthcare, how healthcare is paid for, the role of insurers, the regulation of healthcare professionals and public vs. private provision of healthcare.

An Introduction to Healthcare Evaluation Techniques

This module addresses the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare interventions. Students will address the techniques that have been advanced to evaluate healthcare spending. Among the topics addressed are how to measure effectiveness in healthcare, cost-benefit analysis, cost of illness studies and cost minimisation analysis.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete written assignments and sit final examinations in each module.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) - HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: Four years of part-time study.

Award: Honours Bachelor of Arts.

Interim Awards:

Year One: Certificate in Public Management.

Year Two: Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Major Award).

Commences: September 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee: The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression: Students can progress to the MA (Healthcare Management) or other graduate programmes.

THE PROGRAMME

This four-year, part-time programme combines study of subjects critical to contemporary public management in all sectors with subjects particular to healthcare management. In addition to learning about the economic, legal and HR issues that affect public administration broadly, students obtain specialised knowledge about health policy, health planning and healthcare in other countries. This highly-regarded qualification includes two interim awards – at Certificate and Diploma level. If students do not wish to take all the subjects in one year, they can take the programme on a phased basis.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This degree will be of real value to those working in health administration at a national or regional level in health or hospital services. As they will take a mix of common and stream subjects, potential students will be interested in placing healthcare management in a broad economic, legal and organisational context.

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification – Certificate in Public Management – and part of the four year degree programme. See also p. 12.

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached, and competition.

Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The Irish institutions and systems are compared to those in other countries. The second part of the course focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration, explaining how the civil service is organised and the management of social welfare services, healthcare, education and housing.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

YEAR TWO – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The second year is both a stand-alone qualification – Diploma in Public Management – and the second stage of the four-year degree programme. See also p.20.

Health Policy and Planning

This course offers an overview of policy and planning in the Irish health system. It examines the historical development of the system, the impact of demographic changes, and current structures for governance, service delivery and regulation. It also analyses the roles of key stakeholders, important policy developments and the challenges in planning and implementing health policy.

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

Organisation and Management

An organisation's structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation's work.

Social Policy

This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and 'life cycle' policies, including policies addressing children, older people and those with a disability. The module covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

YEAR THREE

Governance and Management of Quality in Healthcare

How are quality and safety enacted and protected within the Irish healthcare system? This course answers that question by analysing national and local approaches to the governance and management of quality, including risk management, clinical audit and accreditation systems.

Economics

This year's course focuses on public sector economics, a field that is critical to public servants at various grades. The topics addressed include

economic growth, forecasting and planning, the finances of central and local government and the principles of taxation.

Financial Management

This course provides students with a clear understanding of standard accounting techniques and the proper management of an organisation's finances. Designed for those who do not possess a background in accounting, it addresses, among other things, double-entry book-keeping and the measurement of profits.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. It explains how public bodies can affect the lives of citizens. Students will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

YEAR FOUR

Health Economics

This course considers the economics of healthcare provision. It explores such topics as the nature of the healthcare market, how health insurance affects the cost of healthcare and public and private provision of healthcare.

Comparative Healthcare

This course examines international trends in healthcare policy, explores healthcare policies and priorities in other OECD countries and policy trends in the EU, compares Irish and international policies and examines the possible relevance of reforms elsewhere for the Irish system.

Strategic Management

Strategic management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both public and private sector organisations.

Public Policy-Making

This module examines different ways of understanding policy-making processes, the different influences, and the actors involved. It reviews discrete 'stages' within the policy-making process, such as framing and agenda setting, policy formulation, and implementation, as well as themes such as public service reform. Significant attention is paid to the different influences and constraints that exist on policy making and the implementation of policy, such as the role played by ideology, globalization, and international relations.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete assignments and take examinations.

MASTER OF ARTS - HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year of the programme, students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each semester. In the second year, they attend three seminars/webinars in the first semester and then, in the second, prepare, under expert supervision, a minor dissertation. They are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and module textbooks.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Arts.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The MA – Healthcare Management is a two-year, part-time programme that focuses on the issues that affect the Irish health system.

On completing the first year of the programme, students receive the interim award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management. The second year of the course is divided into two semesters. In the first of these, students study three key subjects in healthcare management. In the second, students write a dissertation on a specific healthcare management issue. Students who do

not wish to take all three subjects in any particular semester may choose to study one or two on a phased basis.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme is suitable for those who work in the health sector, particularly those looking to advance in their career. Students come from across both the public and private health sector and from service areas including primary and community care, acute care, social care, mental health and corporate services. By placing healthcare issues within the broader public management field, the programme gives students an understanding of how healthcare management relates to other economic and organisational questions. The programme is delivered through a blend of weekend seminars/webinars, course material, and online resources. Students can, therefore, pursue this programme no matter where they live and can remain in full-time employment.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management (Interim Award)

The first year of the MA programme is divided into two semesters and each semester is devoted to the study of three key subjects in public management. (See pages 32-33 for more details on the subjects).

SEMESTER ONE

- Economics
- Managing Human Resources
- Finance

SEMESTER TWO

- Organisation and Strategy
- Research Methods
- Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

YEAR TWO

SEMESTER ONE

Health Systems and Policy

This module explores what health systems are and what shapes them. It considers health policy

formulation, the structure of the Irish health system, current Irish policies in key healthcare areas (including primary and acute care), and future challenges for the Irish health system.

Leadership and Management of Healthcare Organisations

In exploring leadership and management in healthcare, this course addresses organisational theory, organisational behaviour, and managing organisational performance. It also attends to theories of leadership and management and to how best to lead change in the healthcare setting.

Quality in Healthcare / Health Economics and Finance

This module consists of two subjects. The first is Quality in Healthcare, which examines the structures and processes that should be in place to ensure quality in healthcare. It considers patient safety, quality assessments, clinical and organisational governance, clinical audit and evidence-based medicine. The second subject is Health Economics and Finance. Healthcare management requires a solid understanding of the economic and financial implications of decisions and policies. This part of the module covers the healthcare market, efficiency, effectiveness and equity in healthcare, supplier-induced demand, and costs and outcomes in healthcare.

SEMESTER TWO

In the second semester of year two, students write a dissertation on a specific healthcare management issue. Students must successfully complete the taught courses before moving to the dissertation phase.

ASSESSMENT

Students are assessed by means of assignments, examinations and a minor dissertation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students may enter the first year of the MA (Postgraduate Diploma) in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year the following September.

Graduates may wish to consider the IPA's Doctorate in Governance programme.

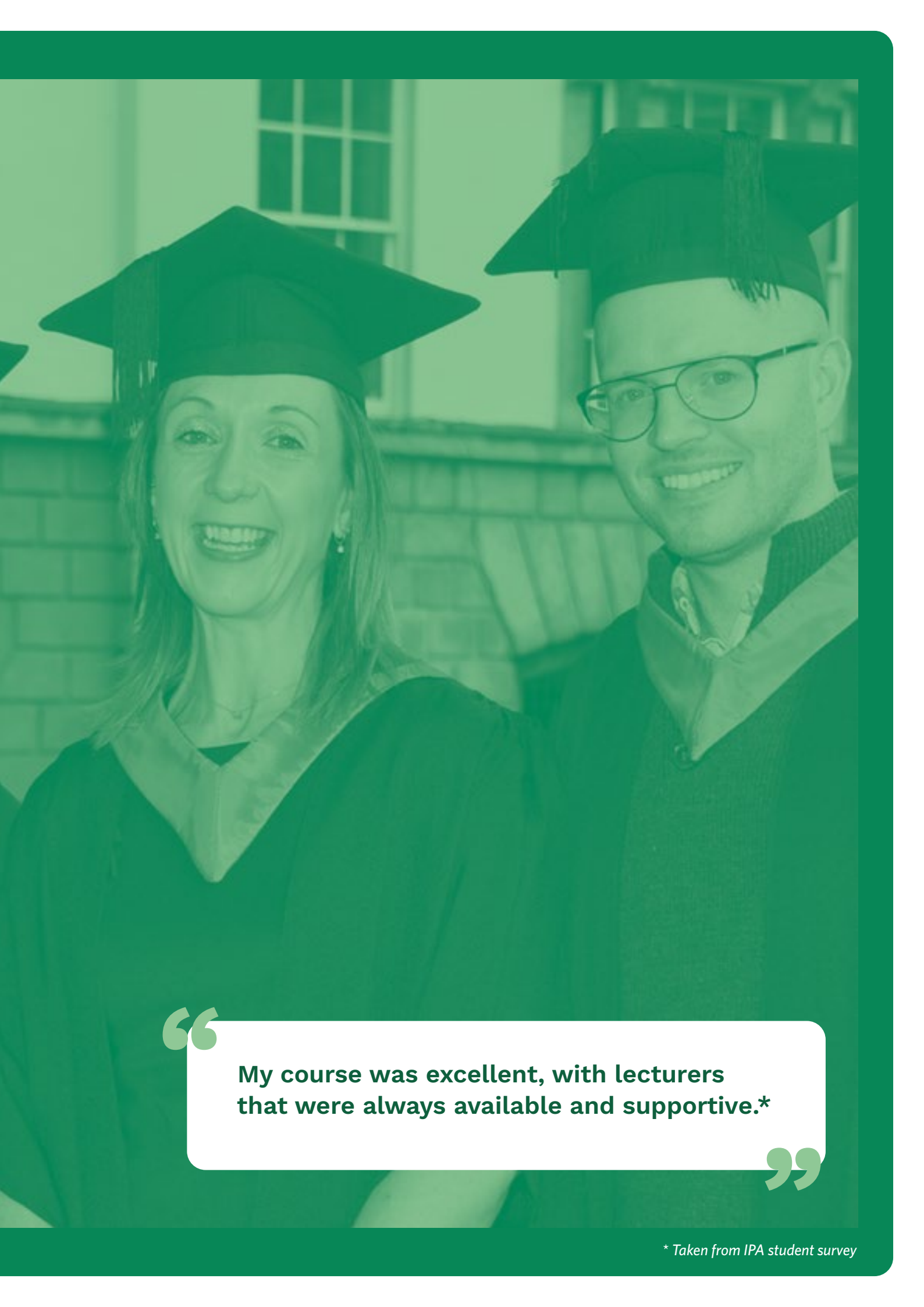


HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

2025–2026



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration



“

My course was excellent, with lecturers that were always available and supportive.*

”

** Taken from IPA student survey*

DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 7 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,590 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can enter the second year of the BA (Hons) on successful completion of a bridging programme.

THE PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Human Resource Management (HRM) explains how organisations effectively manage people. It does this by analysing the aims of the HRM function and by detailing its key features. A one-year part-time programme, it is suitable for those who have no prior knowledge of HRM but are keen to understand the principles, laws and practices that determine the management of staff in the modern workplace.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

Yes, if you would like a solid grounding and accredited qualification in the fundamentals of

HRM in just one year. The flexible delivery method will particularly appeal to those who, perhaps due to work or domestic commitments, would prefer to study at a time and place of their choosing. The Diploma appeals to those interested in careers in the public and the private sector, exploring ideas and practices common to both. Some prior knowledge of HRM principles and practices would be beneficial.

SUBJECTS

Human Resource Management

This course covers several specific topics in the HRM field, including manpower planning, performance management, managing change, health and safety, employment legislation and strategic management

Employee Relations and Law

This course addresses the key topic of employee relations, examining how such relations can determine an organisation's success or otherwise. It considers the main provisions of employment law, participation and partnership in the workforce, health and safety legislation and managerial strategies for healthy employee relations.

Employee Resourcing, Development and Performance Management

A key requirement of the HRM function in any organisation is to obtain suitable employees and to develop their skills and knowledge. This course examines the elements of this requirement, including recruitment and selection, interviewing and tests and the principles and processes of performance management.

Human Resource Leadership and Strategy

The evolving nature of the modern organisation requires clear leadership to determine objectives and a clear HR strategy to secure those objectives. This course examines, among other things, leadership theories, HR strategies in a globalised world, the strategic management of human capital and HR strategy in the public sector.

DELIVERY

Students study through a blend of seminars, webinars, and bespoke course material.

ASSESSMENT

Students complete assignments over the course of the year and sit examinations in all four subjects.



BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) – HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: Four years of part-time study.

Award: Honours Bachelor of Arts.

Interim Awards:

Year One – Certificate in Public Management.

Year Two – Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Major Award).

Commences: September 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee: The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression: Students can progress to an MA (HRM) or other graduate programmes.

THE PROGRAMME

This four-year, part-time programme combines study of subjects critical to contemporary public management in all sectors with subjects particular to HRM. In addition to learning about the economic, legal and HR issues that affect public administration broadly, students obtain specialised knowledge of, among other things, performance measurement, employee relations and leadership. This highly-regarded qualification includes two interim awards – at Certificate and Diploma level. As with the other degree programmes, students who do not wish to take all the subjects in one year can take the programme on a phased basis.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

HRM is of course at the heart of modern organisational life and this honours degree attracts students from:

- The wider public sector
- The private sector
- State-sponsored bodies
- The voluntary sector

You may well work, or aspire to work, in the HR function, but the degree is also very suitable for those who want to have a management or supervisory role over the course of their career.

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification – Certificate in Public Management – and part of the four-year degree programme. See also p. 12.

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached and competition.

Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The Irish institutions and systems are compared to those in other countries. The second part of the course focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science

and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

YEAR TWO – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The second year is both a stand-alone qualification – Diploma in Public Management – and part of the four-year degree programme. See also p.20.

Organisational Behaviour

Human behaviour is the critical element in organisational success. This course explores the theories that have developed about how people behave in an organisational setting and how management can respond to those behaviours. It considers such topics as motivation, leadership, group behaviour and organisational culture.

Organisation and Management

An organisation's structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation's work.

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

European Studies

Ireland's membership of the EU is plainly of huge importance to public management. This course explains the key facts of EU membership, addressing the history of the EU, the power and responsibilities of its institutions, the decision-making process, key EU policies, and different perspectives on the EU's development and reform.

YEAR THREE

Human Resource Management

This course covers several specific topics in the HRM field, including manpower planning, performance management, managing change, health and safety, employment legislation and strategic management.

Employee Resourcing, Development and Performance Management

A key requirement of the HRM function in any organisation is to obtain suitable employees and to develop their skills and knowledge. This course examines the elements of this requirement, including recruitment and selection.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. It seeks, in short, to establish the manner in which public bodies can affect the lives of citizens. Students will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

Economics

This year's course focuses on public sector economics, a field within the discipline that is critical to public servants at various grades. The topics addressed include economic growth, forecasting and planning, the finances of central and local government and the principles of taxation.

YEAR FOUR

Human Resource Leadership and Strategy

The evolving nature of the modern organisation requires clear leadership to determine objectives and a clear HR strategy to secure those objectives. This course examines, among other things, leadership theories, HR strategies in a globalised world, the strategic management of human capital and HR strategy in the public sector.

Employee Relations and Law

This course addresses the key topic of employee relations, examining how such relations can determine an organisation's success or otherwise. It considers the main provisions of employment law, participation and partnership in the workforce, health and safety legislation and managerial strategies for healthy employee relations.

Economics

The study of economics in the final year of the degree turns to economic policy and policy analysis. The course explores such topics as industrial and regional economic policy, economic integration, globalisation and issues around financing and control.

Strategic Management

Strategic management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both public and private sector organisations.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on assignments and examinations.

MASTER OF ARTS – HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year of the programme, students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each semester. In the second year, they attend three seminars/webinars in the first semester and then, in the second, prepare, under expert supervision, a minor dissertation. They are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and module textbooks.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Arts.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The MA – Human Resource Management is a two-year part-time programme that explores the key issues in human resource management. An informed appreciation of the theories, debates and legislation that dominate HR practice is a huge advantage to any manager. This programme seeks to raise the level of analysis in public sector human resource management and to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the effective management of people.

On completing the first year of the programme, students receive the interim award of a

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

The second year of the course is divided into two semesters. In the first of these, students study three key topics in human resource management. In the second, students write a dissertation on a specific human resource management issue. Students who do not wish to take all three subjects in any particular semester may choose to study one or two on a phased basis.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will be of particular interest to those who want to gain some expertise in the management of people and in the development of human resources. The programme is delivered through a blend of weekend seminars/webinars, course material, and online resources. Students can, therefore, pursue this programme no matter where they live and can remain in full-time employment.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management

Interim Award

The first year of the MA programme is divided into two semesters and each semester is devoted to the study of three key subjects in public management (see pages 32–33 for more details on the subjects).

SEMESTER ONE

- Economics
- Managing Human Resources
- Finance

SEMESTER TWO

- Organisation and Strategy
- Research Methods
- Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

YEAR TWO

SEMESTER ONE

Human Resource Strategy

This module will appeal to anyone interested in the theory and practice of human resource management from a strategic perspective. It explores a wide range of issues around the strategic development of human resources, including recruitment and



selection, training and development, performance and competencies appraisal, industrial and employee relations, reward management, evolving organisational environment, and contemporary employment trends in the Irish context.

Managing People

The effective management of people – ensuring that they both enjoy their work and contribute to organisational success — is a central concern for all managers. This course considers, among other things, individual diversity, attitudes and behaviour, perceptions, values and ethics, managing motivation and rewards, leadership and group dynamics, inter-group effectiveness, stress and conflict management, and work-life balance.

Employment Law

There is a very significant body of legislation and case law governing employment. Managers should have a solid understanding of the central legal requirements that employers and employees must meet, including the contract of employment, individual protection, discrimination and harassment, health and safety, unfair and wrongful dismissal, redundancies, trade

union legislation, arbitration and tribunals.

SEMESTER TWO

In the second semester of year two, students write a dissertation on a specific HRM issue. Students must successfully complete the taught courses before moving to the dissertation phase.

ASSESSMENT

Students submit assignments, sit examinations and complete a minor dissertation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students may enter the first year of the MA (Postgraduate Diploma) in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year the following September.

Graduates may wish to consider the IPA's Doctorate in Governance programme.

MASTER OF ARTS - LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year of the programme, students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each semester. In the second year, they attend three seminars/webinars in the first semester and then, in the second, prepare, under expert supervision, a minor dissertation. They are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and module textbooks.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Arts.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The MA – Leadership and Strategy is a two-year, part-time programme that explores the theory and practice of effective leadership and strategy formulation. Both public and private sector organisations need leaders with expertise in the HR, strategic and financial components of organisational life. This programme sees students undertake a dissertation in the leadership and strategy field, a dissertation that may well take an aspect of their professional life as its starting point.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme has wide appeal, but it is particularly relevant to those whose professional life involves making and executing decisions. In addition to their study of core economic, financial and HR subjects, students will study specific leadership and strategy modules and undertake supervised research on a leadership or strategy issue.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

The first year of the programme is divided into two semesters, and each semester is devoted to the study of three subjects:

SEMESTER ONE

- Economics
- Managing Human Resources
- Finance

SEMESTER TWO

- Organisation and Strategy
- Research Methods
- Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

YEAR TWO

SEMESTER ONE

Leadership in Context

Leadership does not occur in a vacuum; it is influenced by the dominant ideas and developments of the age. This module places leadership in several contexts: social, organisational, psychological, economic, political, and philosophical.

Strategic Management and Analysis

Formulating and implementing a strategy is a central management responsibility. This course explores the core theories, principles and practices that researchers and practitioners have developed to explain managerial behaviour and decisions and organisational performance. Topics addressed include external environment analysis, stakeholders, and the management of innovation.

Leadership & Strategy Implementation

Among the topics explored in this module are leadership and the decision process, public and private sector leadership, implementing strategy in a global context, social responsibility, and the effective management of organisational change.



SEMESTER TWO

In the second semester of year two, students write a dissertation on a specific leadership and strategy issue. Students must successfully complete the taught courses before moving to the dissertation phase.

ASSESSMENT

The programme is assessed by means of assignments, examinations and a minor dissertation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students may enter the first year of the MA (Postgraduate Diploma) in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year the following September.

Graduates may wish to consider the IPA's Doctorate in Governance programme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

2025–2026



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration





“

I loved everything about my experience with the IPA: the course, the content, the lecturers, and delivery format. Students are set up with the tools and resources to succeed and to enjoy their studies. *

”

** Taken from IPA student survey*

CERTIFICATE IN HOUSING STUDIES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars at the IPA and online webinars. They are supported in their studies by various resources, including bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

September 2025.

Fee:

€1,390. This includes all matriculation and examination fees. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Graduates can progress to the Professional Diploma in Housing Studies

applied manner. The programme will also appeal to anyone working in related areas who would like to understand the evolution of housing policy in Ireland.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

There are seven modules:

- Housing Services: Planning and Housing Strategies
- Social Housing Support: Determining Need
- Housing Supply and the Social Housing Investment Programme
- Housing Administration (Allocation to Sales)
- Sustainable Communities: Local Authorities and Good Estate Management
- Regulation and Management of the Housing Sector
- Housing Policy: Future Directions

DELIVERY

This programme is designed for adult students who want to obtain a third-level qualification while also attending to their professional and personal responsibilities. In addition to course material provided online, students attend several seminars over the academic year. These seminars consist of presentations on policy objectives and regulatory requirements and workshops on implementation and best practice. Between these events, students study the course material provided.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on course work and a final exam.

THE PROGRAMME

The Certificate in Housing Studies provides housing practitioners, students of public policy and anyone with an interest in housing with a comprehensive introduction to housing services and policy in Ireland. A part-time, accredited programme, it responds to a palpable need among staff working in local authorities and in voluntary and co-operative housing organisations for a greater understanding of the major issues in public/social housing.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

The Certificate in Housing Studies will be of huge benefit to housing practitioners, in both generalist and technical positions, in local authorities and approved housing bodies. It provides a system-wide induction to public/social housing—an area of huge national importance—in a practical and





CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend scheduled webinars and, on two occasions, classroom-based seminars. They are supported in their studies by bespoke course material.

Duration:

One academic year.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences:

September/October 2025.

Application Deadline:

July 8, 2025.

Fee:

€1,150 (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Graduates can progress to the Diploma in Local Government Studies.

On completing this programme, students can progress to the Diploma in Local Government and explore the topics they have been introduced to in greater depth. From there, they can directly enter the third year of the the IPA's BA (Hons) in Public Management, which has a local government stream.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This Certificate is ideally suited to:

- Staff of all disciplines (technical, administrative, indoor and outdoor) working in the local government system
- Those working for some time in local government who feel they need to broaden their understanding of an ever changing and dynamic local government system
- Those working in agencies that have links with Irish local government

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The Certificate covers the following key local government topics:

Module One

- Rationale, Purpose, Governance and Development of Irish Local Government
- Local Government Reform
- Local Government Finance
- Module Two
- HRM
- Role of the CEO
- Role of the Elected Members
- Planning and Development

Module Three

- Housing and Building
- Roads and Transportation

Module Four

- Environmental Services
- Library, Arts, and Amenities
- Economic and Local Development

THE PROGRAMME

The Certificate in Local Government is a hugely popular programme that has, for many years, played a central role in educating staff from all parts of the Irish local government system. It is an explicitly introductory programme, one that seeks to provide students with a grounding in the main laws, policies, and practices that determine contemporary local government operations. Addressing such key local government topics as how local government is financed, the role that elected members have in a local authority, and the responsibilities for local authorities in such areas as housing and planning, it is taught by national experts in Irish local government and by experienced managers who work within the local government sector.

DELIVERY

The Certificate is delivered through a blended learning model that combines a series of webinars, two classroom-based seminars, a specially commissioned programme text, and a range of online resources. At webinars/seminars, local government specialists and experienced managers will explain and discuss the course material, take questions, and facilitate discussion.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous throughout the programme and includes assignments and an examination.



DIPLOMA IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend scheduled webinars and, on two occasions, classroom-based seminars. They are supported in their studies by bespoke course material.

Duration: One academic year.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 6 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: September/October 2025.

Application Deadline: July 8, 2025.

Fee:

€1,290 (including all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Entry Requirements:

IPA Certificate in Local Government Studies.

Progression: Participants who successfully complete the Diploma programme may advance to stage 3 of the Local Government stream of the IPA's Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree on completion of a bridging course.

THE PROGRAMME

The Diploma in Local Government Studies is designed to build on the knowledge that students have obtained in the Certificate programme, providing a more in-depth and analytical treatment of the main local authority services in Ireland. Having studied the central facts around local government, students now take a more evaluative approach, exploring the problems and opportunities that face local government. The programme also takes a broader approach to the issues, situating local government services within economic, political, and social contexts.

In addition to an analysis of such complicated local government responsibilities as planning and the environment, the Diploma considers the various

ways in which the system has been reformed and the relative success or otherwise of reform efforts.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

The Diploma in Local Government Studies has long been an important step in the career development path of local authority staff, providing information and analysis that will enable staff to improve their current competencies and develop new ones. The Diploma can be taken by anyone who has successfully completed the Certificate programme.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Module One

- Local Government Reform
- Local Government Finance

Module Two

- Community Development/Governance
- HRM

Module Three

- The Housing Function
- The Roads Function

Module Four

- Planning and Development
- Environment

There will also be a compulsory webinar/seminar which will be concerned with developing the themes of inter-functional and authority-wide issues. It will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss topical areas of direct interest to their jobs. Topics covered include comparative local government, EU and local government, and local government social development.

DELIVERY

The Diploma is delivered in the same way as the Certificate: through a combination of scheduled webinars, classroom-based seminars, and bespoke course material. Webinars/seminars, which are delivered by IPA experts and experienced local government practitioners, expand on the written course material and support students in learning about and analysing the local government system.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is continuous throughout the programme and consists of assignments and an examination.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HOUSING STUDIES

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend classroom-based seminars and are supported in their studies by various online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: One academic year.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Special Purpose Award).

Commences: September/October 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee:

€1,790 (including all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Entry requirements:

IPA Certificate in Housing Studies or equivalent. Significant experience in the housing area can also be considered ground for entry.

THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Diploma in Housing Studies—the first course of its kind in Ireland—has been developed to provide an in-depth and analytical treatment of social and supported housing. Housing studies is a field of immense importance in Ireland and elsewhere. The provision of social and affordable housing and of different types of housing supports and rental assistance are key parts of the modern welfare state. Such provision is complex, however, and affected by economic and social considerations, legislation, and broader policy frameworks.

It is vitally important that those interested in housing studies—whether they work in local authorities, government departments, the voluntary and advocacy sectors, relevant state bodies or elsewhere—have expertise in the prevailing theories, the recurring issues and the contentious problems that define the contemporary housing studies field in

Ireland and abroad. This professional qualification, which can be taken from anywhere in the country, will furnish participants with that expertise.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

The programme has a very broad appeal. Participants may have a personal interest in housing studies or may have professional responsibilities that would be well served by a discrete qualification in this area. Those with a professional interest in housing often work in local government, in the civil service, in state or voluntary bodies or in advocacy organisations especially concerned with the provision and management of housing services. Whether they work in management, administrative or technical positions, this professional diploma will meet their needs by providing a comprehensive introduction to housing studies in Ireland.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

This Professional Diploma covers the following topics:

- The Housing Market: affordable housing, public housing and rental assistance
- Issues for the Welfare State: social protection and the provision of housing services
- Housing policy in Ireland in a comparative context
- Public Policy Making: from social problems to housing outputs and socio-economic outcomes
- Housing Acts 1966 - 2009: the regulatory framework for housing in Ireland
- The provision of social housing support in Ireland: the roles of public, private and voluntary sectors
- The future direction of housing policy

DELIVERY

This one-year programme combines intensive seminars with online resources and bespoke course material. Delivered by housing studies experts, seminars are designed to support students over the course of the programme and to enable them obtain a deeper understanding of housing in Ireland. The course material, meanwhile, includes a specially developed manual and associated reading lists.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on a combination of continuous assessment and end-of-year exams.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) – LOCAL GOVERNMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model. Students attend webinars on selected weeknight evenings and classroom seminars at the IPA on selected weekends. They are supported in their studies by extensive online resources and bespoke course material.

Duration: Four years of part-time study.

Award: Honours Bachelor of Arts.

Interim Awards:

Year One – Certificate in Public Management.
Year Two – Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation: National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ: Level 8 (Major Award).

Commences: September 2025.

Application Deadline: September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €3,690 per annum (includes all matriculation and examination fees), payable in one or two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

Progression:

Students can progress to the MA (Local Government Management) or other graduate programmes.

THE PROGRAMME

The BA (Hons) – Local Government is a four-year, part-time programme that combines study of subjects critical to contemporary public management with subjects particular to local government. In addition to learning about the economic, legal, and HRM issues that affect public administration broadly, students also consider social policy matters, how local government is financed, and how the Irish system of local government compares to that in other countries. This degree programme includes two interim awards – at Certificate and Diploma level.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This honours degree often attracts staff from local authorities who want to obtain a third-level qualification while remaining in full-time employment. As students take a mix of common subjects and subjects specific to local government, they are able to understand the issues facing local authorities in relation to broader economic and management theories and practices.

SUBJECTS

YEAR ONE – CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first year is both a stand-alone qualification – Certificate in Public Management – and part of the four-year degree programme. See also p. 12.

Economics

This introductory-level course explains the main theories and principles of economics. No prior knowledge of economics is presumed. The course covers both micro- and macro-economics and addresses such topics as the laws of supply and demand, how market prices are reached, and competition.

Law

Public servants must understand the fundamentals of the legal system. This course focuses on the fundamentals, explaining the Irish legal system and the main provisions of the Irish Constitution. Students explore, among other topics, the structure of the court system, practice and procedure in the courts and the rights that the Constitution affords citizens.

Politics, Government and Public Administration

This course is divided into two parts. The first is largely concerned with the institutions of government and the Irish political system. The Irish institutions and systems are compared to those in other countries. The second part of the course focuses on Ireland's system of public and social administration, explaining how the civil service is organised and the management of social welfare services, healthcare, education and housing.

Principles of Management

This course provides a solid grounding in the key principles of modern management theory. It explains the origins of contemporary management science and details the most important elements of management, including leadership, HRM and change management.

YEAR TWO – DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The second year is both a stand-alone qualification – Diploma in Public Management – and part of the four-year degree programme. See also p.20.

Social Policy

This course explores key areas of social service provision in Ireland, including health, education, housing and social welfare, as well as the development of the welfare state in Ireland and internationally. It also reviews the role of the voluntary sector, equality policy, and ‘life cycle’ policies. It covers trends in social services and compares the approach in Ireland with that in other countries.

Economics

This course builds on the fundamentals of economics explored in the Certificate year by exploring both micro- and macro-economics in greater depth. Students will learn about the economic rules and theories that relate to the operation of markets, the distribution of wealth, the allocation of resources, labour supply and inflation.

Organisation and Management

An organisation’s structure is a determining factor in its operation. This course explores current thinking on organisational structure and the role of management in the creation and maintenance of the most appropriate structure. Among the specific topics addressed are the different schools of organisation theory, the design of effective organisations and the significance of the internal culture and the external environment to an organisation’s work.

European Studies

Ireland’s membership of the EU is plainly of huge importance to public management. This course explains the key facts of EU membership, addressing the history of the EU, the power and responsibilities of its institutions, the decision-making process, key EU policies, and different perspectives on the EU’s development and reform.

YEAR THREE

Local Government and Finance

This course covers a number of key themes in local government reform and explains how local authorities obtain the funds necessary for their operation. It considers, among other things, some of the newer roles of local authorities working with others at local level. On the financial side, the course considers efficiency reforms, the growth of grants, funding options and the capital expenditure of local authorities.

Economics

This year’s course focuses on public sector economics, a field critical to public servants at various grades. The topics addressed include

economic growth, forecasting and planning, the finances of central and local government and the preparation of budgets.

Financial Management

This course provides students with a clear understanding of standard accounting techniques and the proper management of an organisation’s finances. It is designed for those with no background in accounting.

Administrative Law

Administrative law is a public law subject that deals with the lawful exercise of power by government and state agencies. Students of this course will examine the laws regarding the civil service, the separation of powers, judicial review and legal compliance.

YEAR FOUR

Comparative Local Government

This course compares the system of local government that pertains in Ireland with that in other countries. Using both a thematic approach and case studies of specific examples from abroad, it provides a comparative analysis of such key issues as local government finance, duties, citizen participation, and leadership.

Economics

The study of economics in the final year of the degree turns to economic policy and policy analysis. The course explores such topics as industrial and regional economic policy, economic integration, globalisation and issues around financing and control.

Strategic Management

Strategic management is the study of how organisations meet their objectives and effectively respond to change. This course focuses on strategic management in the Irish public sector, but it covers concepts common to both the public and private sector.

Public Policy-Making

This module examines different ways of understanding policy-making processes, the different influences, and the actors involved. It reviews discrete ‘stages’ within the policy-making process, such as framing and agenda setting, policy formulation, and implementation, as well as themes such as public service reform. Significant attention is paid to the different influences and constraints that exist on policy making and the implementation of policy, such as the role played by ideology, globalization, and international relations.

ASSESSMENT

Students submit assignments and sit examinations.

MASTER OF ARTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT

KEY FACTS

Delivery Method:

In the first year of the programme, students attend seminars/webinars on three weekends in each semester. In the second year, they attend three seminars/webinars in the first semester and then, in the second, prepare, under expert supervision, a minor dissertation. They are supported in their studies by a range of resources, including bespoke course material and module textbooks.

Duration:

Two academic years.

Award:

Master of Arts.

Interim Award:

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

Accreditation:

National University of Ireland.

Place on NFQ:

Level 9 (Major Award).

Commences:

September 2025.

Fee:

The cost of the programme is €5,790 per annum, payable in two instalments. See p.73 for more details.

THE PROGRAMME

The MA – Local Government Management is a two-year, part-time programme that explores the key issues in local government. It seeks to raise the level of analysis in Irish local government management and to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective management in the local government field. On completing the first year of the programme, students receive the interim award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management.

IS THIS PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This programme will be of great interest to local authority officials working across a variety of sectors. It combines core public management subjects and those that are specific to local government in Ireland. The programme is delivered through a blend of weekend seminars and bespoke course material, so it can be taken from anywhere.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

YEAR ONE

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management

The first year of the programme is divided into two semesters, and each semester is devoted to the study of three subjects:

SEMESTER ONE

- Economics
- Managing Human Resources
- Finance

SEMESTER TWO

- Organisation and Strategy
- Research Methods
- Managing Service Delivery/Managing in Europe

YEAR TWO

SEMESTER ONE

Local Government Policy Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation

This course explores theories on the role of local government in the policy process. It focuses on five key themes: policy making and strategic planning, community and networks, service delivery, the regulatory environment, and organisation and change. A case study on housing is also included.

Local Government Financial Management and Accountability

This course considers the particular financial management considerations that apply to local government in Ireland. Among the topics addressed are the sources of funds available to local government, budget management and financial governance.

Leadership and Management

In this module, students will explore how theories and practices current in both public and private sectors can apply to local government management. It examines strategy and strategic thinking, leadership and learning in a strategic context, changing organisational culture, and performance management.

SEMESTER TWO

In the second semester of year two, students write a dissertation on a specific local government management issue. Students must successfully complete the taught courses before moving to the dissertation phase.

ASSESSMENT

The programme is assessed by means of assignments, examinations and a minor dissertation.

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Students may enter the first year of the MA (Postgraduate Diploma) in September or January. Those who enter in September can, on successful completion of the academic year, proceed to the second year. Those who enter in January can finish within the calendar year and proceed to the second year the following September.

Graduates may wish to consider the IPA's Doctorate in Governance programme.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

HOW TO APPLY

Go to www.ipa.ie and complete, in full, the online application for either undergraduate or postgraduate programmes.

- After your application, you will receive an

email confirming your application.

- Applications cannot be completed unless ALL requested documentation is received.

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE

APPLICATIONS

1. Students of mature years (students over 21 on January 1 of the calendar year of entry) can apply for any programme.
2. Students under 21 must have a Leaving Certificate with a pass in at least six subjects accepted for NUI matriculation purposes, with at least Grade H5 in two subjects on the Higher Level and at least Grade H7 (Higher Level) or O6 (Ordinary Level) in four subjects. Papers passed must include Irish, English and a third language.

SUBJECT ACCUMULATION AND EXEMPTIONS

Subject Accumulation

In some undergraduate programmes, students may enrol for one or more subjects each year until they complete the programme stage. This is called subject accumulation mode.

Exemptions

In some undergraduate programmes, student with relevant previous qualifications may apply for an exemption for a module or from an entire programme stage. Only those who have studied relevant disciplines will be considered for exemptions. Exemptions cannot be awarded in a one-year programme or at the award stage of longer programmes.

An application form for exemptions is available from the IPA and must be returned no later than October. It must be accompanied by transcripts of results for each year of previous third-level studies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTGRADUATE APPLICATIONS

Applicants must have a primary degree or equivalent qualification. Transcripts of undergraduate qualifications are required at the application stage.

Applicants for the Doctorate in Governance programme must also, in addition to their online application, provide: a copy of their CV, two references (one academic), and a covering letter detailing their reasons for applying.

DATA PROTECTION

The information provided by you as part of your application will be used and protected in full compliance with data protection legislation. The data is solely gathered for the purpose of supporting your education at the IPA. We do not share your data with third parties, except with the designated awarding body for the purpose of making an academic award.





TIMETABLES AND PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Timetables depend on the programme being taken and are available on registration. Programmes generally run from the middle of September until the end of March, with a break for Christmas.

Note: Programmes are delivered subject to sufficient enrolments.

EXAMINATIONS

Examination dates depend on the programme taken. MA programmes have exams in December and April. Most, but not all, undergraduate exams take place in April. Exam dates are provided on registration.

DELIVERY OF STREAM SUBJECTS

Where a programme has subject streams, the streams available in any given year depend on student numbers. If there are insufficient numbers to offer a stream, students will be offered an alternative stream.

PAYING FEES

Fees are to be paid in one or two instalments. The first instalment must be paid before the programme begins.

Fees can be paid by:

Electronic Transfer (contact the Undergraduate or Postgraduate Office for details).

Debit/Credit Card (contact the Undergraduate or Postgraduate Office for details).

Cheque (payable to Institute of Public Administration).

Bank Draft

Employers and Fees

Where employers are paying fees directly to the IPA, students, when enrolling, must provide a PO number and employer authorisation (name, address, and signature of authorising officer). Alternatively, students may submit a letter from their training or HR officer confirming that fees will be paid directly. Note: A letter stating that fees will be refunded to students at the end of the year will not suffice.

Tax Relief on Fees

Students who pay their own fees are eligible under the 1996 Finance Act for tax relief at the standard rate, as the IPA is an appointed institution under the Act. Programmes must be longer than one year in duration for students to qualify for tax relief.

TABLE OF FEES

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES	COST
CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT	€2,400 PER ANNUM
CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT	€4,700 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY	€2,650 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER STUDIES	€2,290 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN LAW	€3,590 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT	€3,590 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY	€2,690 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS FOR POLICY EVALUATION	€2,600 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT	€3,590 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICE INNOVATION	€2,690 PER ANNUM
BA (HONS) - LAW AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	€3,690 PER ANNUM
BA (HONS) - PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING	€3,990 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN GOVERNANCE	€3,100 PER ANNUM
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	€5,790 PER ANNUM
MA - PUBLIC MANAGEMENT	€5,790 PER ANNUM
MECONSC IN POLICY ANALYSIS	€8,100 / €5,790 PER ANNUM
DOCTORATE IN GOVERNANCE	€8,700 PER ANNUM

Note on Fees: Fees may increase from year to year. Where this occurs, continuing students will be charged the increased fee.

HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES	COST
CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SERVICES	€2,050 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT	€2,700 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SERVICES POLICY	€2,050 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HEALTH ECONOMICS	€2,690 PER ANNUM
BA (HONS) – HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
MA - HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT	€5,790 PER ANNUM

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES	COST
DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	€3,590 PER ANNUM
BA (HONS) – HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
MA - HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	€5,790 PER ANNUM
MA - LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY	€5,790 PER ANNUM

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES	COST
CERTIFICATE IN HOUSING STUDIES	€1,390 PER ANNUM
CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES	€1,150 PER ANNUM
DIPLOMA IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES	€1,290 PER ANNUM
PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN HOUSING STUDIES	€1,790 PER ANNUM
BA (HONS) – LOCAL GOVERNMENT	€3,690 PER ANNUM
MA - LOCAL GOVERNMENT	€5,790 PER ANNUM

ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO

Whitaker School of Government
and Management
Institute of Public Administration
57-61 Lansdowne Road
Dublin D04 TC62, Ireland

Telephone: +353 (01) 240 3600
Email: undergrad@ipa.ie / postgrad@ipa.ie
www.ipa.ie

PLEASE NOTE

The IPA issues this prospectus without prejudice to its right to make such modifications to the contents as it considers necessary and without prior notice. The provision, structure and cost of all programmes are under continual review. While the IPA will make every effort to notify applicants of any changes, it cannot guarantee to do so.

Neither the whole nor any part of this document may be considered a contract between the IPA and any applicant. The Institute is not bound by the fees or programme details outlined herein.

SUPPORTING DISABILITY

The IPA is committed, where it is practicable and possible within its resources, to increasing and enhancing educational and development opportunities for people with disabilities and medical conditions. Should you have a disability or suffer from a documented medical condition, which you believe could hinder your full participation in a programme, you are invited to contact the Registrar and discuss, in complete confidence, the issues involved. The IPA, for its part, undertakes to work positively towards the resolution of any difficulties identified.



An Foras Riaracháin
Institute of Public
Administration

CONTACT US

+353 (01) 240 3600

undergrad@ipa.ie / postgrad@ipa.ie

[**www.ipa.ie**](http://www.ipa.ie)

Institute of Public Administration

57 - 61 Lansdowne Road

Dublin DO4 TC62, Ireland