

PhD studentships available in University College Dublin.

PhD studentships available in a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary national centre for data science and AI, funded by Research Ireland, in areas such as foundational methods, translational methods, data & processing, people-centred AI, democratic governance, society & culture and health.



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile,
Baile Átha Cliath

PhD studentships available in University College Dublin in a new multi-institutional, interdisciplinary national centre for data science and AI, funded by Research Ireland.

Applications are invited for a cohort of 14 PhD studentships in UCD as part of a new multi-institutional interdisciplinary national centre for data science and AI funded by Research Ireland. These studentships are available through a cohort-based PhD training programme across a suite of research themes: foundational methods, translational methods, data & processing, people-centred AI, democratic governance, society & culture and health.

Applications are sought from a broad range of graduates in arts & humanities, business and education, computer science, engineering, health sciences, life science & environment, mathematics & statistics and social science & law.

Alongside their individual PhD research, students will benefit from a structured, cohort-based PhD training programme. This programme will include transferable skills training (e.g., communication skills, ethics, and entrepreneurship), group activities (e.g., hackathons and spin-out sprints), training on domain-specific topics (e.g., machine learning, statistics, data management, programming, qualitative and digital policy methods), and peer-led learning opportunities (e.g., research seminars, peer-designed workshops, and reading groups). Dedicated career and skills development activities will also be offered.

Students will benefit from extensive engagement with industry and public service partners and from an enrichment experience e.g., industry training placements, an academic research visit to an internationally renowned collaborating institution, or other similar activities. This experience will equip graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in academia, industry, and public service.

Funding:

Studentships provide a stipend of €25,000 per year for four years (tax free) with additional funds available to support e.g., conference attendance and training activities and fees.

Application process:

We are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and particularly encourage applications from under-represented groups.

We are currently recruiting for the September 2026 intake. Applications, which must be submitted [here](#), are now open and will close when all places are filled. Interviews are provisionally scheduled to take place in early June 2026 with decisions soon after.

Due to the large number of applications received, only applicants invited to interview will receive an email response. Applications received via email will not be considered. Please note that applicants who are invited to interview and are successful, will have to subsequently apply to UCD in line with its requirements.

Examples of PhD research projects that are available through the 2026 cohort are listed below. **If you are interested in applying to one of these projects in particular, please specify the project title in the first field in the 'Topic and Location Preferences' section of the application form; please note the research theme associated with each project as this is required for the application form.** If you have questions about a specific research project, please contact the listed supervisors directly.

Research theme: Core ML

Scalable and Explainable Algorithms for Time Series with Applications in Health.
Assoc. Prof. Georgiana Ifrim and Prof. Brian Caulfield.

Generative AI for longitudinal medical imaging analysis, with applications in Multiple Sclerosis and Stroke. Dr Aonghus Lawlor and Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Curran.

Research theme: Cultural & Political Analytics

Learning to Predict Answerability for Abstention-Aware RAG.
Assoc. Prof. Derek Greene and Dr Karen Wade.

Research theme: Digital Healthtech

Automated Data Harmonization in Federated Healthcare Systems Using Multi-Agent Architectures. Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Curran and Dr Dimitris Chatzopoulos.

Research theme: Information Integrity

Generative AI and Climate Change Misinformation.
Prof. Ciara Greene and Prof. Andrew Parnell.

Research Theme: Multimodal User Modeling

Hyperpersonalisation & Filter Bubbles in Digital News Ecosystems.
Dr Brendan Spillane and Assoc. Prof. Marguerite Barry.

Research theme: Privacy, Data Processing & Security in Edge AI

Towards Cyber-Resilient and Trustworthy AI for Distributed Medical Data-Driven Applications. Prof. Tahar Kechadi and Assoc. Prof. Brian Mac Namee.

Research theme: Statistical Foundations

Advanced Directional Time Series Models for Wind Direction Analysis and Forecasting. Dr Wagner Barreto-Souza and Prof. Paula Carroll.

Research theme: Translational Statistical Modelling

Exploring the role of Mitonuclear Discordance in Parkinson's Disease.
Assoc. Prof. Michael Salter-Townshend and Assoc. Prof. Adrian O'Hagan.

Research theme: Trustworthy AI & DS

AI and Autonomy: Responsible Human-AI Interaction.

Dr Susan Leavy and Assoc. Prof. David Coyle.

Applications for a limited number of additional studentships, **other** than those listed above, are also welcome. However, these applications must be accompanied by a 2 page (max) research proposal, uploaded in the supporting documentation field at the end of the application form. The research proposal should highlight how it aligns with at least one of the Centre's research themes. Applicants are encouraged to contact potential UCD supervisors to discuss potential research proposals.

For further information please contact [Prof. Claire Gormley](#) (UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics), [Prof. Aphra Kerr](#) (UCD School of Information and Communication Studies) **or** [Assoc. Prof. Brian Mac Namee](#) (UCD School of Computer Science), as relevant to your research interests.



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