Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Scoil Ghnó agus Eacnamaíochta J.E. Cairnes
J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics

Higher Diploma
Business Studies

THE Awards 2026 Shortlisted Business School of the Year

EQUIS ACCREDITED

AACSB ACCREDITED

ASSOCIATION OF MBAS ACCREDITED



Step Into the Business World

Your Career, Your Choice

This higher diploma equips non-business graduates with essential tools to allow them to excel and to enter the workforce with confidence, while also providing the foundation to progress to further postgraduate studies in business.

No Prior Experience Needed

All modules start from the basics, so you can dive right into the world of business, regardless of your previous academic focus.

Highly Valued by Employers

Graduates of this program are in demand. With a solid foundation in business, you'll be ready to seize opportunities in various industries.

Business for All

Whether you come from an Arts, Engineering, or Science background, this Higher Diploma in Business Studies (DBS) is your gateway to the world of business. No prior business knowledge? No problem! Our program is tailored for non-business graduates.

Skills That Matter

Gain a well-rounded understanding of business administration, from accounting to marketing, management, and more. These skills will empower you to contribute effectively to any business enterprise.

Top 2%

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS®



and unlock *your future*!

ACCELERATE Your Learning:

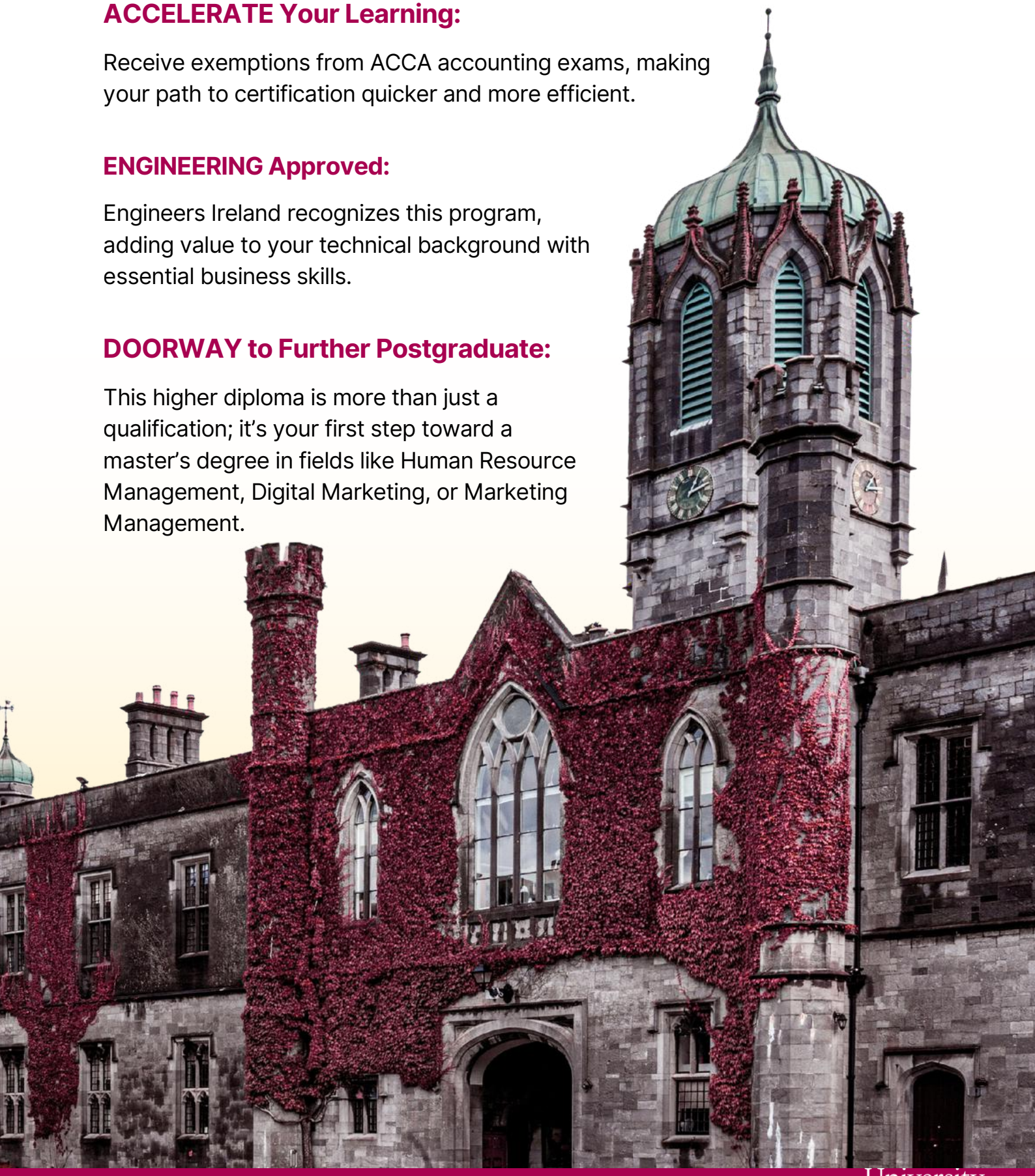
Receive exemptions from ACCA accounting exams, making your path to certification quicker and more efficient.

ENGINEERING Approved:

Engineers Ireland recognizes this program, adding value to your technical background with essential business skills.

DOORWAY to Further Postgraduate:

This higher diploma is more than just a qualification; it's your first step toward a master's degree in fields like Human Resource Management, Digital Marketing, or Marketing Management.



A programme *made for you*

Core Modules

Build your foundation with essential subjects designed to give you a comprehensive understanding of business:

- **Accounting & Financial Analysis:** Understand financial statements and make informed decisions.
- **Principles of Economics for Business:** Learn the economic principles that drive business and the Economy.
- **Management:** Gain insights into managing people and processes effectively.
- **Marketing Principles:** Explore the strategies behind successful marketing campaigns.
- **Management Information Systems:** Discover how technology supports business operations.
- **Introduction Financial Management:** Learn to manage and optimize financial resources.
- **Innovation, Creativity, and Enterprise:** Learn how to drive innovation within an organization.



Optional Modules

Tailor your higher diploma with a wide range of optional modules that allow you to specialize or broaden your knowledge. Examples of the electives currently include:

- **Global Marketing:** Dive into international marketing strategies.
- **Cybersecurity:** Understand the essentials of protecting business data.
- **Business Law:** Get to grips with the legal frameworks affecting business.
- **Entrepreneurial Venture Development:** Explore the challenges of starting and managing new businesses.
- **Accounting For Management Decisions:** gain insighst into principal issues and practices in cost and management accounting.
- **Enterprise Systems:** develop an understanding of Enterprise Systems from different perspectives and why and how they are used.

A Balanced Approach

- **Integrated Learning:** Combine core and optional modules to create a learning experience that matches your career ambitions. Work alongside other business students, fostering a dynamic learning environment and building valuable networks.



Why *Choose* This Course?

Diverse Career Opportunities

Graduates are sought after in a wide range of industries, including:

- **Marketing**: Develop strategies that resonate with global audiences.
- **Financial Services**: Manage and optimize financial assets and investments.
- **Information Systems**: Leverage technology to enhance business operations.
- **Human Resources**: Shape workplace culture and drive organizational success.

Top Employers

Our graduates have landed roles with prestigious companies like *Allied Irish Bank, Bank of Ireland, HSE, Medtronic, AVIVA, Salesforce, and Morgan McKinley*.

AIB

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Bank of Ireland

AVIVA

salesforce

Medtronic

Tailored for Your Success

- Who Should Enroll? This diploma is perfect for you if:
  - You are eager to enter the business world and make an impact.
  - You want to pursue a master's degree in business but lack a business undergraduate degree.
  - You wish to complement your existing degree with essential business knowledge.
  - You enjoy working in teams and want to hone your communication skills.

What our graduates say



Kevin Armstrong | Senior Account Executive, LinkedIn

" Graduating from an undergraduate degree at NUI Galway, the HDip in Business Studies program was an easy choice for me. Like many others, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Geography but was unsure of what to do next. The HDip in Business Studies provides an accessible route into the world of Business for non-business graduates, it also qualifies graduates to go on and pursue the vast majority of Business Masters programs."

Michelle Murray | Senior Strategic Sourcing Specialist, Medtronic

" The DBS came at the perfect time as I wanted a career change from the education sector and business was something I really wanted to try my hand at. This course gave me the opportunity to completely change my path, challenge myself and excel in an area I hadn't worked in before. "





Mark Naughton | Business Dev Associate, Salesforce

"I chose University of Galway because of my love for Galway city accompanied by the great experience I had here throughout my undergraduate degree. This degree appealed to me because I wanted to gain a broad knowledge of the various aspects of business and increase my overall business acumen."

Mark Towey | Software Implementation Consultant, Genesys

"What I really enjoyed about the programme was that it gives you a great introduction to all aspects of business. In the first semester you study the core modules, and in the second semester you can branch off into the subjects and modules that you found most interesting or were best at. I found the programme very well laid out, there was a clear structure for every module.The lecturers for each module were also very helpful and accessible. I found the course gave me great clarity as to what path I wanted to take in my career. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is considering it."



Leading Irish Universities on *Sustainability Transformation*

Join a ***globally recognised institution*** ranked among the best for sustainability, and study on a campus committed to creating a greener future. Imagine earning a degree that not only equips you with cutting-edge skills but also aligns with your values of environmental stewardship.

Our Higher Diploma in Business Studies is ***designed to foster innovation and leadership***, preparing you to excel in today's competitive market. The University offers a unique blend of academic excellence, practical experience, and a sustainable campus environment, making it the ideal choice for future leaders.

Envision your career flourishing as you benefit from our world-class faculty and strong industry connections.

SDG AMBASSADOR





Message from **Breda Lally** Programme Director



Admission

Ready to Take the Next Step?

- **Entry Requirements:**
  - Academic Background: A primary degree (NFQ Level 8 or equivalent) in any discipline.
  - English Language Proficiency: For non-native English speakers, an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent is required.
- **Application Process:**
  - How to Apply: Visit our website to submit your application online. Be sure to include all relevant academic transcripts and proof of English proficiency if applicable.

Invest in Your Future

- **Course Fees for Academic Year 2027/28**
  - EU: €7,600
  - Non-EU: €15,700
  - Student Levy: €150

Find out More

Programme Director:
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Learn More:

ENGINEERS IRELAND
cpd REGISTERED TRAINING PROVIDER 2017

EQUIS ACCREDITED
AACSB ACCREDITED
ASSOCIATION OF MBAS
Top 2% QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
Athena Swan Ireland Silver Award
SDG AMBASSADOR