



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Master of Science in Leadership & Innovation in the Public Sector



Department of
**Business
Studies**



A proven leadership programme facilitating public sector managers in delivering innovation and transformational change.



Developing Innovative Leaders

The demand for strong leadership in transformational change is being stimulated by the impact of challenging public sector reform agendas and digital transformation on almost every activity. The highly successful Master of Science in Leadership and Innovation in the Public Sector develops the leadership talent of public sector managers in order to deliver significant organisational improvement in participating organisations. It draws on the real life experience of its participants and is the only North-South programme of its kind.

This programme was originally developed by Atlantic Technological University and Ulster University in collaboration with the Office of An Taoiseach and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister who were integral to deciding on the content, structure and philosophy of the programme.

Key Features

- > Focused on developing responses to key public reform agenda issues
- > Leading national and international best practice speakers
- > Discussion based mode of delivery
- > Blended Delivery (6 x 2 day residential blocks based in Ireland and Northern Ireland, plus online) over 2 years
- > Action learning communities of practice - reflective learning approach using Action Learning Sets (6 days)
- > Action Learning Set locations to be determined by participants location
- > Assessment is assignment based and centred on work issues
- > Research Project based on major in-house organisational project

Deeper Action Learning

An integral part of the programme is action learning situated within the candidate's own workplace. This approach enhances the use of specialist knowledge in practice and recognises the reciprocal relationship between management theory and professional practice. The programme creates an environment in which participants can engage in knowledge development based on their work context. Relevant project work in participating organisations and sharing of real life experiences form a richness of learning. It is essentially a practical programme with rigorous theoretical underpinnings.

Graduates of this programme will not only have developed significant critical thinking abilities but additionally will have developed significant reflective learning, using the 'experience' knowledge base of the executive network.

Core Benefit to Participating Organisations

A key strategic justification is that the programme aims to substantially develop the capability of managers in the public sector as innovating leaders and to develop significant organisational improvement in participating organisations.

This Masters programme focuses on managing innovation through encouraging innovating communities of practice with shared interests, joint activities and discussions. The structure is designed to maximise the scope for work based learning and to develop executive networks for sharing insights from the collective Public Service experience.

Programme Structure

The programme runs over 2 years and is designed to facilitate executives in the workplace. It comprises 6 taught modules (each module is block delivered over 2 days, with additional delivery online), 6 x Action Learning Sets and a Research Project.

The MSc in Leadership and Innovation in the Public Sector has 6 knowledge disciplines central to underpinning the programme vision of developing innovating leaders. The programme includes the following modules:

- > **Context of Leadership, Innovation and Transformation** (UU, Magee Campus Derry)
- > **Transformational Leadership** (Ashbourne, Co. Meath) *
- > **Citizen Centric Policy Design** (Newry, Co. Down)
- > **Change and Cultural Management** (Ashbourne, Co. Meath) *
- > **Digital Transformation and Shared Services** (Newry, Co. Down) *
- > **Performance Management** (CoLab, ATU, Letterkenny Campus)

* Venue to be confirmed

Entry Requirements

Applicants should hold a second-class honours degree or equivalent; and be in relevant employment within the Public Sector. Participants are identified as those charged with delivering strategic, transformational change through clear mission and innovative leadership. The course is directed at managers at Grade 7/Assistant Principal Officer grade or equivalent. We recognise that life and work experience counts, managers without an honours degree but with senior management experience are also eligible to apply.

Fees & Further Information

Programme fees are payable in three installments of €3,320, culminating in a total fee of €9,960.

For further information:

Email: Donald.Hannigan@atu.ie Executive & Professional Education Co-Ordinator, ATU Donegal.

Tel: 00353 (0)74 9186206 or Visit our website [Leadership & Innovation in the Public Sector](#)

Previous Participants

To date over 200 public sector managers including Principal Officers, Assistant Principal Officers, Heads of Function and Heads of Technology from departments and agencies, including those listed below, have benefited from our programme:

Ireland

Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Dept of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Dept of Children & Youth Affairs
Dept of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
Dept of Education & Skills
Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government
Dept of Health
Dept of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation
Dept of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Dept of Justice & Equality
Dept of Social Protection
Dept of an Taoiseach
Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport
County Councils
An Garda Síochána
Health Service Executive
Institutes of Technology
Irish Water Safety
Office of Revenue Commissioners
Údarás na Gaeltachta

Northern Ireland

Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development
Dept of Culture, Arts & Leisure
Dept of Education
Dept of Employment & Learning
Dept of Enterprise, Trade & Investment
Dept of the Environment
Dept of Finance & Personnel
Dept of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Dept of Justice
Dept for Regional Development
Dept for Social Development
City Councils
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission
Northern Ireland Office
Office of the Civil Service & Local Appointments
Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister

Testimonials

Philip McGrath, Head of Public Service Transformation Delivery at Department of Public Expenditure & Reform.

"This Master's degree really challenged my thinking about how we approach the problems that we seek to solve when designing and delivering public services. The action learning approach, in particular, brings course participants out of their comfort zone and, consequently, enables self-reflection, growth and learning. Making connections with public service colleagues, North and South, was a genuinely rewarding aspect of the course - the sharing of valuable expertise and different perspectives was enriching. I would recommend this course to anyone who is looking to drive change and transformation in their role, whilst looking to move up to the next level professionally."

Lynda Hendley, Senior Manager, Customs Enforcement, Revenue Commissioners

"This MSc experience, which is what it is, has been a real growth opportunity. The action learning structure of the programme enables participants to focus, reflect and grow to an extent that I have not experienced in previous academic undertakings. The opportunities to collaborate with Public Servants from North and South are fantastic, with knowledge and experiences freely shared. The programme would be of benefit to public sector managers who are leading teams, particularly through any change initiatives and for those who wish to consider taking on a more senior leadership role in the future."