

1. Who We Are

ICD (International College Dublin) Business School was established in 2001 for the purpose of providing high-quality, third-level qualifications in Business and Accounting to both EU and non-EU students. The college currently offers three programmes leading to leading to major awards at levels 8 and 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in its areas of specialism, namely the BA (Hons) in Accounting & Finance, BA (Hons) in Business Studies, and MA in Accounting and Finance. The college also offers ACCA tuition as part of its BA Hons in Business Studies and BA Hons in Accounting with graduates receiving up to 9 exemptions (F1 to F9).

ICD is a 'boutique college', offering specifically tailored courses of education to small groups of dedicated students, and guaranteeing lecturer to learner ratios that create an environment in which students are actively encouraged to participate, interact and engage. Because of its deliberate policy of small learner group sizes - typically no more than 40 in a traditional lecture setting, or 20 in a tutorial or demonstration – ICD lecturers are free to provide learners with the individual attention they require to achieve their academic goals. 'Quality', 'Consistency', and 'Caring' are watchwords that embody ICD's organisational ethos, which proceeds from the belief that a truly quality academic experience can only be delivered by world class academics, teaching to small class sizes, backed up by a caring, personal and understanding administration system.

The college also values diversity and is committed to creating a culture in which no learner or staff member is discriminated against on the basis of age, race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious belief, national or ethnic origin, or disability. ICD has also adopted a policy of transparent and non-discriminatory pricing, with academic fees set at the same level for all students irrespective of nationality or EU citizenship. The only exception to this is explained in section 7.5. The college offers students a uniquely diverse learning environment, and currently serves learners from over forty countries, including Ireland, Belarus, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Poland, South Korea, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Peru, Croatia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Venezuela, Malawi, Mauritius, Vietnam, and South Africa.

1.1 Mission Statement

Vision Statement

At ICD Business School, we want all of our students to enjoy learning and to achieve success.

Mission Statement

To provide our learners with an educational experience that will equip them with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and competencies essential for employability, life-long learning, and entrepreneurship, in contemporary life.

We will fulfil this by:

ICD's Core Values

At ICD we:

- Value all learners equally.
- Support all learners in achieving their personal learning goals.
- Strive to provide a learning experience of the highest quality.
- Provide enriching and authentic learning opportunities that are accessible for all students.
- Ensure that all learners are assessed fairly and consistently.
- Endeavour to offer programmes of study that are innovative, up-to-date, and responsive to changing demands.
- Collaborate enthusiastically with learners and key internal and external stakeholders.
- Promote an institution-wide culture of quality, integrity, and continuous improvement.
- Support the continuing professional development of our staff.
- Maintain a resource base which is sufficient to ensure sustainability and a governance structure which is inclusive, learner-centred, and quality-enhancing.

Key Objectives

We will fulfil this vision and mission by:

- Developing and delivering a relevant and responsive curriculum;
- Achieving high quality of provision and services through a culture of continuous improvement;
- Promoting employability and diverse learning opportunities;
- Promoting equality and diversity in all aspects of our work;
- Meeting the learning needs of individuals, communities and employers;
- Promoting a collaborative approach to identifying and meeting learner needs, and providing appropriate pastoral and learning supports;
- Ensuring good financial control to safeguard the future of the college and the sustainability of quality education provision
- Continuously improving our Quality Assurance Framework through consultation internally and externally.

1.2 Provider Context

ICD is a small, independent provider which currently offers three programmes leading to major awards at levels 8 and 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Since its founding in 2001, the college has always pursued a policy of sustainable growth and a specialised scope of provision. As QA systems are context dependent (the QQI 'QA Context Principle') (QQI, 2019a), ICD's quality assurance framework has been developed to meet the college's statutory obligations in a manner which is appropriate to its context in terms of institutional capacity, and scale and scope of provision. The overriding aim of this framework, beyond compliance with statutory requirements, is to promote an institution-wide culture of quality, integrity, and continuous improvement at ICD which aligns with its strategic institutional objectives, is reflected in its policies, procedures, and internal governance structures, and which provides opportunities for all internal stakeholders – including learners and academic staff members – to participate meaningfully in shaping the college's institutional decision-making and self-evaluation processes.

REFERENCES

QQI (2019a) *Re-engagement with QQI: Process Guide for Independent and Private Providers*. Quality and Qualifications Ireland, Dublin. Available from: qqi.ie/Downloads/Reengagement%20Application%20Guide%20may%202019.pdf