Welcome from the President

Higher education is a significant undertaking, but we believe that it is an investment that will profit you personally and professionally. At Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT), we are committed to providing the perfect learning environment to enable you to fulfil your ambitions. We offer quality innovative courses that provide you with a passport to a rewarding career, wherever it might take you. The success of our students in winning national and international competitions, and the track record of our graduates is evidence of this. The variety of course on offer – in business, humanities, engineering and science – ensures that whatever your interest, we have a programme of study suited to you.

AIT is investing in developing and fostering a vibrant research culture, one that gives genuine expression to the vision of a 4th level society in bold and imaginative ways.

The success of AIT in winning substantial research funding across a variety of awarding agencies is testimony to this. The institute is committed to upgrading facilities for students. A new Engineering and Informatics Building costing €36 million is currently under construction and will be completed in 2009, while a new Postgraduate Research Hub will considerably enhance our offering for master’s degree and doctoral students.

One of the comments heard most frequently about AIT is how friendly the campus is. This extends from the rapport amongst the students, to contacts with lecturers and other members of staff. International students are made to feel like they have a home away from home. This is a source of comfort to family when students are leaving home to study for the first time. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus and forging a bright, exciting future with you.

Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin
President

Athlone, located in the centre of Ireland, has a population of 25,000 people and is 90 minutes’ journey time from the capital city, Dublin. It is a thriving urban centre and is well serviced by public transport. A motorway has recently opened between Dublin and Athlone. The town is situated on the River Shannon, the largest river in Ireland and Britain, and offers excellent sporting and leisure facilities. Athlone is an ideal destination for water enthusiasts who may participate in rowing, sailing, cruising, wind surfing, fishing and canoeing on the Shannon and nearby Lough Ree.

The town centre has experienced retail, industrial and residential growth in the past number of years. The new Athlone Town Shopping Centre is the largest such facility outside of Dublin. Large employers in the town include Élan Corporation, Ericsson, Covidien, One Direct and AXA Assistance, as well as many smaller businesses. There is a concentration of biomedical and pharmaceutical companies in the Midlands region and in summer 2008 Abiomed, an international leader in heart assist technologies, announced the establishment of a global manufacturing facility in Athlone employing 250 highly skilled employees.

AIT has been a factor in attracting many of these industries to the town. In 2006, Georgia Tech opened a research institute in Athlone, which is building up a portfolio of research programmes and collaborations with industry.

Introduction to Athlone Institute of Technology

Athlone Institute of Technology is a government-funded higher education institute established in 1970. The main campus, located 2.5 kms from the town centre, currently houses the Schools of Business, Engineering, Humanities and Science; the Library; the Information Technology Centre, the main student canteen facilities and the institute’s administration offices.

The institute offers an extensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to over 6,000 students. It is an important contributor to the local economy and to the shaping of Athlone’s future. There are over 400 international students at AIT from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, US and Canada.

Click the map to view our location

More information on Athlone can be found on: www.athlone.ie
Why Study at AIT?

- Internationally recognised qualifications from Higher Certificate to PhD;
- Programmes with practical orientation – many with work placement;
- Close links to industry;
- 96% of those who graduated from AIT were in further study or employment according to the latest Graduate Survey. Only 2% of graduates were seeking employment. Three-quarters of honours bachelor degree students had secured employment;
- According to a recent study, more than 81% of AIT students completed their course at the institute. This is 6% higher than the national average;
- Tuition fee less than one-third that of US and UK;
- Researchers at the institute have established an international reputation in the areas of software for m-commerce, polymer engineering, ecotoxicology, environmental science, and cell and molecular toxicology;
- International students comprise 10% of total student population;
- 200 international partner colleges;
- Friendly, welcoming institute, focused on ensuring that the expectation of each student is surpassed;
- International Office staff dedicated to supporting international students during studies;
- Accommodation at competitive rates, close to institute;
- Central location with excellent rail, bus and road network to Dublin, capital of Ireland;
- Experience Ireland’s unique culture and history during your time in Athlone.
Student Life

Athlone is a busy and prosperous town with an abundance of interesting tourist attractions, excellent restaurants, bars, clubs and retail outlets catering for all needs. Students participate in sports, social events and activities in Athlone town and on the main campus.

Sport, Recreation, Clubs and Societies

AIT’s facilities include playing pitches and a multipurpose centre which contains a basketball court, four badminton courts, two volleyball courts, indoor soccer and a state-of-the-art fitness suite. The outdoor facilities include a full-size FIFA 2-Star astro-turf soccer pitch, a full size GAA pitch, full size soccer pitch and three additional grass training areas. A new Olympics-standard eight-lane synthetic running track is a major addition to campus facilities.

The institute has 65 successful clubs and societies, including athletics, Gaelic football, soccer, rugby, table tennis, volleyball, tennis, swimming, basketball, equestrian, golf, canoeing. The International Society was established in September 2000 to create a climate for promoting cross-cultural links between students at AIT. The Society has been involved in organising a number of successful events, such as fancy dress parties, quiz nights, international films and weekends away. International students get to experience culinary delights and cultural interests from different regions, as well as forming lasting friendships.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be arranged in apartments or houses near AIT, with the assistance of the International Office. There are six privately owned student villages located within walking distance of the institute. The International Students section of the AIT website contains information on apartments in student villages close to AIT. A single room costs €70-80 approximately per week. Room sharing costs €55-65 approximately per week. Heating and electricity are usually extra. The average cost of living in Athlone for an academic year is approximately €5,000.

Student Support Services

The institute offers a wide range of services to students. These include counselling, chaplaincy, prayer room, disability support, student tutors/mentors, health and a careers and appointments service. The student services team at AIT has won customer service awards in Ireland. English language support classes are available to international students.
Entry Requirements and Application Procedures

Non-EU students applying for entry to programmes should apply to the International Office on or before 1 June for programmes commencing in September. Information on tuition fees, entry requirements, application procedures and application forms can be found on the International Student section of the AIT website: www.ait.ie.

All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes commence in September each year. The Foundation programme, Master of Science in Software Engineering and Master of Science in Applied Polymer Technology are the only programmes which have an intake in January.

CONTACT

International Office
Athlone Institute of Technology,
Dublin Road, Athlone,
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Tel. +353 90 642 4562
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Undergraduate Programmes

**Business School**
- Business Studies, Financial Services and Accounting
- ACCA and CIMA
- Business Computing/Information Technology/Music Technology

**School of Humanities**
- Graphic Design
- Social Care
- Hospitality and Tourism Studies

**School of Engineering**
- Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics
- Renewable Energy
- Civil Engineering/Construction Studies
- Computer/Software Engineering/Network Administration
- Games Technology and Web Development
- Electronics Engineering and Mobile Communications
- Biomedical Technology

**School of Science**
- Life and Physical Science: Biology, Chemistry, Toxicology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical Science
- Nursing and Health Science

Postgraduate Programmes

**One year duration - taught mode**
- Master of Business
- Master of Arts in Accounting
- Master of Science in Software Engineering
- Master of Science in Applied Polymer Technology

Note: Master’s and PhD degree opportunities by research mode are also available

**Research Opportunities**
AIT has three strategic research institutes: in materials engineering, biomolecular sciences and software engineering. Further research clusters exist within our four Schools of Business, Engineering, Humanities and Science. The research institutes have developed international collaborations with leading multinational companies and universities in Europe, Asia and US. They have attracted significant multimillion euro funding. A planned new research campus will further enhance their research potential.

Summer Programmes

- English language programme from May to August
- Summer School in Irish Studies (3 weeks June) - Ireland and the Irish: settlement, migration and culture

Foundation Programme

Certificate in English for Academic Studies for International Students

This programme will provide successful participants with:
- An understanding of English usage, Computing, Basic Technology, Engineering and Business;
- The opportunity of gaining entry to one of AIT’s range of Engineering, Science, Humanities or Business courses for the following academic year;
- There are two intakes: September to May or January to August.