

Student view

Name: Virginia Conroy

Programme: Higher Certificate in Electronic Engineering



“I’ll have more skills, which should open more doors in my career.”

I’m a software validation engineer with Lake Communications. I already hold an Internet Support Specialist and Network Technician diploma but felt further study would be good for my career. Employers look for staff who have both the experience and the qualifications to do the job. I’ve been working in IT for a few years now and have the experience but once I’m awarded my certificate I’ll have more skills, which should open more doors in my career.

What particularly appealed to me about the programme was fact that the classes are held at night and repeated during the day. This flexibility makes it easier to meet work commitments. Since I work in Tallaght, the location of the Institute couldn’t be better.

Students on this course can either do 8 or 12 hours of lectures a week. I’ve chosen to do 12 hours so I can finish the course earlier and go on to the electronic engineering degree later this year. Finding the energy and the time can be quite hard but it will be worth it in the end. Due to my heavy workload I’ve not been able to join any clubs or events but next year, time permitting, I’d like to train with the women’s football team.

The course covers both hardware and software aspects of electronics and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who has an interest in electronics and would like to get a basic understanding of the different roles within the electronics industry.

Student view

Name: Andrzej Zagrodny

Programme: Higher Certificate in Electronic Engineering



‘More training and courses means more skills I can bring to the job.’

I have just completed a part-time Higher Cert in Electronic Engineering at ITT Dublin. The programme started in September 2006 and finished in January 2009.

I work as an electronic engineer/certified AV installer with a company called Instacom Audiovisual. I already hold an Electronic Technician diploma from Wroclaw in Poland but wanted to obtain an Irish qualification too.

As I work full time, I was only interested in part-time/evening courses. Of course I'd no idea about colleges in Dublin and I finally chose ITT Dublin mainly for location reasons – I live in Bray and had to be able to get to the venue easily, which I could using the M50.

I attended lectures two evenings a week: Monday and Thursday. Making the lectures was not always easy but the lecturers understood when somebody was late or unable to turn up. The days were long for me, as I would leave home at 7.30am to go to work and not get home on lecture nights until 10.40pm.

The course was pretty much what I expected. It's what I always wanted to have: a certificate in electronic engineering and knowledge of today's electronic devices. I'd really recommend this course, especially to those who like electronics or want to understand how things work and what they are made from.

Now I've got the certificate, I plan to take a break but I will come back and do a degree. More training and courses means more skills I can bring to the job.

Student view

Name: Mark Quinlan
Programme: Bachelor of Engineering,
Electronic Engineering



I have always had an interest in science and physics and I like the way these fields are applied in electronic engineering. I worked for a major electronics company for eight years, culminating in a position on the process engineering team. I enjoyed this role but realised that not having a degree left me at a disadvantage. I started studying electronic engineering through the Flashe programme at ITT Dublin in 2005 and found it very interesting and enjoyable. I attained the higher certificate with a distinction and moved straight into the degree programme which I'm due to complete this summer.

I chose ITT Dublin initially on the recommendation of two former engineering colleagues who had graduated from the college and rated it highly. The structure and syllabus, along with the facilities made deciding where to go an easy decision.

Lectures take place on Tuesdays and are repeated on Thursdays to accommodate shift workers. I work nine to five, but my employer allows me to attend college on Thursdays and make up the hours over the rest of the week. This means I can make it to all the lectures. I find that by dedicating one or two further evenings a week (more when approaching exams) to study and course work, I can comfortably stay on top of the workload.

Having already completed the Higher Cert, I had a good idea what to expect coming into the degree programme. Topics covered include hardware and software design, networking and telecommunications and automation and controls.

I have found the material interesting and enjoyed the course work. To be honest, I would find it hard to study something I had no interest in.

Apart from the benefit of acquiring new knowledge, I find the programme helps me in work all the time. I currently work as a utility engineering technician in a pharmaceutical company and frequently spot instances of things I have studied, and am increasingly able to identify problems and understand the workings of different equipment.

From a career point of view, it is very beneficial.

An engineering degree opens lots of doors and puts you in a position where your skills are in demand all over the world.

Study wise, I plan to finish the honours degree, and then possibly do some further studies in PLCs and control systems.

Anyone who has an interest in studying electronics really should consider ITT Dublin. The course itself is excellent and the lecturers and staff are always friendly and willing to help. The college has everything you need, with excellent lecturers, labs and its own clean room. I'm in my fifth year studying at ITT Dublin and have never considered studying anywhere else.

Student view

Name: Pete Turner

Programme: Honours Bachelor of Engineering - Electronic Engineering



‘My motivation for doing the programme was to improve my scope and understanding of electronics, but also to advance my academic level.’

I work as a failure analysis technician at Intel. Silicon wafers that have failed some parameter at any point during manufacture are usually analysed by the team I work with.

Having previously completed the Bachelor of Engineering ordinary degree in Electronic Engineering at ITT Dublin, I am now studying for the honours degree, which I'm due to finish in January 2010. My motivation for doing the programme was to improve my scope and understanding of electronics, but also to advance my academic level. The flexibility and content of the course and its proximity to my home were factors that made it attractive. Also, having done a degree there, I already knew and respected the staff.

The course is currently held on Mondays (9am-7pm) and Tuesdays (2pm-10pm), which is unusual as we've had to complete five modules this semester (normally we would take four modules per term or 14 hours total lecture time per week). Next year the days will change to Thursday evening and all day Friday (to accommodate the guys on shift work).

What I like most about the programme is the fact the college has a great array of industrial-standard equipment, and being able to put into practice theory gained through lectures/study is great.

I'm hoping the qualification will open a lot more doors career wise. Coupled with the amount of work experience I have gained over the years I should stand a very good chance of clinching a job if I decide to move on. But I shall stay with Intel for the time being as they are very good to me – perhaps I will go into some engineering role at some point; we'll have to wait and see.

When the course is finished I will take a couple of years off from study as I plan to get married in 2010 and do a bit of travelling in 2011. I think I'd like to do a Masters programme at some stage but I've not made up my mind.

I would certainly recommend this course to others – the content is very good and the staff very helpful and experienced.