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# Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution

## KEY INFORMATION

<b>Course Type:</b>	Postgraduate Full-Time
<b>Delivery:</b>	In-Class
<b>NFQ:</b>	Level 9
<b>Accredited:</b>	QQI
<b>Duration:</b>	3 Semesters



## COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution is a unique and innovative interdisciplinary programme which provides students with the academic knowledge and practical skills to resolve disputes between parties in a non-adversarial manner.

The programme focuses on a wide range of dispute resolution processes including arbitration, mediation, negotiation, restorative engagement and problem-solving at the commercial, workplace, community and legal levels. The programme also provides an integrated perspective, including national and international practices in the key area of law and dispute resolution. The curriculum is interdisciplinary, combining concepts from law, business management, international relations, global diplomacy, UN institutions, international courts, policy studies, sociology, psychology and organisational development.

The unique mixture of experience-based learning through theory and practice provides a hands-on understanding of this exciting and fast-growing sector. Our teaching team consists of academics, mediators, lawyers, barristers and arbitrators.

## WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This MA in Dispute Resolution is suitable for graduates of law, business or related disciplines, or those who have relevant work experience and who wish to develop their knowledge of this increasingly important field. It is designed for individuals who wish to enhance their capabilities and skills in management, Human Resources, mediation, negotiation, arbitration, international conflict resolution, diplomacy, community relations, public affairs, and higher-level customer service.

## ACCREDITATION

This is an academic 3 semester postgraduate Master's programme that is QQI accredited at Level 9. Students will graduate with an internationally recognised Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution.

The programme is accredited by the **Irish Professional Mediators' Organisation (IPMO)**. Graduates of the programme are eligible to apply to the IPMO for membership as newly qualified mediators.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should have an upper second-class honours degree in Law, Business, Human Resources or related at Level 8 (or equivalent). Students with a lower second-class honours degree will be considered. Qualifications from candidates based outside of Ireland will be assessed using the NARIC International Comparison System. This ensures that there are equal opportunities for overseas students. Find local market equivalent qualification levels from 160+ countries through the NARIC Foreign Qualifications Database on [qqi.ie](http://qqi.ie)

\* Students who commence in the Autumn Semester should complete in 14 months  
Students who commence in the Spring Semester should complete in 16 months.

Candidates who do not hold an honours degree (or equivalent) with a minimum of two years of relevant professional experience may be accepted under the College's Academic Regulations on the basis of Accredited Experiential Learning, which may be defined as learning achieved through experience gained by an individual outside formalised learning arrangements, where the learning outcomes are open to assessment by the College.

Candidates will be required to complete a 'bridging course' which takes place in the week prior to the commencement of the programme. The focus of the bridging course is to provide students with a grounding in some of the basic concepts of the Irish legal system. Attendance at the bridging course is compulsory.

If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence of ability to study at degree level English. You will be required to show that your level of English is equivalent to at least IELTS 6.5.

## COURSE STRUCTURE:

### Semester 1

- Conflict: Analysis and Resolution
- Principles of Mediation Theory
- Principles of Mediation Practice
- Principles of Negotiation Theory
- Applied Negotiation Practice
- Theory & Practice of Arbitration

### Semester 2

- Advanced Mediation Theory
- Advanced Mediation Practice
- Restorative Practice
- Research Methods
- Theory and Practice of Workplace Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Dispute Resolution

### Semester 3

- Students must complete a dissertation on the topic of dispute resolution.

**NOTE:** The programme is now available for local students as Part-Time over 4 semesters, 3 taught semesters plus final semester dissertation. (does not support student visa application, contact our Admissions team for more information)

## 2026 TUITION FEES:

Annual tuition fee for applicants legally residing in Ireland or holding a European Union passport is €8,200.

The annual tuition fee for Non-EU/EEA applicants is €10,800.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- Workplace and Commercial Dispute Resolution Sector
- Professional Mediation and international organisations
- Government Institutions and Public Sector
- Law Firms, HR / Management / NGOs
- Membership of Professional Bodies
- Higher Education sector and Civil Society associations
- Consulting, public relations and change management

**admissions@independentcollege.ie**

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**HOW TO APPLY:**  
**independentcollege.ie/courses/**

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