

University of Limerick

The University of Limerick was established in 1972 as the National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick, and classified as the University of Limerick in 1989.

The University of Limerick (UL) is an independent, internationally focussed University. Its mission is to promote and advance learning and knowledge through teaching, research and scholarship in an environment which encourages innovation and upholds the principles of free enquiry and expression. Particular attention is paid to the generation of knowledge which is relevant to the needs of Ireland's continuing socio-economic development. UL offers a range of programmes up to doctorate and postdoctorate levels in the disciplines of Business, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Informatics & Electronics, and Science.

The UL campus, comprising in excess of 327 acres, with the river Shannon at its centre, is located 5km from Limerick City and 20km from Shannon International Airport. Adjacent to the University is the National Technological Park (650 acres), Ireland's first science/technology park, which is home to 80 organisations and employs almost 5,000 people. There is a close interaction between the National Technological Park and UL.

The MSSI

The University was awarded € 15.25 million for development of the Materials and Surface Science Institute (MSSI) The MSSI was set up in 1998 by a group of established and new researchers at the University of Limerick who collectively have a very strong track record. The project was completed in May 2002.

The Institute brings together in one unit a group with research interests in chemistry, physics, materials science and engineering science with applications to industrial challenges. Many of the more important scientific advances are being made at the interface of traditional disciplines such as chemistry/biology or chemistry/physics. The formal establishment of the Institute encourages and promotes collaboration between staff from diverse scientific backgrounds and different departments and colleges within the University. The long-term goals of the Institute are to continue to promote multidisciplinary research in the areas of materials and surface science and specifically to provide the facilities and equipment to conduct this research on a long-term basis.

The MSSI is dedicated to onward development of graduate output by enhancing the quality of the educational experience at all levels. It was supported under the Higher Education Authority Programmes for Research in Third Level Institutions for 1998-2000 and 1999-2001 through which over €15.4m was awarded in funding and provides the equipment base and long-term infrastructure necessary for the Institute. There is 1300m² of purpose built laboratories. Two experimental officers support these laboratories. Four postdoctoral fellows manage the more specialised items of equipment.

Under the Marie-Curie programme the incoming researcher would be involved with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities and experience of working with world-class visiting and permanent scientists of the Institute.