

InterAct Summer School 2023

Atlantic Technological University, Ireland

16 – 21 July 2023



InterAct & Atlantic Technological University Summer School 2023

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Letterkenny, Donegal, Ireland

'Supporting the innovation and diffusion of Industrial Digital Technologies in UK manufacturing'

Are you a doctoral (PhD) student or Early Career Researcher (ECR) interested in human focused, interdisciplinary research into manufacturing and industrial digital technology?

Do you want to build your network of academic and industry contacts whilst engaging with important real-world issues and topics surrounding these industries?

In collaboration with Atlantic Technological University (ATU), InterAct is inviting applications from ECRs and PhD students from the economic and social sciences to attend our Summer School.

There will be up to 30 places available, and all accommodation, meals and sightseeing costs will be covered by InterAct.

Travel costs will not be covered. Please note passport and visa requirements to enter Ireland and travel options (see final page for details).



Overview

This residential Summer School will provide the opportunity for up to 30 UK-based early career researchers and doctoral students from the economic and social sciences to come together for five days to connect with peers and develop their academic networks.

They will gain insights from leading academics within the InterAct Network, sharing the aims, objectives, and ongoing research projects from within the core workstreams of the 'Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems', 'Future of Work' and 'Future of the Economy'.

InterAct is part of the Made Smarter Innovation (MSI) challenge which aims to help UK manufacturing become more productive and competitive through the innovation and diffusion of digital technology, and to support manufacturing to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

We hope that through this Summer School programme, you will become part of the next generation of interdisciplinary researchers and carry forward the InterAct aims and agenda as the manufacturing industry continues to develop, helping us to build a more sustainable, efficient, and positive future for the sector.

What is the purpose of InterAct?

Working alongside other partners within the wider MSI programme, we aim to build a strong, vibrant, interdisciplinary community where funding can be effectively distributed to researchers who will generate actionable economic and social science insights for the benefit UK businesses.

In a world faced with the looming threat of climate change, the InterAct Network will also support the efforts of UK manufacturing to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Whilst technology is important, there are many social and economic factors that will be hugely influential in achieving these aims. The InterAct Network has two primary roles:

1. Develop and support the creation of an effective digital innovation ecosystem to accelerate the innovation and diffusion of Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs).
2. Ensure that the full range and depth of social and economic science insights are accessed across the Made Smarter Innovation challenge and wider UK manufacturing sector.

[Find out more about how we're supporting MSI here.](#)



Eligibility

In order to be eligible, you must be either an ECR (including post-doctoral researchers and new/probationary lecturers) or a PhD student from any UK research organisation that is eligible to receive UKRI funding, typically academic institutions.

How to apply

To participate, you will need to complete an application form provided on our website. The completed application form and short CV should be emailed to info@interact-hub.org.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 17.00.

Notification of acceptance from InterAct will take place by 14 June 2023.

Please let us know at that stage via email if you have any dietary or access requirements.

If you have further queries or require additional information, please contact us at:
info@interact-hub.org.

Programme

The main objectives of this Summer School are:

1. To develop a common knowledge base within the community of ECRs and PhD students on the current and future issues and opportunities around digital technology confronting the manufacturing sector.
2. To help ECRs and PhD students in defining relevant research topics and understanding the complex and relevant links with other research streams.
3. To foster the development of a network of young researchers in social science fields which can become a forum for exchanging ideas and building research collaboration concerning the manufacturing sector.

The sessions will provide an overview of the knowledge and research already in progress across the InterAct Core Research themes:

- Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems
- Future of Work
- Future of the Economy

There will be speaker sessions, interactive round table discussions, as well as opportunities to share any developmental research ideas. These will be complemented by site visits to companies in the region who have embraced the potential of digital transformation through incorporating new technologies.



Agenda

Sunday 16 July	Afternoon/evening	Registration and welcome reception - Mount Errigal Hotel
Monday 17 July	Morning	Future of the Economy – Professor Vania Sena
	Afternoon	Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) visit
	Evening	Welcome Dinner – Rathmullan House
Tuesday 18 July	Morning	Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems – Professor Jan Godsell
	Afternoon	Future of Work – Dr. Colin Lindsay
	Evening	Dinner - Mount Errigal Hotel
Wednesday 19 July	Morning	Coca Cola Ballina visit
	Afternoon	Skills session
	Evening	Dinner - Mount Errigal Hotel
Thursday 20 July	All day	Sightseeing Day
	Evening	Gala Dinner - Castle Grove Country House
Friday 21 July	Morning	Presentation
	Midday	Close and departure



Site visits

As part of the Summer School programme, attendees will have the opportunity to visit several dynamic nearby businesses that are embracing the benefits of new technologies and digital transformation, these include:



Who are Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)?

TCS are an IT services, consulting and business solutions organisation that have been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses for the past 50 years. They partner with clients to innovate for growth, leveraging their ecosystem of partners from across academia, government institutions, start-ups, technology providers and hyperscalers. They believe that innovation and collective knowledge can create a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for all.

What they do

The new enlarged TCS business in Ireland is providing business, digital and technology services for customers in Ireland, the UK, Europe, and the US. The state-of-the-art facilities at the LKGDC include a digital innovation lab and plans are now in place for building further business units, including the opening of a new Threat Management Centre for cyber security and a centre of excellence in cloud services.

TCS Global Delivery Centre in Ireland

TCS have been operating in Ireland for over 20 years with a track record of sustained investment in the country. Their investment in Ireland has been made even stronger and more significant following the acquisition of the Pramerica Systems business in Letterkenny, Donegal in November 2020.

TCS are among the largest employers in the north-west region. The TCS Letterkenny Global Delivery Centre (LKGDC) employs over 1,000 people across four generations, with 40 countries represented in the workforce. Diversity and inclusivity are at the heart of the TCS culture. About 35% of their Irish workforce are women which is significantly above the 21% IT Industry standard.

TCS are recognised as a Global Top Employer by the Top Employers Institute and they are proud of their reputation as a quality employer, placing a huge focus on employee wellbeing, support, and career development.

Your TCS Visit

During your visit, they will focus on the impact of innovation on global manufacturing in areas such as digital capabilities, supply chains and logistics and across industries as diverse as Banking, Healthcare and Retail - all underlined by their commitment to sustainability.

[Find out more about TCS here.](#)



Coca-Cola Ballina

Who are Coca-Cola?

Founded in 1892, Coca-Cola offers 2,800 products available in more than 200 countries and is the largest beverage manufacturer and distributor in the world.

While many view the company as simply “Coca-Cola,” their system operates through multiple local channels. The primary way that their products reach the marketplace starts with Coca-Cola, which manufactures and sells concentrates, beverage bases and syrups to bottling operations.

Coca-Cola also owns the brands and is responsible for consumer brand marketing initiatives. Coca-Cola bottler partners manufacture, package, merchandise and distribute final branded beverages to customers and vending partners, who then sell products to consumers.

All bottling partners work closely with customers – grocery stores, restaurants, street vendors, convenience stores, movie theatres and amusement parks, among many others – to execute localised strategies developed in partnership with the company.

[Find out more about Coca-Cola Ireland here.](#)

Coca-Cola Ballina Facility

Coca-Cola's County Mayo facility has been recognised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as one of the world's most advanced manufacturers.

The site – formerly known as Ballina Beverages – has been admitted to the WEF's Global Lighthouse Network. This is a platform that recognises manufacturers that are leading the way in “fourth industrial revolution technologies” such as AI, robotics, and cloud computing

The announcement comes following years of investment by Coca-Cola to upgrade its Mayo facility. The company said it primarily invested in IT infrastructure, advanced technology and a staff training programme.

The soft-drinks company's digital transformation of the site has led to a 6.8% increase in production in three years and an energy reduction of 29%, bringing the site's emissions back to 2011 levels.

Coca-Cola established the Ballina facility 22 years ago and it has grown to become a significant employer for the county with more than 400 staff. The facility also uses the services of multiple contracting companies that employ a further 80 people at the Killala Road Facility, according to Mayo County Council.

[‘The Coca-Cola System’ Coca-Cola, https://www.coca-colacompany.com/company/coca-cola-system](https://www.coca-colacompany.com/company/coca-cola-system)

[L. McGowran, 2023, ‘Coca-Cola Ballina hailed as one of world's most advanced manufacturers’, SiliconRepublic, https://www.siliconrepublic.com/machines/coca-cola-ballina-advanced-manufacturing](https://www.siliconrepublic.com/machines/coca-cola-ballina-advanced-manufacturing)



Summer School Location and Facilities

The Summer School will be held at ATU, Donegal Letterkenny campus in Ireland. County Donegal is a region in the north-west of Ireland that is one of the most beautiful in the country and well serviced with transport links, [find out more about County Donegal](#).

Letterkenny is a thriving town and the major commercial and cultural hub of the region. Its population enjoys a great mix of fun, heritage, and leisure, ranging from excellent shopping and nightlife to well-established music and theatre venues, a multiplex cinema, and several cultural centres.

Residents also enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery in Ireland. Magnificent coastline, beaches, and mountains, including Glenveagh National Park, are all within easy reach. They provide an amazing backdrop for all kinds of outdoor adventure and leisure activities such as golf, hill walking, cycling and watersports. ATU makes the most of these natural amenities by supporting a wide range of sports, leisure, and cultural activities for students or visitors.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided at the Mount Errigal Hotel in Ballyraine, Letterkenny, County Donegal, Ireland.

Single/double ensuite rooms for single occupancy will be provided.

[Find out more on their website.](#)

Travelling to Letterkenny

Travel costs will not be covered by InterAct.

[Find out more about ways to travel to Letterkenny.](#)

[View maps and travel guidance for the ATU Letterkenny campus.](#)

Please note passport and visa requirements to enter Northern Ireland and Ireland.

[Visa requirements to enter Ireland.](#)

[Passport FAQs for travel between Britain and Ireland.](#)

