



UCD SCHOOL OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES

MA IN HISTORY - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The History of International Relations

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What will I study?

The MA in the History of International relations offers a wide range of modules, taught by staff from within the School of History & Archives, visiting professors to UCD, and staff in related research institutes and schools.

Students take three modules, two of which must be from the following selection: 'Political Violence and C20 Europe', 'The Origins of Modern Diplomacy and International Law' and the 'Long First World War'. 'Political Violence and C20 Europe' introduces students to competing explanations of the causes and development of violence during wartime in the first half of the twentieth century. The course uses a wide geographical range of case studies to draw out larger thematic issues in the cultural and political history of violence and warfare. The range of topics studied includes the Boer War, the Herero and Nama Genocides; the First World War; the Armenian Genocide, 1915-16; the Greco Turkish War 1919-1923; the comparative history of paramilitary violence after the Great War; the Russian Civil War; the Spanish Civil War; the Second World War; the Holocaust; the international laws of war; the brutalization of violence. The module 'The Origins of Modern Diplomacy and International Law' investigates, analyses and interprets the development of modern diplomatic practice, protocol and representation in association with the evolution of International Law. 'The Long First World War' module examines the event that many historians have argued marked the birth of the twentieth century; a century characterised by violence, war, and brutality. It considers the origins of the conflict, the military exploits of the key players, and the efforts at peace-making in the war's wake, focusing both on the European and global aspects of the war. Rather than adopting the traditional focus on 1914-18, this module places the First World War into a broader context of international relations, stretching from the Italian invasion of Tripoli in 1911 through to the Treaty of Locarno in 1925.

The School is fortunate to host high-calibre visiting lecturers in American and Australian history, who offer courses on their area of expertise. Students taking the History of International Relations strand may be able to take these. Finally, the School draws on the wider scholarly expertise in international history in UCD, notably from its Centre for War Studies, which hosts a seminar series. It is possible to gain credit for attending the seminar series and writing a research paper relevant to one of the seminar topics. Details of the seminar topics will only be available in late August or early September. To get an idea of the types of topics discussed, please visit the website of the UCD Centre for War Studies: www.ucd.ie/warstudies/

Students will also have the opportunity to take classes at the Applied Language Centre. These classes will equip students with new language skills.

Why do this MA?

In an era of globalisation, an understanding of the history of international relations is more important than ever. Many of the major problems and questions in world affairs have a long history. War, terrorism, economic globalization, the development of international institutions and laws, failed states, and humanitarian intervention are just a selection of concepts, often used, but poorly understood, because of a lack of historical perspective. This MA will provide historical perspectives that will equip students to understand better the contemporary world. Students are also encouraged and invited to attend important events on international relations, which are held in Dublin throughout the year. The MA in the History of International Relations prepares students for further advanced study. It also leads into careers in business, the civil service, the media, and teaching.