



## **Making an Historical Documentary; Politics and Communications**

Programme Director: Dr Paul Rouse [p.rouse@ucd.ie]

### **About the MA**

This is a practical MA intended to introduce students to communications history. It is run within the Centre for the History of the Media at UCD, which was founded in 2007. Based within the School of History and Archives, the Centre brings together academics from across the University; it also hosts conferences and public lectures.

### **How to make an historical documentary (Semester 1)**

This module is taught by Paul Rouse, Lecturer in History at UCD. Paul has worked as a reporter and director for RTÉ and TG4. Making historical documentaries requires the best skills an historian can offer. Far from being reductive of complex ideas and concepts, the most outstanding historical documentaries demand acuity of insight and analysis. As documentaries are built on all manner of primary evidence and require the development of a strong point of view to sustain their coherence, students will develop and expand a range of vital transferrable skills. The course will introduce students to the basic techniques of historical documentary-making, film archive research, filming and interviewing, and scripting and editing.

### **Internship (Semester 2)**

During the second semester, students will take an internship with CenturyIreland News, a multimedia project based on the RTE website. This project is part of a major collaboration to commemorate the events of the 1913-23 period and involves UCD, RTE, the National Archives, the National Library, the National Museum, the Royal Irish Academy and NUIG. Students will prepare podcasts, videos and articles for broadcast on the RTE website.

### **Optional Module & Research Skills (Disseminating History)**

Students will be able to select from a range of optional modules from across the School's graduate offerings. It is also possible to take a broad range of language courses for credit within the Applied Language Centre. In addition, students take research skills offered by the School.

### **Dissertation/Project**

This is the culmination of the academic year. Under the supervision of a member of staff in the School of History, students will produce a 15,000 words dissertation or work on a practical project of equivalent value.

### **Why take this MA?**

The MA will provide a firm grounding in graduate-level history for those students wishing to pursue a research degree. However, the majority of students will register to this programme to develop key skills in communication and research; these are skills valued by employers across all sectors.