



# UCD SCHOOL OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES

## MA IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

### The Social and Cultural History of Medicine

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#### About the MA

This MA is an innovative and interdisciplinary one-year postgraduate degree, which focuses on the place of medicine in society. It is the only MA of its kind available in Ireland. The aim of the MA is to enable students to engage in critical debates within the history of medicine both within Ireland and internationally, from c.1750 to c. 1950. Students will have the opportunity to explore themes through various media; film, literature, and art, amongst others. At the core of the taught programme is the module on 'Approaches to Medical History'. The module explores the main historiographical trends within medical history from social history, gender history, post-colonial history to patients' experiences of illness throughout history. Students also take the module 'Gender and Medicine' which explores how medical and cultural constructions of femininity and masculinity intersected with regimes of treatment, diagnosis and patient experiences. The modules are taught through seminars and students are given the opportunity to develop presentations skills, peer-review students' work and engage in lively intellectual debates. Students can also partake in the History of Medicine seminar series. The largest written component of the MA is the 15,000-word dissertation, which is based on original research and is due in July. Dissertation topics completed to date have examined the use of media in public health campaigns, the history of nineteenth and twentieth century psychiatry, the eradication of disease, the history of contraception, suicide and aspects of sexual health. The dissertation topic can be drawn from anywhere within the history of medicine, the only limitation being the availability of accessible sources. Teaching staff on the programme include: Dr Catherine Cox, Dr Lindsey Earner-Byrne and Dr Laura Kelly.

For further details on the programme and students' own testimonials and future career paths see [www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/chomi/teaching.html](http://www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/chomi/teaching.html).

#### Funding

Students can apply for funding from the Wellcome Trust Master's Award. Since the inception of the MA, this prestigious scholarship has been awarded to UCD students annually. Students who have taken the MA have gone on to secure PhD funding.

#### Why do this MA?

The MA provides students with a unique opportunity to engage with an international network of medical historians. Students of the MA have the opportunity to receive additional training and present their research to other History of Medicine students at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College, London.

The MA fosters a lively intellectual community and provides students with rigorous training in analytical and presentation skills. The completion of an original thesis in particular allows students to develop expertise in time- and project-management, writing with clarity and precision, and communication skills. This expertise is vital to a variety of careers such as teaching, all forms of media, politics and academia. The MA also provides a historical context for those working in health-care. Students on the MA come from diverse academic backgrounds and pursue different careers.