

UCD School of Geography Taught Masters Handbook

MA Geography
MA Critical Geographies
MA Geopolitics & the Global Economy
MSc GIS & Remote Sensing
MSc Urban Data Analytics
MSc Risk, Resilience & Sustainability



2025-2026

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Welcome to UCD School of Geography

We are delighted to welcome to your Masters degree programme in the UCD School of Geography. 2025-2026 is a record breaking year with over 70 Masters students across all of our programmes. We hope that you will have both an enjoyable and productive year pursuing your Masters programme, where you will develop your depth of knowledge and appreciation of Geography, enhance your skill set, and pursue independent research in an area that excites you.

Our programmes are designed to involve you in your education through active participation, cooperation with your colleagues, and developing independent judgement and working practices.

The School of Geography, as with the discipline itself, is diverse. We value our differences and work to understand each other especially when we come from very different academic traditions and frameworks. This is a core aspect that makes Geography such a key area from which to develop knowledge about people, places and environments that are central to the societal, sustainability and environmental challenges that our world faces.

At UCD we are delighted that you will be taught, mentored and encouraged by leading academics from a range of international backgrounds and subfields in human geography and physical geography, including geopolitics, urban geography, development geography, historical geography, critical geographies, GIS, climatology, and geomorphology, among others. This diversity in geographical research and teaching provides you with an exciting environment to develop your knowledge, skills and expertise including through collaborative research and studies.

There are six distinct Masters programmes available within the School: MA in Geography, MA Geopolitics and the Global Economy, MA Critical Geographies, MSc GIS and Remote Sensing, MSc Urban Data Analytics and MSc Risk, Resilience and Sustainability.

These programmes offer students the opportunity to specialize in a particular field of Geographical study led by experts. This offers you the opportunity to learn across the breadth of Geography and to develop respect for diverse ways of approaching geographical enquiry.

The key staff for the Master's programmes are:

- **Prof Alun Jones** alun.jones@ucd.ie Graduate Director and MA Geopolitics and the Global Economy and MA Geography- Trimester 2)
- **Prof Kath Browne** kath.browne@ucd.ie (Masters coordinator and MA Critical geographies Programme lead, Graduate Director Trimester 1)
- **Dr Jeremy Auerbach** jeremy.auerbach@ucd.ie (MSc GIS and Remote Sensing)

- **Dr Jonathan Turner** jonathan.turner@ucd.ie (MSc Risk, Resilience and Sustainability)
- **Dr Ye Tian** ye.tian@ucd.ie (MSc Urban Data Analytics)
- **Dr Geoff Boyce** geoff.boyce@ucd.ie (MA Geopolitics and the Global Economy and MA Geography- Trimester 1)

We are supported by Luca (geography@ucd.ie) and Clare Keenan (schoolmanager@ucd.ie) in our school office.

We all look forward to being part of your journey as you work on your Masters in UCD, and to seeing what you do with your expertise into the future.

The MA/MSc Programmes

The Masters programmes are one year, full-time or two-year, part-time, postgraduate courses, and involve lectures, seminars, extensive reading, and supervised research activities. All our masters programmes are in-person. Students on these programmes will take compulsory modules in research design and geographical analytical techniques, as well as a fieldwork module relevant to their area of study. Some of the programmes require students to select optional credits from a menu of available modules, including – in some cases - those offered by other schools that further promote interdisciplinary study. Finally, students are required to complete either a dissertation or research project depending on their programme of study.

Course Structure

The Masters programmes in the School of Geography are 90 credit (ECTS) courses. You will see details of which modules are core and which are options when you are completing your registration in SIS web. Module descriptors can be found on the [UCD Course Search](#), filter by School and select Geography and filter by module level 4 to find a complete list of GEOG modules.

Modules from other schools are individually searchable. The first number in parentheses (1,2 or FY – full Year) after the module code indicates the semester the module is run in, the second (a multiple of 5) indicates the number of credits attached to the module.

Final summer research assessments and their requirements and details depend on the masters programme to which you are enrolled.

Programme	Requirements
MA Critical Geographies	30 Credit Dissertation
MA Geography	30 Credit Dissertation
MA Geopolitics & the Global Economy	30 Credit Dissertation
MSc GIS and Remote Sensing	35 Credit Dissertation or 20 Credit Research Project
MSc Risk, Resilience & Sustainability	30 Credit Dissertation
MSc Urban Data Analytics	35 Credit Dissertation or 20 Credit Research Project

Your responsibilities

For most, this is a once in a lifetime experience and being fully present when you are doing your programme will make it more rewarding in all senses.

We would encourage you to use the opportunity to engage with those on your programme, in your modules and across the school, finding points of connection, developing discussions and generally immersing yourself in this exciting academic environment. Doing so you will learn and grow, developing networks and connections, as well as understanding beyond what any classroom can offer you.

Many of you will undertake field trips and these exciting modules offer you the chance to put your skills and expertise to work. They are also moments to create bonds, connections and communities that can last a lifetime.

The school's full-time Master's Programmes are one-year programmes and part-time are two-year programmes that require a very substantial time commitment. Full-time students' work must fit around your academic timetable and study – it is expected that you will engage and attend full time and undertake the work to the best of your ability, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Part-time students are expected to engage with their modules and the life of the school as those modules and the broader programme requires.

You are expected to conduct significant amounts of independent work, both for core and optional modules and for your dissertation. In a postgraduate environment, this independence is necessary to develop your time management, independent learning and your thinking. You will be expected to set and meet deadlines, complete significant written and other assessments, and make consistent progress in completing your dissertation research and writing. In addition, your responsibilities include:

- Complying with postgraduate and university regulations and any other College or School procedures.
- Postgraduate students will be invited and at times required to take part in other School activities as an integral component of their responsibilities. This includes our exciting seminar series where leading academics from Ireland and around the globe present their research and invite thoughts and comment.

Academic integrity and Artificial Intelligence

Personal and academic integrity is critical to your success as a person and a scholar. This includes writing and drawing ideas from those in your class, supervisor and readings. Plagiarism is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. All submitted work must be your own work and all quotations from other sources, whether published or unpublished, must be properly acknowledged. The library has resources on referencing.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and, when proven against a student, may result in disqualification from the examination for their degree and exclusion from all future examinations of the University. Some joint work is permitted, provided it is properly acknowledged as such. For further information regarding what constitutes plagiarism, see the UCD library's guide on [Academic Integrity](#), Details of the School's plagiarism policy are available from the School website.

Artificial Intelligence and its use is contested in the academy and across UCD. You must engage with your supervisor if you wish to use AI and follow their guidelines and [UCD rules](#).

Help and Support

Within the School of Geography

There is a range of academic supports available to you as a Masters student within the School as follows:

Nature of query	Who to contact
Administrative matters	FAQs /School office
Module related queries and content	Brightspace/Module coordinator
Programme questions related to credit, option module selection	Masters Handbook/Programme Director
Queries related to dissertation component, presentations, supervision and submission	Brightspace/Masters Coordinator

School office

Please refer to the School website by clicking [here](#) for answers to commonly asked questions. After this, your first point of contact on all administrative matters should be the School's Senior Administrator, Luca, who is based in E001, in the Newman Building and can be contacted at geography@ucd.ie, phone: +353 1 716 8179

Module queries

Module coordinators will respond to any queries regarding modules. They can be contacted via Brightspace and email. Please see Brightspace for their details and all UCD staff emails can be found through an internet search.

Programme Queries

For any query related to the programme you are attending, Programme Coordinators are:

MA Critical Geographies: Prof Kath Browne kath.browne@ucd.ie

MA Geography: Prof Alun Jones alun.jones@ucd.ie/ Asst Prof. Geoff Boyce geoff.boyce@ucd.ie (Trimester 1)

MA Geopolitics and the Global Economy: Prof Alun Jones alun.jones@ucd.ie/ Asst Prof. Geoff Boyce geoff.boyce@ucd.ie (Trimester 1)

MSc GIS and Remote Sensing: Asst Prof Jeremy Auerbach jeremy.auerbach@ucd.ie

MSc Urban Data Analytics: Asst Prof Ye Tian ye.tian@ucd.ie

MSc Risk, Resilience and Sustainability: Dr Jonathan Turner jonathan.turner@ucd.ie

School Director of Graduate Studies and Masters Coordinator

Prof Alun Jones is the School Director of Graduate Studies (from Trimester 2) and should be contacted with any general issues. Please contact Prof. Kath Browne for Trimester 1. The coordinator for Masters programmes is Prof. Kath Browne (kath.browne@ucd.ie) and she is your first point of contact if you are experiencing any research/dissertation/supervisory related issues.

General Queries

UCD Helpful links and policies

There are a number of different sources of help and advice on various aspects of postgraduate study. Your first point of contact should normally be your supervisor, who should be able to answer many of your queries or to direct you to another source of help. The School office can also be an important source of information or be able to direct you to the relevant UCD unit who can address administrative queries. However, the contacts below may be useful:

Nature of Query	Sources of Advice
Academic Regulations	Please refer to the Academic Regulations policy
Disability Supports	UCD Access and Lifelong Learning
Enrolment and Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School Office • UCD Student Desk
Dissertation Submission Form	The Graduate Minor Dissertation Submission Form can be found here .
Equipment and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Lecturer • Your Head of School
Examination schedules	Assessment Unit in UCD Registry
Financial Issues	Financial Information Services, contact through your Student Adviser and the Students' Union
Graduation	UCD Conferring Unit
Student Health	UCD Student Health Service

Personal Difficulties	<p>Your Supervisor, Masters Coordinator or Director of Graduate Studies. The following may also be of assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrar's Office • Student Advisers • University Chaplaincy • UCD Student Health Service • Students' Union • Niteline
Student code of conduct	The full student code is available here .
Tuition Fees	Fee and Grants Office
International Students	UCD Global

UCD Access and Disability Supports

UCD offers a range of access and disability support. See below links for more details:

- [Campus Accessibility](#)
- [Disability Support](#)

General Information

Extenuating Circumstances

Students are expected to meet the academic demands of their chosen programme. However, they may experience a range of serious and **unanticipated** difficulties, which adversely affect their ability to study, complete assessments or attend their required classes and other learning activities.

The [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](#) provides a framework through which these difficulties can be addressed in a fair and equitable manner.

Staff-Student Committee

Each year, postgraduate students nominate representatives to become members of the staff-student committee. The Staff-Student Committee will meet regularly and is an appropriate place to raise general concerns.

Facilities

UCD Campus offers a range of facilities, including library and workstations ([Library Website](#) for more info), Cinema, Gym and swimming pool, Pharmacy, Bike rental and more. For more details visit the UCD Campus [website](#)

Failing Taught Modules

From time-to-time students do fail (i.e., do not achieve at least a D- overall grade) in taught modules. Always refer to the [website](#) for the most up to date regulations if this happens.

Please note that resits are NOT set in the summer research period. Students who fail a trimester 2 module will be required to resit that module in the next teaching semester (i.e., Trimester 1 of the following academic year). There are fees associated with repeating, or substituting a module, and these can be found on the [UCD Fees](#) website.

Checklist to prepare for your programme

In preparation for starting your Masters programme, you should ensure that you:

- ☐ Register with the University and obtain a student card ([Ucard](#)) to get access to UCD Library, Gym and other facilities.
- ☐ Ensure that your UCD Connect account is set up, as it gives access to email, Google Drive, SISweb and other essential resources. UCD IT services can assist if needed:
 - *free* induction courses provided by [UCD IT Services](#).
 - Helpful hints and tips are available in the [Student IT Guide](#).
 - Contact the [IT Support Hub](#)/phone: +353 (0)1 716 2700.
- ☐ Become familiar with the resources in the Library through its [Guides by Subject](#).
- ☐ Apply for an ALCID card, which allows you to use the libraries of some other universities.
 - o Details are available from the [Library](#).
- ☐ Know that you have a dedicated [Students' Union \(SU\) Graduate Officer](#), who is responsible for providing assistance with issues relating to both your education and welfare.
- ☐ Become familiar with the [Graduate welcome guide](#) which contains information useful for your first steps as a UCD Graduate student.