



Scoil Dlí Sutherland UCD
UCD Sutherland School of Law

UCD LAW

UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREES
ENTRY 2026





The Sutherland School of Law is based in a modern, purpose-built building with excellent facilities including a Moot Courtroom, used for Mooting and Advocacy classes.

[Watch our virtual tour](#)



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Welcome

to the UCD Sutherland School of Law.

Law governs many aspects of our lives. It affects many of our day-to-day interactions, transactions and personal relationships, as well as the fundamental challenges which face our society such as climate change, human rights violations and rule of law backsliding.

Just as there are many sides to Law, there are many types of law student. Our students come from a diverse range of backgrounds with different life experiences, strengths and skills. Some are new to Ireland and/or new to University, whilst others have years of professional or academic experience and are changing direction. Students from all backgrounds are welcome and belong to our community.

The School of Law aims to inform, inspire and challenge our students who develop rigorous analytical, research and writing skills. They have a strong sense of academic integrity and strong ethics, preparing them for the next stage in their careers as UCD graduates. Classes are taught by academics who are leaders in their fields, who publish nationally and internationally and contribute to public debates through social media, television, radio and the national press.

The School has a vibrant and engaged alumni community and, with the UCD Careers Network, runs an extensive careers programme from first year onwards to assist our students in finding the right path for them after graduation. We take enormous pride in our students' achievements, whether they go on to successful careers in legal practice, business, public service, media or in the cultural and not-for-profit sectors. Some notable alumni have gone on to make a mark in public life, both in Ireland and overseas.

Your time at college will form some of the most important years of your life and we look forward to welcoming you to Sutherland School of Law to begin that journey.

“

The School of Law aims to inform, inspire and challenge our students.

**Professor
Imelda Maher**
UCD Dean of Law



Your Career Path

A law degree offers many career options in addition to the possibility of qualification in the traditional legal professions.



As a UCD law graduate, you will be very well placed to pursue various careers in Ireland and abroad. UCD Sutherland School of Law graduates have a strong reputation in the legal professional marketplace. Given their exposure to multidisciplinary studies, it is no surprise that many have also developed careers outside the law in fields such as banking, taxation, journalism and broadcasting.

OUR CAREERS SUPPORT

UCD has a dynamic Careers Network to advise you on your future career progression.

There are dedicated talks and workshops on topics such as 'CV Writing', 'Completing Application Forms' and 'Interview Preparation'. During the year, there are various employer recruitment presentations on campus, and leading Irish and UK law firms take part in an Annual Law Careers Fair organised by UCD. Law students can also apply to take part in a study trip to visit Commercial Law Firms in London.

All students are actively encouraged to engage with the career development programme from their first year in UCD.

ACADEMIC CAREERS ADVISOR

In addition to the excellent support offered by the UCD Careers Network, Sutherland School of Law also has an academic careers advisor on staff. The law careers advisor guides students from first to final year, offering advice on appropriate career steps: from further studies and scholarships at home or abroad, to law firm recruitment, Irish or European public institution placements and other public law and private law options.

For information on the current Head of Career Development in UCD Sutherland School of Law see our website at: www.ucd.ie/law/people.

THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS

Studying a highly-rated law degree such as the UCD BCL or BBL makes it much easier to qualify later as a barrister or solicitor in Ireland, and the UK, and to progress much further in those professions.

BUSINESS

Our graduates work in corporate banking, management and tax consultancy in companies throughout the world.

PUBLIC SERVICE

We have graduates in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, the Law Reform Commission, the Diplomatic Service, the Oireachtas and the European Union and Council of Europe institutions.

GRADUATE STUDIES

UCD Law graduates have been admitted to study for postgraduate degrees at many prestigious universities abroad, including Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, the College of Europe and the European University Institute. Graduates can also choose to deepen their knowledge of a specific area of law by studying one of the ten law masters degrees that we offer in UCD.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Our graduates are also successful journalists, employed in the technology sector, and on the staffs of international organisations.

Internship Programme

We offer an extensive internship programme which allows students gain valuable employment experience during their degree.



Developing work skills and employability are a crucial part of studying for a law degree. Our Clinical Legal Education Centre (CLEC) allows us to offer “clinical” modules such as Advocacy & Mooting which are an excellent way for students to gain practical experience of the skills required in a legal environment. We also offer an internship opportunity to students who select the BCL (Hons), Law with Economics, Law with History, Law with Irish, Law with Philosophy, Law with Politics and Law with Social Justice programmes.

This programme provides these students with the opportunity to apply for an internship with a law firm or non-governmental organisation in order to gain valuable work experience. Internships are extremely worthwhile as they help inform future career choices and enable students to put the knowledge and skills acquired in Year 1 and Year 2 into practice.

Internships are offered as an alternative to studying abroad and every effort is made to match students and employers. It should be noted however that an internship place is not guaranteed for all applicants.

What is an Internship?

In an internship, you take up a paid role in an organisation to gain work experience for a fixed period of time. Employers place considerable value in the skills and experience gained by graduates who have completed internships.

How long is an Internship?

Internships are offered in Year 3 and involve a one trimester placement of 14 weeks. This will generally run between January and April in Trimester 2.

Why Internships?

An internship is an experiential learning opportunity that provides lifelong academic, personal and professional benefits. It will allow you to apply your skills and knowledge in the real working world while enhancing your confidence and helping you gain a better insight into a particular role or industry sector.

Did you know?

Our latest survey of (BCL) Law & (BBL) Business & Law graduates, indicates that 97% were in employment or further training within a year of graduating.

(Source: UCD Careers Network)

STUDENT PROFILE

The 14-week Internship module in third year was an invaluable opportunity to see in practice what I had learned so far in my degree.

I spent my placement in one of Ireland’s leading law firms, where I gained exposure to a wide range of responsibilities including drafting briefs to experts, settlement agreements, affidavits, and client updates, as well as compiling legal submissions, evidence, and authorities for court. I attended court regularly, filed documents in the offices of the Superior Courts, supported Counsel at hearings, and assisted in preparing documentation in advance of trial. This allowed me to develop my drafting and organisational skills and build on the legal knowledge I have gained throughout my degree.

“

What I found most rewarding in the internship was the chance to apply the skills acquired during my degree in a real-world setting and gain an insight into the daily workings of legal practice.”

Robin
Jowett
Student



International Opportunities

At UCD Sutherland School of Law, we actively encourage our students to travel abroad as part of their education. In today's globalised world this is an unrivalled opportunity for students to broaden their horizons and gain life experience.

We offer our students the best range of opportunities of any Irish Law School to study abroad, including numerous partners across Europe, as well as Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Singapore, and the USA.

Every year, more than one hundred of our students participate in one of our exchange programmes and spend a year or a trimester at an overseas university. Many of our graduates go on to practise law overseas as a result of their positive experience.

UCD participates in the ERASMUS+/Socrates programme which has an extensive portfolio of partner universities around the world. This programme ensures that our students have the widest range of options possible for study abroad.

Depending on which particular programme you choose to study, you will have different options to spend a trimester or a year at one of our partner universities. The widest range of destinations is offered to BCL students.



Caoimhe O'Sullivan

One trimester | University of Auckland, New Zealand

I was lucky enough to spend my second semester of third year on exchange at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. It was an utterly incredible experience. One of the biggest highlights was travelling around the South Island during midterm break in a camper van with friends.

New Zealand shares a common law system with Ireland so, on the academic side, I really enjoyed studying modules like South Pacific Legal Studies and Legal Ethics. The latter is a mandatory module for undergraduates who want to qualify as solicitors, and it gave me valuable insight into the country's legal profession and its unique cultural context.

Studying abroad in Auckland was an incredible adventure and a major highlight of my time at UCD. I would highly recommend it to anyone thinking of taking the opportunity.



Ronan Mitchell

One trimester Erasmus | Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany

As a Business and Law student in UCD, I got the opportunity to experience Erasmus in Munich at the Ludwig Maximilian University in the second trimester of third year. I always had an urge to travel and explore new things. Any concerns I had about being the only student from my course travelling there were quickly wiped away while attending classes, making friends and experiencing all the great things Munich had to offer. I also got the opportunity to travel around during my time there, getting planes, trains and buses to nearby countries like Austria, Switzerland and Croatia. I met the most amazing people from different backgrounds and countries and it definitely allowed me to broaden my knowledge and awareness of cultures. On the academic side, I learned valuable information about cross border legal transactions and also about basic German law, which was interesting as it is a civil law jurisdiction. I will always remember and cherish my time abroad.



Our Global Partner Universities

Europe and UK

Austria	Karl-Franzens Universitaet Graz
	Leopold Franzens Universität Innsbruck
	University of Vienna
Belgium	Université Catholique de Louvain
	University Antwerp
Croatia	University of Zagreb
Cyprus	University of Cyprus
Czech Republic	Charles University Prague
France	Université Côte d'Azur (Nice)
	Université d'Aix-Marseille
	Universite de Bordeaux
	Université de Rouen
	Université Panthéon-Assas
	Université Toulouse 1 Capitole
	Université Jean-Moulin Lyon 3
Germany	Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
	Universität Mannheim
	Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München
Hungary	University of Szeged
Italy	University of Bologna
	Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi
	Università Degli Studi di Padova
	University of Urbino
The Netherlands	Maastricht University
	Utrecht University
Portugal	Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
Spain	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
	University of Navarra
	Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Sweden	Stockholm University
	Uppsala University
Switzerland	Université de Fribourg
United Kingdom	University of Sheffield

USA and Canada

Canada	University of British Columbia
	Osgoode Hall Law School York University, Toronto
	Concordia University
USA	University of California, Davis
	University of Connecticut
	Stetson University
	University of Texas
	University of Miami
	University of Minnesota

Asia and India

China	University of Political Science and Law (CUPL)
	Renmin University of China
Hong Kong	University of Hong Kong (HKU)
Singapore	National University of Singapore
	Singapore Management University (SMU)

Australia and New Zealand

Australia	Australian National University, Canberra
	University of Queensland, Brisbane
	University of Western Australia, Perth
	The University of Melbourne
New Zealand	The University of Auckland

BCL

Bachelor of Civil Law

DN600

Studying national and international legal rules develops skills and strengths that appeal to employers outside and within the legal professions.

A portrait of Professor Oonagh Breen, a woman with short grey hair wearing a pink jacket over a dark top. A large white play button is overlaid on the image.

Professor Oonagh Breen
UCD SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

Why is this course for me?

The BCL is a degree with a long history and an established reputation at home and abroad. The BCL degree allows you to immerse yourself in the study of law, to engage with a vast range of legal perspectives and to acquire a profound understanding of how law works in theory and in practice. The BCL degree offers students the widest range of international opportunities in your third year.

Many BCL graduates progress to distinguished careers nationally and internationally, including Síofra O'Leary, former President of the European Court of Human Rights.

NOTE : If you are interested in later qualifying as a lawyer in the USA, the BCL programme is the recommended choice.

Did you know?

Final year students can apply for US externships in the federal courts and the Federal Defender's Office in Los Angeles and Chicago.

What will I Study?

The first year of the course focuses on the core Irish law modules including:

- Constitutional Law;
- Contract Law; and
- Tort Law.

In second year, you will continue to build your knowledge of the foundations of Irish law, covering:

- EU Law;
- Property Law; and
- Criminal Law.

In third and fourth year, tailor your BCL from a wide range of modules including:

- Commercial Law;
- Environmental Law;
- Copyright Law; and
- International Human Rights.

You can also choose 'clinical' options focusing on law in practice, e.g. Advocacy and Mooting. You may also choose some non-law electives, including language modules such as Spanish, French or Irish. In third year, you will have the option to apply to study for either a trimester or a year at an international partner university, or to undertake an internship in Ireland.

GRADUATE PROFILE

With no preconceived expectations as to what a law degree might entail, I was fortunate to have discovered a discipline which I am so passionate about.

Learning from leading academics and practitioners specialising in the vast array of modules on offer has allowed me to develop a truly nuanced appreciation of the law. During my final year I was delighted to receive the PwC Prize for Revenue Law, a subject I greatly enjoyed and which is not offered elsewhere. Beyond the lecture hall, I was presented with further opportunities to advance my legal skills. From undertaking clinical legal placement and participating in moot court competitions to writing for student legal journals and volunteering for the Student Legal Service, there is rarely a dull moment as a BCL student! Ultimately, studying law at UCD has provided me with unparalleled confidence as I now embark on my professional career.

“

Studying law at UCD has provided me with unparalleled confidence as I now embark on my professional career.

Andreena Corrigan
Trainee Solicitor
at major Dublin
Law Firm

BCL Law with French Law DN600

Develop the skills and strengths that come from a thorough grounding in Irish and international law and combine these with a general education in French law.

Roisin O'Donovan
STUDENT
LAW WITH FRENCH LAW



Why is this course for me?

This degree allows you to undertake a degree in Irish law, whilst simultaneously acquiring a broad knowledge of French law and a very high level of competence in the French language and French legal terminology. This degree is one of two French Law Programmes offered by the Sutherland School of Law, the other being the BCL/Maîtrise, a law dual degree taken between UCD and a French partner university.

All students interested in the French Law Programmes enter the BCL (Law with French Law) in first year.

What will I Study?

FIRST AND SECOND YEAR

The first year of the course focuses on the core Irish law modules including:

- Constitutional Law;
- Contract Law; and
- Tort Law.

Did you know?

The UCD Sutherland School of Law is ranked in the top 150 Law Schools in the World (QS World Rankings).

This is combined with intensive French language training and an introduction to French public law and French private law.

In second year, you will continue to build your knowledge of the foundations of Irish law, covering:

- EU Law;
- Property Law; and
- Criminal Law.

You will also advance your French language skills and continue your study of French public law and French private law.

THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR

You will spend your third year at a partner university in Paris, Toulouse, Aix-Marseille, Lyon or Strasbourg, and will return to UCD for the last year of the programme. In final year, you are required to complete a dissertation on French law. You will particularly benefit from studying in a small class and from studying with both Irish and French students on the BCL/Maîtrise degree.

GRADUATE PROFILE

I would highly recommend studying this degree to anyone with an interest in the French language and legal system.

The modules taken, and the year abroad, offer a balance between learning about Irish law and developing a detailed understanding of the Civil Law system. Graduates, fluent in French, are uniquely placed for a career or postgraduate study on a European or International level.

The small class size creates a collegiate atmosphere, and the timetable allows plenty of time for extracurricular involvement. For example, as a member of the Literary & Historical Society, I had the opportunity to organise a debating competition for second level students, in collaboration with the Law Society.

“

The small class size creates a collegiate atmosphere...”

Daniel Kelly
2025 Graduate

BCL/Maîtrise (Dual Degree)

Entry in Second Year

Pursue a unique opportunity to take two degrees at the same time. Acquire the linguistic and legal skills and qualifications to pursue exciting national and international career opportunities. Spend two years in France.

Dr Sara Benedí Lahuerta

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
UCD SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW



Why is this course for me?

This degree is one of two French Law Programmes offered by the Sutherland School of Law, the other being the BCL (Law with French Law). All students interested in the French Law Programmes enter the BCL (Law with French Law) in first year. The students who have achieved the highest grades in Level I of the BCL (Law with French Law) will have the option to apply for interview to enter the BCL/Maîtrise.

The major difference between the two Programmes is that the BCL/Maîtrise allows you to undertake two degrees: a degree in Irish law and a degree in French law, the Maîtrise en Droit, from either the Université Panthéon-Assas or the Université Toulouse Capitole.

Your final two years (third and fourth) are spent at either of these universities. The Maîtrise en Droit (or Master 1) is considered to be a master's level course.

Did you know?

From this programme you can also go on to qualify as an avocat and practise law in France.

What will I Study?

During your first two years of the dual-degree programme at UCD, you will study the primary legal subjects that are taken in the BCL.

These include: Constitutional Law; Contract Law; Tort; Property Law; and Criminal Law. In addition, you will study both French public law and French private law.

Third and fourth years are spent in one of our two partner universities: Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II) or Université Toulouse 1 Capitole.

The BCL/Maîtrise is an intensive programme aimed at highly motivated and ambitious students.

Graduates of the programme will have acquired an exceptional range of legal and linguistic skills.

The intensive nature of this degree means that you will not have time to take electives as part of UCD Horizons.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Studying the BCL/Maîtrise in UCD has been an extremely rewarding experience.

The unique programme provides the perfect path into practising law whether in Ireland, France, or internationally. By acquiring in-depth knowledge of both the common law and the civil law legal systems, you are developing your legal skills and learning about two different cultures which offers opportunities for internships in a diverse range of law firms.

I was also involved in student life throughout my time in UCD. For example, I was senior advisor to UCD's Arab Society, a cultural society. Getting involved is crucial to develop your interpersonal skills and to make memories from the best years of your life!

“

...provides the perfect path into practising law whether in Ireland, France, or internationally.”

Celine Dakik
Trainee Solicitor
at major Dublin
Law Firm



BCL Law with Economics DN600

Study law within the context of economics and explore the relationship between two of the most critical disciplines affecting society today.

Falon McLean

STUDENT
LAW WITH ECONOMICS

Why is this course for me?

This course allows you to acquire a highly respected degree in law, whilst simultaneously developing a broad knowledge of the principles of economics. Certain areas of law (competition regulation, intellectual property) are heavily influenced by economic theory, and as a BCL (Law with Economics) graduate, you will be uniquely equipped to understand these regulatory frameworks in all of their conceptual complexity.

While on this degree you will embark on a field of cross-disciplinary study, which is intellectually very demanding, but also tremendously enriching, and of immense practical importance.

Did you know?

Many leading UK and Irish law firms host recruitment presentations on campus in UCD throughout the year.

What will I Study?

With a wide choice of law and economics modules, you can pursue your own areas of interest. You will focus on the core Irish Law modules in first and second year and then, in third and fourth year, tailor your degree from modules such as:

- Employment Law;
- Competition Law in Practice;
- Banking Law;
- International Economic Law;
- Economics of Corporate Finance;
- International Monetary Economics; and
- Game Theory.

Why Economics?

Economics explores how people – consumers, business people, public servants and politicians – make decisions, and how they choose between alternative ways of spending their money and using their skills, energy and time in a wide range of human endeavours. As well as standard subjects, economics can throw light on decision-making in many diverse areas of life, from love and marriage to sports and crime.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Studying Law with Economics allowed me to gain a fantastic legal education whilst also studying a range of fascinating economics modules.

I found that these two subjects were highly complementary as they overlapped in several areas, for instance intellectual property law and competition law. I was also able to do practical and stimulating modules such as Law in the Classroom and Choir.

As part of my degree, I studied abroad for a semester in Vienna, which was an incredible experience. Some of the highlights from my time at UCD include representing Ireland at Harvard University and in Rome for Model United Nations, debating at Oxford University, serving as secretary for the L&H society and visiting the five 'Magic Circle' firms on the London Commercial Law firms trip.

“

I found that these two subjects were highly complementary as they overlapped in several areas...”

Vivienne O'Keefe
Trainee Solicitor
(currently Legal
Secondee at
Open AI)

BCL Law with History DN600

This degree merges the disciplines of law and history and highlights where there is intersection between these subjects.

Mollie Breen
STUDENT
LAW WITH HISTORY



Why is this course for me?

There is a natural affinity between the disciplines of law and history. Each is shaped by the other. Important historical events are often interlinked with contemporary legal structures, and legal reform is often prompted by the defining events of the past. As a consequence, many lawyers are also keen historians.

This course allows you to acquire a highly respected degree in Irish law, whilst also indulging a passion for history and acquiring a deeper understanding of past events which have shaped our legal system.

Did you know?

UCD hosts a Law Careers Fair every year and students are also supported and advised by a dedicated member of the law faculty.

What will I Study?

With a wide choice of law and history modules, you can pursue your own areas of interest.

Module choices include:

- International Human Rights Law;
- Criminal Procedure;
- The Lawyer, Professional Ethics & Legal Practice;
- History from the Margins: Race, Class, and Identity in Modern Global History;
- Constitutionalism in the United States: A History; and
- Political Violence in Ireland.

Why History?

Knowing what happened and why is essential in life. Studying history allows you to explore the past and examine a wide range of periods and topics that cover many parts of the globe. You will have the opportunities to study historic controversies and different ways that the past can be understood. You will also learn how to research, use evidence and think critically.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Law with History in UCD was top of my CAO because it allowed me to pursue the study of law and maintain my love for history.

Law and history are two extremely complementary subject areas. In first year while studying constitutional law, it was a great help to understand the historical factors that were driving change at the time.

I have had the opportunity to study subjects such as Constitutional Law, European Economic Law, Nazi Germany and European Statecraft. While the quality of teaching in UCD is fantastic, my time here has been defined by my involvement in societies. As a past auditor of the Law Society, I was regularly involved in the best mock trials, debates and social events on campus.

“

...it was a great help to understand the historical factors that were driving change at the time”

Robert Grendon
2025 Graduate



BCL Law with Irish DN600

Offers a cohesive set of Irish language modules which are relevant to the study and practice of law.

Máire Ní Shúilleabháin

Associate Professor

UCD SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

Why is this course for me?

The BCL (Law with Irish) programme offers you the opportunity to acquire a highly respected BCL degree whilst additionally deepening your competence in the Irish language in the context of law.

What will I Study?

First and Second Year

In first and second years your studies in law comprise core modules such as:

- Constitutional Law;
- Contract Law;
- Tort Law;
- EU Law;
- Property Law; and
- Criminal Law.

Your Irish language modules include:

- Teanga na Gaeilge
- Forbairt na Gaeilge Acadúla
- Aistriúchán Dlíthiúil
- Iriseoireacht na Gaeilge.

Students have the opportunity to study abroad at Concordia University (Montreal) for a trimester in their third year. Concordia offers one of the leading Irish Studies programmes in the world. Students will experience life in a vibrant bilingual city, and will have the opportunity (optional) of taking a French language course. Alternatively, students can go on Erasmus exchange to one of our partner universities in Europe.

Why Irish?

This degree offers Irish language enthusiasts the opportunity to further their language learning and to develop a unique ability to interact with legal texts in either Irish or English. Law graduates with a high level of competence in Irish are very well placed to pursue traditional careers in law as well as related careers including lawyer/linguist roles at the European Union and diplomatic service with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

Did you know?

One of the objectives of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 is that by 2030, 20% of new recruits to the public sector and the Civil Service are proficient in Irish, thus increasing the employment opportunities for Irish speakers in the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Justice.

STUDENT PROFILE

Bhí sé mo chinniúint an chéim Dhlí le Gaeilge i UCD a roghnú mar bhí spéis agam sa dlí agus thug an cúrsa seo an deis dom mo chuid Gaeilge a nascadh leis agus leas a bhaint as an iliomad deiseanna fostaíochta atá ann trí chéim dhlí a nascadh le teanga. Leis an gcéim seo, is féidir aon slí bheatha a thógáil sa dlí, poist nideoige cosúil le Dlí Teangeolaí san Aontas Eorpach a bhaint amach agus freisin a bheith cáilithe don mhúinteoireacht Gaeilge.

Anuas ar na hábhair dlí agus Gaeilge, glacaim módúil roghnach sa Spáinnis ar a mbeidh céim agus líofacht bainte agam sa Spáinnis chomh maith. Mholfainn an cúrsa seo d'aon duine le dúil sa dlí in éineacht le paisean teanga chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh amach anseo.

“

Bhí spéis agam sa dlí agus thug an cúrsa seo an deis dom mo chuid Gaeilge a nascadh leis.”

Tara Grattan
Student

BCL Law with Philosophy DN600

Explore fundamental questions about society, knowledge and human existence, and how they impact and influence the law.

Dr Cliona Kelly

ASSOCIATE DEAN
UCD SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW



Why is this course for me?

Legal systems express and reflect the prevailing moral, political, social and economic philosophy of the State. Law and philosophy are therefore complementary fields of study and any understanding of law is fundamentally enhanced by a knowledge of philosophical theory. This course allows you to combine a highly respected degree in law with an enriched appreciation of its philosophical underpinnings.

What will I Study?

With a wide choice of law and philosophy modules, you can pursue your own areas of interest. Module choices include:

- Company Law
- Environmental Law and Policy;
- Lawyers, Ethics and Legal Practice;
- Philosophy of Mind and AI;
- Feminism & Gender Justice; and
- Critical Thinking.

The study of both law and philosophy will train students to read texts closely, to think independently and to foster an ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity and accuracy. These attributes are essential in many professional occupations, not least the world of legal practice. The Roman philosopher and lawyer, Cicero, has said that: "It isn't enough to possess wisdom; you should be able to use it too." The study of philosophy within this degree aims to provide students with insight and analytical skills. These are invaluable tools for building a career and will be useful to graduates throughout their lives.

Why Philosophy?

Are you interested in thinking for yourself? Do you like problem solving? Do you want to tackle some of the most challenging questions that have fascinated thinkers for centuries, such as: How can we know anything? Do we have free will? How should we live? Does God exist? The main requirement for studying philosophy is a capacity for clear thinking and methodical argument.

Did you know?

UCD offers specialist Masters degrees in many areas of law including intellectual property, human rights, environmental and commercial law.

GRADUATE PROFILE

The degree course of Law with Philosophy allowed me to gain a strong understanding of the law on many levels.

The breadth of subjects available in UCD means that knowledge of any area of law is always at your fingertips. In addition, through my philosophy studies, I gained the skills necessary to consider and challenge the ethical, political and human aspects of the law and of life.

The degree allowed me to study law modules with philosophical elements and vice-versa. Both subjects allowed me to hone my skills of critical thinking, ethical reasoning and problem solving. This Law with Philosophy degree enabled me to become proficient in research and writing.

“

I gained the skills necessary to consider and challenge the ethical, political and human aspects of the law and of life.”

Louis Bourke
Trainee Solicitor
at major Dublin
Law Firm



BCL Law with Politics DN600

Engage with law in the context of international and Irish politics, political organisation, government and public affairs.

John Melia
STUDENT
LAW WITH POLITICS

Why is this course for me?

Law and politics are inextricably linked by the legislative process. Many UCD law graduates have progressed to political careers in the Dáil, and others have become high-profile political commentators. This course allows you to obtain a highly respected law degree whilst also acquiring a deeper understanding of political theory and the political process.

What will I Study?

With a wide choice of law and politics modules, you can pursue your own areas of interest.

Modules include:

- Media Law;
- Criminal Procedure;
- EU Economic Law;
- Public International Law;
- Capitalism and Democracy;
- Foreign Policy Mistakes; and
- Middle-East Politics.

You will also take a special module, entitled 'Contemporary issues in Law and Politics'. Each year, this module examines a number of topics which are at the interface of law, politics and social policy. A key feature of the module is the central role of invited guest speakers, including lawyers and former ministers, experts on international affairs and leading journalists. A group project is part of the assessment of the module with students having the opportunity to make a presentation to their classmates.

Why Politics?

The study of politics examines national and international political institutions, systems and forces. These include governments, parliaments, parties and elections, as well as international alliances and conflicts, human rights, global poverty, war and political violence. Studying politics will also help you to develop your analytical skills, formulate an argument and express yourself clearly in writing.

Did you know?

UCD Law alumni have included a former Taoiseach and Tánaiste and holders of the offices of Chief Justice, Minister for Justice, Attorney General and Garda Commissioner.

GRADUATE PROFILE

I embarked on my academic journey at UCD with the conviction that the Law with Politics programme was tailored to my aspirations. The comprehensive curriculum spans diverse subjects, sharpening my analytical prowess and providing a holistic understanding of both law and politics. I'm poised to navigate intricate legal and political landscapes because of the legal knowledge and opportunities UCD presents to me.

I was awarded the Brian Farrell Medal for my academic accomplishments in politics. My legal internships in Singapore honed my negotiation skills and practical legal acumen, enriching my perspective. Chairing Model UN conferences globally, from the UN Headquarters in NYC to Morocco and Italy, broadened my outlook. I'm eager to continue exploring the opportunities that this programme presents.

“This degree seamlessly intertwines my interest in law with the intricate world of politics.”

Soumya Arora
2025 Graduate

BCL Law with Social Justice DN600

Are you concerned about injustice in society and interested in acquiring the skills and knowledge that will enable you to advocate change and to tackle social inequality?

Dr Liam Thornton
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
UCD SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW



Why is this course for me?

This course is intended to allow you to acquire a highly respected law degree, whilst also gaining a detailed understanding of the social justice issues that are intended to be addressed by the legal system.

While on this degree, you will be uniquely equipped to offer a critical perspective on the adequacy of our criminal justice system, our family court structure, our social systems, and inequality and social justice in Irish society.

NOTE : All UCD Law Degrees, including the BCL Law with Social Justice, qualify as King's Inns approved law degrees.

Did you know?

Law with Social Justice students have a strong track record in student politics. For example, the UCD Students' Union Presidents in 2022 and 2023 were graduates from this degree.

What will I Study?

With a wide choice of law and social justice modules, you can pursue your own areas of interest.

Modules include:

- Constitutional Law;
- Criminal Law;
- Environmental Law and Policy;
- Human Rights and Social Justice;
- Gender War and Violence; and
- Inequality and Social Justice in Irish Society.

Why Social Justice?

The subject areas of equality, diversity and disadvantage are increasingly topical in Irish society and on the wider global stage. This degree is designed for students who wish to combine law with an in-depth study of the social context in which law operates. Graduates of this degree often choose to pursue further study in Human Rights with a view to pursuing a career in this field.

STUDENT PROFILE

Law with Social Justice is an excellent course for those who are passionate about tackling injustices in society and want to learn about law.

The teaching of law at UCD is truly exceptional, providing a rich understanding of the Irish legal system and specific areas of law.

Alongside the insightful law modules in this course, social justice modules offered broaden knowledge on topics of politics, society, gender and race. The coursework also addresses issues of discrimination and inequality, allowing students to understand societal structures, changes that need to be addressed and the part individuals and groups have in moving towards a just society.

As a current student, this course is preparing me for a bright future in law, activism, and advocacy.

“

...this course is preparing me for a bright future in law, activism, and advocacy.”

Sarah Curtis
Student



Business and Law

DN610

Combines two vital components of the commercial world – business and law – to achieve tremendous flexibility in your future career.

Jack Tiernan
STUDENT
BUSINESS & LAW

Why is this course for me?

The BBL combines law and business into a single degree, providing you with an ideal skill set for the commercial world and offering tremendous career flexibility. As a BBL graduate, you will be uniquely equipped with the analytical and advocacy skills that arise from a legal training, combined with the numeracy and financial literacy of a business degree.

What will I Study?

First, second and third year

During your first three years, you will study both business and law equally, learning how these two disciplines interrelate. You will focus on core law degree subjects, including:

- Contract Law;
- Tort Law; and
- EU Law.

You will take a range of modules across business areas, including:

- Accountancy;
- Management;
- Finance and Economics; and
- Maths for Business.

Fourth year

You will have the option to take more business or law modules, depending on your preference and career plans.

Students have the choice to take one 5-credit elective module (in either trimester of Stage 4) in place of a law or business option module.

Why Business?

Students with strong numeracy and mathematical skills will find that business is a very complementary subject to study alongside law. The flexibility of module choices means that during your degree you may choose subjects that will enable you to pursue a future qualification as a solicitor or barrister, or alternatively in accountancy, finance, banking or tax. This degree is highly regarded by employers in the fields of both business and law.

Did you know?

Business & Law students can undertake a self-sourced Summer Internship Module for Stage 4 credit (*Note: this is relevant to internships in business only*).

GRADUATE PROFILE

This double major degree allows students to develop a deep understanding of both the Business and Legal landscapes. Both disciplines are taught equally by enthusiastic academics who are experts in their field of study. In final year students have the flexibility to split their modules more favourably towards either Business or Law.

My role as Business & Law Class Representative was one of the highlights of my time in UCD. I had the opportunity to organise course trips and the annual Business & Law Ball. The societies UCD has to offer were also instrumental to my university experience. I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Mock Trials organised by the Law Society and the Negotiation competition organised by the Student Legal Service.

“

Both disciplines are taught equally by enthusiastic academics who are experts in their field of study.”

Jack Tiernan
Masters student
at Smurfit
School of
Business

BSc Criminology with Psychology

DN620

This is an exciting interdisciplinary degree that combines the study of Criminology with the complementary discipline of Psychology.

CRIMINOLOGY WITH
PSYCHOLOGY (BSc)
UCD LAW



Why is this Course for me?

Criminology is the study of crime, the causes of crime and its impact on individuals and society. This unique new degree is designed to provide students with an advanced conceptual knowledge of Criminology and Psychology, an insight into the contribution of both disciplines to understanding key aspects of human behaviour and an ability to appraise the methodologies used in both areas.

What will I Study?

Since this is not a law degree, your core modules will differ from the BCL and BBL degrees. In first year you will study a selection of core modules including:

- Introduction to Criminology;
- Introduction to Psychology;
- Criminal Behaviour;
- Brain and Behaviour;
- Comparative Perspectives on Crime & Society;
- Law and Courts;
- Introduction to Criminal Justice;
- Academic & Professional Skills; and
- Introduction to Penology.

Optional modules can then be selected in Law and Psychology. In second year, in addition to core modules, there will be the opportunity to select from optional modules such as:

- Psychology and Crime;
- Sociology of Crime & Deviance; and
- Race and Racism: Critical Perspectives.

In third and fourth year, you will tailor your degree to choose options in Criminology, Law and Psychology, as well as Sociology & Social Work, Social Policy and Social Justice. In third year, students will have the opportunity to apply to study overseas. In fourth year, you will undertake a research dissertation where you will combine the methods and substantive training across criminology and psychology.

Why Criminology with Psychology?

In addition to the potential to pursue a career in areas such as the Prison and Probation Services and An Garda Síochána, the transferrable skills acquired will be relevant to many organisations that value an understanding of human behaviour and society.

STUDENT PROFILE

This degree differs from others as you have the rare opportunity to study both a criminology degree as a major, and a psychology degree as a minor. I was particularly interested in the psychology side of the course, where childhood and environment showed its impact on criminal activity. The range of modules, from brain & behaviour to criminal justice, allowed me to decide which area of the degree I want to specialise in the future. This degree has shown me the prominence and influence criminology has in every aspect of society, particularly in Ireland.

Did you
know?

UCD is home to the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the first centre of its kind in Ireland.

“

This degree has shown me the prominence and influence criminology has in every aspect of society...”

Sophie Fäsenfeld
Student



Alternative Entry Routes



UCD Sutherland School of Law is committed to ensuring a diverse student body and therefore welcomes applications from candidates with a disability, mature students, and those who, for socio-economic reasons, might find the traditional application process difficult. During their degree, law students can also avail of a programme of funding and assistance – such as the UCD Sutherland Opportunity, supported by Law School alumni.

Information on alternative routes to study law is available by contacting:

- **MATURE** (persons over 23 years who do not already hold a degree)
e: lawmature@ucd.ie | w: www.ucd.ie/maturestudents
- **HEAR** (Higher Education Access Route for School Leavers)
e: hear@ucd.ie | w: www.accesscollege.ie
- **DARE** (Disability Access Route to Education for School Leavers)
e: dare@ucd.ie | w: www.accesscollege.ie

ACCESS AND OPEN LEARNING

Access and Lifelong Learning at UCD.

e: all@ucd.ie | w: www.ucd.ie/all

QQI-FET ENTRY ROUTES TO LAW

Application is through the CAO system and in 2025 there were seventeen first year places offered to students who obtained the required awards (see UCD Admissions website QQI-FET section). Seven of the places were in the BCL and Law 'With' degrees, seven in the Business and Law (BBL) degree and three on the BSc Criminology with Psychology DN620.

Admission is available on a competitive basis. Details of accepted awards are available on the UCD Admissions website. The following programmes also have additional requirements:

Law with French Law: applicants are required to hold a Grade H3 in Leaving Certificate French, or equivalent (in addition to meeting the criteria of distinctions in five of the required modules).

Business and Law: applicants must have a distinction (80% or better) in the 5N1833 Mathematics module or alternatively a Grade O2/H6 in Leaving Certificate Mathematics.

Law with Economics: it is strongly recommended that candidates have at least a grade of H6 in Leaving Certificate Maths (or its equivalent).

GRADUATE PROFILE

After initially falling short in my Leaving Cert, I gained entry to Business & Law through the QQI pathway. In my first year, I ranked in the top ten in my class which gave me the confidence to continue striving for excellence. One of the most memorable highlights was becoming the first UCD student to receive the prestigious Future Nobel Laureate Scholar Award. As part of this unique opportunity, I worked with nine exceptional students from around the globe on projects ranging from human rights to artificial intelligence, and eventually travelled to Sweden to engage in dialogues with Nobel Laureates. None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of UCD staff and their constant encouragement and guidance throughout my time in college. I have now been offered a role as a Tax Associate at a top accountancy firm in Dublin. I'm excited to apply everything I've learned and continue growing both personally and professionally. I look forward to working towards an ACA qualification with Chartered Accountants Ireland and embracing all the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

“
One of the highlights was becoming the first UCD student to receive the prestigious Future Nobel Laureate Scholar Award”

Altamash Shaikh
Business & Law
Graduate 2024



Student Life at UCD



The UCD campus has unrivalled facilities for students, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a full gym and a 90-seater cinema.

Students have a really wide range of opportunities to explore their interests and develop new ones while at UCD. As well as the fitness, sports and entertainment facilities, there are over 100 clubs and societies. The diversity of these clubs and societies means that there is something for everyone - from Politics and LGBT+ societies, to those offering Photography, Music, Drama and Comedy. This is a great way for students to make new friends, socialise and expand their horizons.

In the School of Law, we encourage our students to engage as much as possible with campus life. We are very proud of the many students who participate in activities in UCD and those that make a contribution to the larger community, for example, recent graduates such as Grace Oladipo, who founded the UCD Gospel Choir.

We also celebrate the successful sports people who have combined their law studies with outstanding achievements. These include athletics star, Sarah Healy, four past members of Ireland's World Cup and Olympic Hockey Teams: Deirdre Duke, Anna O'Flanagan, Nikki Evans and Gillian Pinder; and, in rugby, Rory O'Loughlin and Garry Ringrose.





Law Student Societies in UCD

In UCD, there are two long-established and extremely successful societies specific to the area of Law: LawSoc, which runs both debating and social activities; and the Student Legal Service, which runs clinics offering legal information to other students across UCD.

Law students are encouraged to join these two societies in first year. They are a great way to meet and mingle with law students from your own class and across all of the other years.



The UCD Student Legal Service (SLS)

The Student Legal Service (SLS) is one of the fastest growing and most vibrant societies in UCD. The society has dual aims – to provide assistance to students in need of legal information and to offer the benefit of their experience to current law students.

Providing assistance to students is at the heart of SLS and this is done via legal clinics which are held once a week. Here volunteers help students with their legal queries, from problems with landlords to consumer issues and unhelpful employers. SLS clinics act as the first port of call for many student problems. Law students from first year to final year can sign up to volunteer at these clinics and this allows for experience with real life law issues and the chance to expand their knowledge and abilities.

The SLS is also passionate about providing law students with opportunities to prepare for a future career in the legal sector. The SLS negotiation competition held in the first trimester is one such opportunity. Students work as a team to negotiate a resolution to a dispute on behalf of a client. It has quickly become a highlight of the year and provides students with the opportunity to acquire skills such as teamwork and public speaking.

The annual student run publication also provides students with the opportunities to hone their legal writing skills. In 2025, the theme of the annual publication was 'Ireland versus the World' and it won the UCD Societies Publication of the Year. The journal was launched by Mr Justice Gerard Hogan of the Supreme Court of Ireland.

From a social perspective, the Society holds numerous talks throughout the year and has welcomed guests such as the retired President of the Court of Appeal, the Honorary Mr Justice Sean Ryan, and CEO of FLAC, Eilis Barry, as well as numerous representatives from top legal backgrounds.

The Society also organises the annual Law and B&L Day which raises large sums of money every year for charity; the week includes events such as mobile farms, breakfasts and table quizzes.

Students can sign up to join SLS at UCD Freshers week or by contacting the society through their social media pages.



UCD LawSoc

Now in its 114th year, LawSoc is one of UCD's biggest and most active societies. The Society serves a dual mandate as both faculty society for law and as a debating society. It is open to all students whether or not they study law and it caters to a wide range of student interests. The Society runs a variety of events from House Debates, to Mooting and Mock Trials as well as careers events and socials.

Debates are hosted weekly and speakers invited to answer topical questions which in the past have included diverse themes such as: Should we unite Ireland? Was the last season of Game of Thrones the worst thing ever made? From comedy to hard-hitting topics, each debate is unique and entertaining (and is frequently followed by free pizza and slushies!).

LawSoc also welcomes high-profile guests to address members. Guests in recent years have included Dermot Kennedy, The Script, Judge Judy, Patrick J Adams (Suits), Donald Tusk and Bill Clinton, bringing in well-known figures from the worlds of law, politics, sport and arts to speak in front of large crowds.

The annual Law Ball run by LawSoc is widely regarded as one of the best social events in UCD. The society also organises regular nights out and large events, from a Law Gala to first year movie nights and mixers. LawSoc also prides itself on debating success, sending students to debating competitions around Ireland and Europe.



Pictured above is Bevin Armstrong who, representing LawSoc, was crowned the 'Best Individual Speaker' at the 62nd Irish Times Debate competition.

At Freshers' Week the LawSoc team are easy to spot in their iconic red hoodies and information on the society is also available on the website www.lawsoc.ie and on social media.

Our Sutherland School of Law Community



From the day you enter the Sutherland School of Law, right through to your graduation, we encourage you to make the best of your time in college. University is a chance for you to grow as a person and learn many life skills while you complete your degree.

When you join us, you will be part of a community made up of almost 1,500 students at undergraduate and graduate level, as well as a highly engaged group of teaching and professional staff.

When you graduate, you will become an alumnus of a prestigious law school which counts amongst its alumni: the former President of the European Court of Human Rights, Judge Síofra O'Leary, the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell and the Attorney General, Rossa Fanning SC. The current Garda Commissioner and the Minister for Justice are also UCD Law graduates, as are many leading lawyers, successful business people, accomplished writers, media personalities and human rights activists.

We actively encourage our students to enrich their experience at university by engaging with our alumni and the wider Sutherland community while they are studying with us.



Pictured (clockwise from top left): 2025 President's Medallists: Robin Jowett, Deborah Obarisiagbon and Jake McEntee; Former President Mary Robinson with Law Student, and Politics Society Auditor, Aisling Maloney, Prof Orla Feely, Prof Niamh Moore-Cherry and Prof Laurent Pech; French Ambassador, H. E. Céline Place (centre) with Prof Laurent Pech, Mr Justice Peter Charleton, Maxime Millon, Dr Beverley Toudic and Dr Marie-Luce Paris; the Class of 2025, UCD Ulysses Medal recipient, Dr Síofra O'Leary; Law Staff and Student 'Bake Off', Dr Niamh Howlin's book launch with Taoiseach Micheál Martin, DPP Catherine Pierse and Minister Jim O'Callaghan, Law Alumni Awardee John O'Donnell SC and Law Student Deborah Obarisiagbon, School Children at mock trial in the Moot Courtroom.





Scholarships & Prizes



In addition to Cothram na Féinne scholarships and the Sutherland Opportunity (supported by UCD Alumni), there are a number of scholarships, awards and prizes available to law students as they progress through their studies. They include:

The UCD Ad Astra Academy: The School of Law is proud of the many law students whose exceptional talent in academia, sports and the performing arts benefit from scholarship, mentoring and tailored supports through the UCD Ad Astra Academy. A full list of current academic, elite sports and performing arts scholars, can be viewed on the UCD Ad Astra website.

The UCD President's Awards: Law students regularly feature in these prestigious awards which recognise students who have made outstanding contributions across clubs, societies, governance, and broader university life.

Professor James C. Brady Memorial Prize: An annual medal awarded to an undergraduate student who excels in two specific modules. Pictured above is the 2025 winner, Ella Byrne with Prof Oonagh Breen and Prof Laurent Pech.

Oxford University Press Prize: This award recognises the highest achieving student on the results of an undergraduate Research module.

PWC Prizes: Two awards, one recognising the highest achieving student in the Commercial Law module and the other in the Revenue Law module.

The Swift McNeil Prize: Awarded to the School of Law student who enters the Honorable Society of King's Inns with the highest GPA.

School of Law Bursaries: Awarded to the highest achieving BCL, BBL & BSc students in Stages 2,3 & 4.

Graduate Scholarships: Available to law students to pursue their studies at Master's level. They include School bursaries and the James Healy and Doreen FitzGerald Caprani Masters Scholarships in Law.

UCD Sutherland Opportunity

Supported by UCD Law Alumni

This is a programme of funding and assistance open to UCD law students, with a particular focus on incoming first years from low-income families. It aims to create a level playing field and to give all of our students the opportunities that lead to professional success. This programme offers financial assistance for students as well as other personal and academic supports. Over the past few years many UCD law students have received scholarships and bursaries which have allowed them to focus on their studies and to participate in international exchanges and internships, where otherwise this might not have been possible. Students are also given opportunities for career mentoring. Shane Black, pictured right, was one of the first students to be awarded a Cothrom na Féinne scholarship through this funding programme.

Shane Black | BCL 2023
Now a Trainee Solicitor at a major Dublin Law Firm



How to Apply

IRISH AND EU APPLICANTS

If you choose to study with us, you can choose one of the many law degree options or the BSc Criminology with Psychology outlined within this brochure.

When selecting which degree you want to study, you have three CAO codes to choose from: DN600, DN610 and DN620. **Please note that you can only apply for DN600 once.**

Students interested in studying the Dual Degree BCL/Maîtrise apply to study Law with French Law in first year. Subject to achieving sufficiently high grades in first year, you may then apply for interview to enter the BCL/Maîtrise from second year onwards.

The CAO Handbook will provide you with further guidelines on the application process.

DN600

Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL)

Law with French Law

Law with Economics

Law with History

Law with Irish

Law with Philosophy

Law with Politics

Law with Social Justice

First round CAO points (2025): 567

DN610

Business and Law (BBL)

First round CAO points (2025): 566

DN620

Criminology with Psychology

First round CAO points (2025): 509

NON-EU STUDENTS

Non-EU students should visit www.ucd.ie/Global for information on how to apply for our degrees. The codes are as follows:

LWS6 BCL Law

LWS2 BCL Law with French Law

LWW1 BCL Law with Philosophy

LWW2 BCL Law with History

LWW3 BCL Law with Politics

LWW4 BCL Law with Economics

LWW9 BCL Law with Social Justice

BSJ4 BBL Business and Law

LWWD BSc Criminology with Psychology





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