



M.Sc.in Sustainable Development

in partnership with UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Handbook 2025-26

Disclaimer: The information contained in this handbook is, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate at the time of publication, and is solely for informational purposes. University College Dublin accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever arising as a result of use or reliance on this information.

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Contacts

Academic Contact

Professor Patrick Paul Walsh

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Administrative Contact

Ms Yuko Conlon

Email: graduatespire@ucd.ie

Please reference your student number in all correspondence. We try to reply to requests as quickly as possible and should normally be able to respond within three working days.

Programme Overview

Duration: one year full time, two years part time

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious agenda to promote good governance, people, planet, and prosperity. Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted as part of the UN 2030 Agenda, setting forth an ambitious framework of action for countries around the world.

UCD has worked with the SDG Academy since its foundation. Prof Patrick Paul Walsh has served on her Academic Oversight Committee since 2012 and Director since 2022. UCD and the SDG Academy have identified a clear need and demand to offer a formal online Masters in Sustainable Development. The SDG Academy is the online education platform of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the United Nations. UCD is ranked 49th in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability in 2025.

The UCD Strategy to 2030, breaking boundaries, aims to make UCD Ireland's global university, an inclusive community and a driver of positive action for sustainability; these attributes will be evident across UCD research, scholarship and innovation. The Climate, Biodiversity and Ocean Health Crisis has also brought to UCD's attention the clear need to offer a formal online Masters in Sustainable Development for graduate students and everyone in the labour force. The course brings together the best of online resources in the SDG Academy, SDSN academic "stars" and experts, with leading SDG academics in UCD. .

This MSc programme will be the first online, affordable, global programme of its kind, drawing on the expertise, credibility and network of its host institution to offer cutting edge, global, multi- and trans-disciplinary learning, research and innovations for Sustainable Development. The course will equip students to solve some of the most pressing issues of our times and provide students with a unique experience in access to global taught leaders, opportunities for excellent placements and careers in Sustainable Development.

Confirm Attendance & Activate Your UCD Account

You will need to register online and confirm attendance before you can begin your graduate studies.

[How to log into SISWeb, Brightspace & UCD Email \(YouTube\)](#)

[How to confirm your registration to UCD and access the My Registration page \(YouTube\)](#)

Note:

- UCD IT Services will send an email to the personal address you registered with us, notifying you when your UCD email account is ready.
- Your username is your application number or UCD student number (8 digits), and your password is the same one you use to log into the application portal.
- If you wish to obtain [your Student Card \(UCARD\)](#), please email graduatespire@ucd.ie with your student number.

Module Registration

Online module registration for Graduate Taught Students in the Colleges of Social Science and Law (i.e. SPIRe Masters / GradDip students) will open from **Friday, 15th August 2025** onwards. You will be allocated an individual Start Date and Start Time, which will be sent to your UCD Connect email address.

Online module registration closes for students on 19th September. Contact the School Office for any change requests after this date. Online registration reopens in January for 2 weeks.

Full Time Students

You'll be automatically registered for the core modules. You are required to select 4-6 option modules, totaling 60 credits. Please read the instructions on the module registration page for more details.

Part Time Students

Module registration takes place at the beginning of each academic year. **You'll be selecting modules for this year only.** Ideally, you should select 30 credits in both Year 1 and Year 2.

- **Year 1 Students:** It's **strongly recommended** that you complete your **core modules** first.
- **Year 2 Students:** Please ensure you select all required **core modules**, and that your total credits from taught modules amount to **60**. You must also select POL42370 SDG Research Project.

Please refer to [the Registration Information Section](#) for further details.

Structure

	Autumn Trimester	Spring Trimester
Core Modules (20 credits)	POL42080 Global Classroom (10cr)	PLAN40390 Sustainable Cities (10cr)
Option Modules (40 credits)	<p>10-credit options:</p> <p>BSEN40480 Sustainable Energy & Environmental Impact</p> <p>BSEN40790 Carbon & Sustainability</p> <p>DEV40010 and ENVB30130 Ecology and its Application were designed to be taken together.</p> <p>ECON42690 The Market for Labor, Land & SDGs</p> <p>EDUC42940 Development & Societal Transition in complex, post-conflict situations</p> <p>LAW40120 Foundations of Environmental Law</p> <p>LAW42230 Natural Resources Law</p> <p>PLAN40550 Fundamentals of Sustainability</p> <p>5-credit options:</p> <p>BSEN40720 Carbon & Sustainability</p> <p>DEV40010 One Planet, One Ocean (SDG 14)</p> <p>ENVB30130 Ecology & its Application</p> <p>MEEN40900 Energy, Climate and Sustainability</p>	<p>10-credit options:</p> <p>ECON42680 Competition & Industrial Policy for Sustainable Development</p> <p>LAW41090 Climate Change Law and Policy</p> <p>MEDN40080 Global Health</p> <p>PLAN40550 Fundamentals of Sustainability</p> <p>*New Module: Ages of Globalisation</p> <p>5-credit options:</p> <p>ENVB40380 Managing the Interface between Science and Policy</p>
Summer Core Module (30 credits): POL42370 SDG Research Project		

Recommended Workload

Full Time Students

No	Trimesters	Months	Workload
1	Autumn	September-December 2025	30 credits incl. POL42080
2	Spring	January-May 2026	30 credits incl. PLAN40390
3	Summer	June-August 2026	Complete SDG Project (30 credits)

Part Time Students (September Start)

No	Trimesters	Months	Workload
1	Autumn	Year 1: September-December 2025	10-20 credits incl. POL42080
2	Spring	Year 1: January-May 2026	10-20 credits incl. PLAN40390
3	Summer	Year 1: June-August 2026	No workload
4	Autumn	Year 2: September-December 2026	10-20 credits
5	Spring	Year 2: January-May 2027	10-20 credits
6	Summer	Year 2: June-August 2027	Complete SDG Project (30 credits)

Part Time Students (January Start)

No	Trimesters	Months	Workload
1	Spring	January-May 2026	20 credits incl. PLAN40390
2	Summer	June-August 2026	No workload
3	Autumn	September-December 2026	20 credits incl. POL42080
4	Spring	January-May 2027	20 credits
5	Summer	June-August 2027	Complete SDG Project (30 credits)

Useful Links

- ★ [Video/PDF Registration Guides](#)
- ★ [SPIRe Current Students' FAQs and Forms](#)
- ★ [UCD Key Dates](#)

Further Questions

Please refer to [the Video/PDF Registration Guides](#) and [SPIRe Current Students' FAQs and Forms](#). If you can't find the answers you need there, please contact us.

Specific Contacts for Queries

- For **document verification**, **fees**, or issues accessing your **UCD Connect Account or email**, please contact [the Student Desk](#).
- For issues with **module registration**, please contact the SPIRe Graduate Team at graduatespire@ucd.ie. When doing so, please provide the following information:
 - Your Name and Student Number
 - Relevant module Names and Codes

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If you decide **not to continue** with a module you initially selected, **you MUST withdraw from it by emailing to graduatespire@ucd.ie before **Week 8 of the term****. Failure to do so will result in an ABS grade (Grade Point zero), which will **significantly impact your overall GPA**.

Module Assessment and Submission Procedures

The methods of assessment vary from module to module, but may contain a combination of written assignments, presentations, and/or final exams. Details can be found in the course outlines or from the module coordinator. Where exams take place, they will be at the end of each trimester, and are scheduled by the UCD Assessment and Logistics Unit.

All students will be required to submit assessed written work in the course of the trimesters. The modalities for the submission process vary between courses. If a hard copy has to be submitted (instead or in addition to an electronic copy via Brightspace or email to the lecturer), a signed "Declaration of Authorship" form must be attached to the essay (and handed in to the location specified by the lecturer).

All written work must be submitted on or before the due dates. Submission deadlines can be found on the course outlines distributed in the first session of each module.

In accordance with the University's procedures for anonymous marking, please do not put your name on the work submitted. Please do ensure, however, that your student number, the module number and title for which work is being submitted, the lecturer to whom it is being submitted, all appear on any piece of work you submit.

Generally, coursework submitted at any time **up to and including 5 working days after the due date** will have the grade awarded reduced by one grade point (for example, from B- to C+). Coursework submitted **more than five working days but up to and including ten working days after the due date** will have the grade reduced by two grade points (for example, from B- to C). Coursework submitted more than ten working days after the due date will not be graded.

The onus is on you to ensure that you receive a receipt for all work submitted and you should retain this receipt as proof of submission should it be needed at a later date. ***If you have any questions about deadlines, contact your lecturer.*** If you have questions about submission receipts, contact the lecturer or the school office.

All work submitted for assessment must comply with the policy on plagiarism (below) and the policy on re-use of assessed work (below).

Where circumstances beyond your control prevent you from submitting on time, please follow the '**Late Submission of Coursework**' procedure, as outlined below of this handbook. Please note that module coordinators can extend deadlines for **a maximum of 10 working days**; for longer extensions, please follow the guidelines for extenuating circumstances below.

Late Submission of Coursework

Where circumstances beyond your control prevent you from submitting on time, please apply for a new deadline via the Google form available in [the Assessment section of our FAQ page](#). You should consult with your module coordinator in advance of submitting the Google form.

Please note that module coordinators can extend deadlines for **a maximum of 10 working days** for cases that have legitimate reasons.

Generally, coursework submitted at any time **up to and including 5 working days after the due date** will have the grade awarded reduced by one grade point (for example, from B- to C+). Coursework submitted **more than five working days but up to and including ten working days after the due date** will have the grade reduced by two grade points (for example, from B- to C).

A late submission application results in preventing these grade reductions, as long as you submit by the new deadline. Note that if an extension of e.g. 8 days is awarded, this is 8 days from the original deadline. No coursework received more than ten working days after the due date is required to be accepted by the School.

Extenuating Circumstances

SPIRe understands that you might have circumstances outside your control which means that you will be unable to complete assessments and sit exams. The School of Politics and International Relations and UCD generally have a variety of excellent support services for students who are in need. It is important that you advise us of problems **as early as possible**; preferably in advance of the deadlines that you are concerned about.

Problems of various kinds may be taken into account in marking work, or considering whether or not a late penalty should apply for an essay. It is important that you speak to the module coordinator.

If you require a longer extension than 10 days, you should follow the guidelines for [Extenuating Circumstances](#) and submit an Online Extenuating Circumstances Application.

You will need to provide a form of proof for extenuating circumstances. In the case of illness, this must be in the form of a medical certificate (a letter from a GP or clinic specifying the dates of your illness or incapacity). Without supporting documentation, it is not possible to get extenuating circumstances approved. If you have questions about this, please contact the school office.

Please note that applications for extenuating circumstances are reviewed and decided by the Graduate Taught Board at the College of Social Sciences and Law, not by SPIRe.

[The College website](#) provides full details on their procedure and deadlines.

You must submit an online application for [Extenuating Circumstances through SISWeb](#).

You will receive the outcome directly from the College office staff.

Module Assessment Scheme

Assignments are graded on a letter scale from A to FM. These grades are further subdivided into categories like A+, A, and A-. Certain modules or components are assessed on a pass (PX) or fail (FX) basis. A pass grade is neutral and is not factored into your GPA calculation.

For complete, up to date information on grading, please consult the following links.

- [Understanding Grades](#)
- [Overall/Final Module Grades](#)
- [Module Grade Descriptors \(PDF\)](#)
- [GPA Calculations](#)

Policy on Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

Students are required to familiarise themselves with standard academic practice in the preparation and presentation of their written work. In short, all work you present as your own must be the result of your own efforts only. It is not permissible to submit an essay or project reproducing wholly or in part the essay or project of any other person. Nor may any student pass on their own writings for such a use by others.

All students, when submitting an assessment project for examination purposes, will be required to sign a formal declaration that the work they are submitting is their own original work. All the sources on which you draw must be duly acknowledged in the text or in footnotes, and the full source cited in the bibliography. Direct quotes must be contained in quotation marks and duly referenced. If you paraphrase someone else's argument, you must indicate the source you have used, including page references. For guidance on how to reference correctly, please see the School's pamphlet [Guidelines for Essay Writing](#) and [UCD's Academic Integrity Policy](#). The bibliography should cite all the works you have consulted, and none that you have not personally used.

Examples of academic misconduct include:

Plagiarism: *Presenting work / ideas taken from other sources without proper acknowledgement." Plagiarism is a failure to cite or otherwise acknowledge ideas or phrases used in any paper, exercise, assessment or project submitted in a course but gained from another source, such as a published text, another person's work, or materials on the internet.*

Self-plagiarism: *Presenting work for an assignment which has also been submitted (in part or whole) for another assignment at UCD or another institution, is not permitted. However, students are allowed to reuse their own work in a progressive academic context. For example, a literature review or research design formulated during research methods modules can be adapted and used as a foundation for a Master's thesis. If in any doubt, you should check with your thesis supervisor.*

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic standards. The College regards plagiarism as cheating, and as such, a wholly unacceptable breach of discipline, as indicated in Section 6 of the [Student Code](#) for University College Dublin, which is given in full in the UCD Student Information Handbook.

Plagiarism will be penalised heavily and may result in no marks at all being given for a project or essay, exclusion from your examination, or expulsion from the programme. The School retains the right to refer suspected cases of plagiarism to the University's Disciplinary Committee.

If in doubt about any of these guidelines, you must consult the lecturer for your module, in plenty of time before the date of submission.

Guidelines on SDG Project - Report

All students are required to complete an SDG project. The project is a core feature of the degree programme. As a result, no student can be awarded a Masters degree without achieving a passing grade for the project.

The topic is first proposed by the student, and then discussed and approved by the UCD supervisor assigned by the Director of the program. The student is then responsible for arranging for feedback from the supervisor during the preparation and writing up of the project. The student should submit one draft of the report for feedback and sign off from the supervisor during the summer term.

In the end, the student is fully responsible for the topic, structure and content of the report that s/he submits. In the event that a student submits a report that lacks sufficient academic merit to earn a passing grade, s/he will be invited to resubmit. The student is responsible for any consequent examination and continuation fees.

Project Proposal

The first required step is to submit a clear and focused proposal to the Director of the program. For all MSc students, you should fill out a google sheet that includes your name, student number, proposed working title and research question.

SDG Project Due Date

The deadline for submission this academic year is **Friday 31 August 2026**.

A signed "Declaration of Authorship" (see [Appendix](#)) should accompany this. All theses should be submitted on **Brightspace**, with a copy also emailed to your supervisor.

Failure to submit by this deadline will result in a late submission penalty and the automatic exclusion of the thesis from the grading process. Extensions may only be granted by your supervisor and the Thesis Module Coordinator. See the relevant section below for further information.

SDG Project / Report Format

Length

The length of the report shall be **6,000-8,000 words in TOTAL** length (including literature, footnotes, referencing, bibliography, tables etc.). Before submitting a report that departs from this rule by more than 500 words in either direction, students must receive formal authorisation from their supervisor.

Referencing

You must make sure that your referencing and bibliography reflect the highest academic standards. Thesis with poor referencing and bibliography will lose marks unnecessarily.

Please see the information on the UCD Library website at:

<http://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/referencingandcitation>

The School has a preference for the Harvard referencing system (author, date, page), though supervisors may advise otherwise in individual cases. Whichever system you use, it must be fully adhered to and consistently implemented with appropriate typography.

For full details on the Harvard system:

<https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/harvardstyle>

You might want to consider using referencing software such as, e.g. Endnote (available via UCD IT) to ensure that your referencing is complete and consistent. For further information see here: <https://libguides.ucd.ie/endnote>

Layout

Report should be presented in double spacing, except for indented quotations, references and footnotes, where single spacing should be used. Only one standard typeface may be used throughout the report. Italics may be used for book titles, foreign terms and other cases that are appropriate in conjunction with the standard face used in the text. Italics are not recommended as a standard typeface. Text that is entirely in upper case is not acceptable. Symbols or special characters not found on computer keyboards should be drawn with a mechanical guide or stencil.

Margins should be 40mm at the binding edge and other margins should be not less than 20mm. Page numbers are placed without punctuation at the bottom centre of the page within the margin. Preliminary pages are numbered in consecutive lower-case roman numerals. The Title page number does not appear but the page is counted (as page 'i'). Pages appearing before the Table of Contents are numbered and counted but are not listed on the Table of Contents. The first page of the Introduction or first section of your report is numbered page 1; the rest of the Text and reference materials is numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals.

Preliminaries

The report preliminaries consist of the Title Page, Dedication (optional), Acknowledgements (optional), Table of Contents, List of Tables (optional), List of Figures (optional), Lists of Symbols, Abbreviations, Nomenclature (if these appear in the report); Glossary (optional) and Summary. These preliminaries should be numbered in consecutive lower-case roman numerals. If there is more than one volume in the report, each volume shall carry its own pagination.

Title Page (required)

- a) The full title of the report (including a subtitle, if any) which should describe the report contents concisely and accurately. The Title Page should not be numbered.
- b) The full name of the author, followed (if desired) by any prior qualifications
- c) The name of the school and university: School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin and any partners on the report.
- d) The following phrase: “This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of M.Sc. in Sustainable Development in partnership with UN SDSN ”
- e) The month and year of submission

Dedication and Acknowledgements

Most theses include a brief statement of appreciation or recognition of special assistance, and some include a dedication, but both are optional. Neither is listed in the Table of Contents. If a dedication is included it should be centred on the page and no heading is necessary on the page on which it appears. The Dedication is not listed in the Table of Contents. The Heading ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, in capital letters, is centred without punctuation at the top of the page.

Table of Contents (required)

The Table of Contents page should follow the Title page unless a Dedication and/or Acknowledgements page has been included. The Page is headed TABLE OF CONTENTS (without punctuation) and all material following the Table of Contents is listed in it. The titles of parts, sections, sections and their principal subdivisions should be listed in the Table of Contents and must be worded exactly as they appear in the body of the report.

List of Tables

This is optional and if included follows the Table of Contents. The title LIST OF TABLES appears centred at the top of the page without punctuation. The List of Tables should use exactly the same numbers and captions as appear above the tables in the text or in the Appendices.

List of Figures

This is optional and follows the List of Tables. The title LIST OF FIGURES appears centred at the top of the page without punctuation. The List of Figures should use exactly the same numbers and captions as appear below the figures in the text or in the Appendices.

Lists of Symbols, Abbreviations, Nomenclature; Glossary

If needed in your report, these lists appear after the Lists of Tables and Figures in the Preliminaries. Examples of such lists can be found in textbooks.

Summary (required)

A summary of the report should be included and is typically of approximately 300 words. The title SUMMARY appears centred at the top of the page without punctuation. The summary should give a statement of the report focus, a brief exposition of the research, and a condensed summary of the findings. Mathematical formulas, diagrams etc. are not recommended for the summary. The Summary page should be numbered in lower case roman numerals.

The Text

The first section of the report may be the Introduction. Alternatively, an Introduction may precede the first section. Whichever option you choose, the first page of the introduction should be numbered as page 1 of the report. The introduction describes the nature of inquiry of the report and usually outlines the structure of the report: i.e., how the problem will be addressed and where the problem will be addressed.

The internal organisation of this material into sections and subsections is up to you and your supervisor.

The Summary and Conclusions are usually treated as the last major division of the Text. If all of the Notes have been deferred to the end of the report, their placement here constitutes the last major division of the Text.

Reference Material

The reference material consists of Bibliography or List of References and Appendices.

Bibliography or List of References

Any report that makes use of other works, either in direct quotation or by reference, must contain a bibliography listing these sources. Pertinent works that have been consulted but not specifically cited should be listed under the subheading General References. Do not list those works under the general Bibliography.

Appendices

This section, if needed, is usually added to contain supplementary illustrative material, original data, and quotations too long for inclusion in the Text or not immediately essential to an understanding of the subject. This section of the report is separated from the preceding material by a cover sheet with the heading APPENDICES, in capital letters (or APPENDIX if there is only one), centred and without punctuation. This sheet is neither counted nor numbered. The Appendices may be divided into Appendix A, Appendix B etc., depending on the kinds and amounts of material used. The letter and title for each Appendix should be shown at the top of the first page of the individual Appendix. Each Appendix with its title should be listed separately in the Table of Contents as a first order subdivision under the heading APPENDICES. Tables and figures in the Appendices must be numbered and captioned and listed in the List of Tables and Figures in the Preliminaries.

Additional Resources

Please note that UCD offers excellent supports with regard to

- Referencing & Citation <https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/referencingandcitation>
- Using referencing software <https://libguides.ucd.ie/endnote>
- Writing a literature review <https://libguides.ucd.ie/litreview>
- Thesis writing <https://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/writingdissertationstheses>
- Writing support <https://www.ucd.ie/writingcentre/>

You can find many further helpful guides through the UCD library:

<https://www.ucd.ie/library/students/>

Late Submissions and Extensions

Extensions may only be granted by the Programme Director, Professor Patrick Paul Walsh (ppwalsh@ucd.ie) based on a written request from the student.

The decision will be made based on the merits of the request and the supervisor's support. For further details, please refer to [the UCD Late Submission of Coursework Policy](#).

Applications for extenuating circumstances (i.e. anything longer than a 10 working day extension) should also be directed initially to the supervisor and the Programme Director. Following discussion with your supervisor, an online application can be made by the student through [SISWeb](#). See [the relevant section above](#).

Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

A Leave of Absence (LoA) is an extended period of time away from a programme of study, at the request of the student, and approved by the relevant Governing Board.

A Leave of Absence enables you to take an approved and specified period of time away from your programme. Please see here for additional information and instructions on [the Leave of Absence process](#).

If you wish to [Withdraw from the programme](#), please complete the online form via your SISWeb account.

The date you submit your withdrawal application will impact on the amount of fees you owe. Please see [the Fee Implications](#).

In both instances, it is important that you speak with either your programme coordinator or the postgraduate administrator before you submit a LoA or withdrawal request.

After you submit either a LoA or withdrawal request via SISWeb, **you must notify the postgraduate administrator** by emailing graduatespire@ucd.ie. They don't receive automated emails for each submission, so your request won't be processed otherwise.

Conferral

Graduation, or conferral from UCD, generally takes place at the end of November / beginning of December.

This is managed by the [Conferring Unit](#). You can find out more by looking on their website. All students eligible to confer will be emailed directly by the Conferring Unit about a month prior to your graduation.

If you cannot attend your ceremony, please refer to [the Graduating In Absentia](#) information.

Key Dates for Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Trimester (Monday, 1 September 2025 – Sunday, 18 January 2026 (inclusive))		
Student Orientation Activities	Wednesday, 3 September – Friday, 5 September	No. of days varies depending on course – check your Orientation Timetable
Teaching term	Monday, 8 September – Friday, 28 November ¹	12 weeks
Revision	Saturday, 29 November – Friday, 5 December	1 week
Exams	Saturday, 6 December – Saturday, 20 December ²	2 weeks
Spring Trimester (Monday, 19 January 2026 – Sunday, 17 May 2026 (inclusive))		
Teaching term	Monday, 19 January – Friday, 6 March ³	7 weeks
Fieldwork/Study period	Monday, 9 March – Sunday, 22 March ⁴	2 weeks
Teaching term	Monday, 23 March – Friday, 24 April ⁵	5 weeks
Revision	Saturday, 25 April – Friday, 1 May ⁶	1 week
Exams	Saturday, 2 May – Saturday, 16 May	2 weeks
Summer Trimester (Monday, 18 May 2026 – Sunday, 30 August 2026 (inclusive))		
Teaching term	Monday, 18 May – Friday, 7 August ⁷	12 weeks
Revision	Saturday, 8 August – Friday, 14 August	1 week
Exams	Saturday, 15 August – Saturday, 22 August	1 week
Grade Approvals Process ⁸	Grade Approvals Website	
¹ October Bank Holiday: Monday, 27 October 2025 ² Campus closure commences : (see https://www.ucd.ie/hr/a-z/christmasclosuredates/) ³ St Brigid's Day: Monday, 2 February 2026 ⁴ St. Patrick's Day: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 ⁵ Good Friday, 3 April 2026; Easter Sunday, 5 April 2026; Easter Monday, 6 April 2026 ⁶ May Bank Holiday: Monday, 4 May 2026 ⁷ June Bank Holiday: Monday, 1 June 2026; August Bank Holiday: Monday, 3 August 2026 ⁸ Incorporates Grading, Grade Entry, Processing, School Module Review Boards, Release of Final Grades		

Academic Calendar 2025-26 with UCD Week Numbering

2025/26 Academic Calendar with UCD Weeks

September 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
2	15	16	17	18	19	20
3	22	23	24	25	26	27
4	29	30				
October 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6	13	14	15	16	17	18
7	20	21	22	23	24	25
8	27	28	29	30	31	
November 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
9	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	10	11	12	13	14	15
11	17	18	19	20	21	22
12	24	25	26	27	28	29
December 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
13	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	22	23	24	25	26	27
17	29	30	31			
January 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
18	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	12	13	14	15	16	17
20 ¹	19	20	21	22	23	24
21 ²	26	27	28	29	30	31
February 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
22 ³	2	3	4	5	6	7
23 ⁴	9	10	11	12	13	14
24 ⁵	16	17	18	19	20	21
25 ⁶	23	24	25	26	27	28
March 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26 ⁷	2	3	4	5	6	7
27	9	10	11	12	13	14
28	16	17	18	19	20	21
29 ⁸	23	24	25	26	27	28
30 ⁹	30	31				
April 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
31 ¹⁰	6	7	8	9	10	11
32 ¹¹	13	14	15	16	17	18
33 ¹²	20	21	22	23	24	25
34	27	28	29	30		
May 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
35	4	5	6	7	8	9
36	11	12	13	14	15	16
37	18	19	20	21	22	23
38	25	26	27	28	29	30
June 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
39	1	2	3	4	5	6
40	8	9	10	11	12	13
41	15	16	17	18	19	20
42	22	23	24	25	26	27
43	29	30				
July 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
44	6	7	8	9	10	11
45	13	14	15	16	17	18
46	20	21	22	23	24	25
47	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2026						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
48	3	4	5	6	7	8
49	10	11	12	13	14	15
50	17	18	19	20	21	22
51	24	25	26	27	28	29
52	31					

Autumn Teaching Term	Spring Teaching Term	Mid-term Break and Revision Week (No lecture)	Official Exam Period (mainly relevant to undergrad students)
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Dates that the UCD campus is closed

- October Bank Holiday: Monday, 27 October 2025
- Christmas Dates: <https://www.ucd.ie/hr/a-z/christmasclosureddates/>
- St Brigid's Day: Monday, 2 February 2026
- St. Patrick's Day: Tuesday, 17 March 2026
- Easter Break: Friday Friday 3 - Monday 6 April 2026
- May Bank Holiday: Monday, 4 May 2026
- June Bank Holiday: Monday, 1 June 2026
- August Bank Holiday: Monday, 3 August 2026

Assessment Key Dates & Grade Approvals Process

	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Graduate Taught
Exam Question Paper Portal Opens	Wed, 1 October 2025	Tues, 17 February 2026	TBC	TBC
Draft Timetable Circulated	Fri, 10 October 2025	Tues, 24 February 2026	NA	NA
Responses Due Back	Fri, 17 October 2025	Tues, 3 March 2026	NA	NA
Final Draft Circulated	Fri, 24 October 2025	Thurs, 12 March 2026	TBC	TBC
Responses Due Back	Tues, 28 October 2025	Mon, 16 March 2026	TBC	TBC
Exam Timetable Published	Fri, 31 October 2025	Fri, 20 March 2026	TBC	TBC
Exam Paper Upload Deadline	Wed, 19 November 2025	Wed, 15 April 2026	TBC	TBC
Exam Dates	Sat 6 - Sat 20 December 2025	Sat 2 - Sat 16 May 2026*	No fixed examination period.	Sat 15 - Sat 22 August 2026
Grade Entry Deadline and Grade Sign Off in Infohub	Up until 12 pm on Wed 14 January 2026	Up until 12 pm on Tues 2 June 2026**	Up until 5 pm on Wed 12 August 2026***	Up until 12 pm on Fri 11 September 2026
SMEC Meetings	From 1 pm Wed 14 - Wed 21 January 2026	From 1 pm Tues 2 June - Tues 9 June 2026**	From Thurs 13 - Fri 14 August 2026	From 1 pm Fri 11 - Wed 16 September 2026
ECAC Meetings	Ongoing up to Wed 21 January 2026	5 pm on Tues 9 June 2026	Ongoing up to Fri 14 August 2026***	Ongoing up to Wed 16 September 2026
Faculty Grade Entry - System Closing Date and Commit to Academic History	5 pm on Wed 21 January 2026	5 pm on Tues 9 June 2026	5 pm on Fri 14 August 2026	5 pm on Wed 16 September 2026
Assessment Bulk Processing (incl. compliance)	Thurs 22 - Mon 26 January 2026	Wed 10 - Tues 16 June 2026	Mon 17 - Tues 18 August 2026	Thurs 17 - Mon 21 September 2026
PEB Meetings	Tues 27 - Wed 28 January 2026	Wed 17 - Thurs 18 June 2026	Wed 19 - Thurs 20 August 2026	Tues 22 - Wed 23 September 2026
Final Grade Results Release	Thurs 29 January 2026	Fri 19 June 2026	Fri 21 August 2026	Thurs 24 September 2026****

Links

- ★ [UCD Key Dates](#)
- ★ [Assessment Key Dates](#)
- ★ [Key Dates Section of our website](#)

Appendix

Sample Declaration of Authorship Form



UCD School of Politics and International Relations

Assessment Project: Declaration of Authorship

(Thesis Cover Sheet)

A completed copy of this form must accompany every project submitted for assessment.

Module Code: POL42370 SDG Research Project

Supervisor:

Title of Project:

I have read and understood the Guidelines for the Preparation of Assessment Projects issued by the UCD School of Politics and International Relations, and I hereby confirm that the work submitted for assessment in this project is my own original work in accordance with those guidelines. I also confirm that I have not previously submitted the same work in full or in part at UCD or any other university.

Signature:

Name in Block Capitals:

Student Number:

Date:

Guidelines for the Preparation of Assessment Projects

Students writing essays and projects are required to familiarise themselves with standard academic practice in the preparation and presentation of their work. Please take careful note of the following points:

- All the sources on which you draw must be duly acknowledged in the text or in footnotes, and the full source cited in the bibliography. Direct quotes must be contained in quotation marks and duly referenced. If you paraphrase someone else's argument, you must indicate the source you have used, including page references. For guidance on how to reference correctly, please see the School's pamphlet **Guidelines for Essay Writing**.
- The bibliography should cite all the works you have consulted, and none that you have not personally used.
- All work you present as your own must be the result of your own efforts only.
- It is not permissible to submit an essay or project reproducing wholly or in part the essay or project of another student. Nor may any student pass on their own writings for such a use by others.
- Please note that all students, when submitting an assessment project for examination purposes, will be required to sign a formal declaration that the work they are submitting is their own unaided and original work.

Students must note that failure to take account of these standards in their writing constitutes **plagiarism**. Failure to cite sources properly, and recourse to copying sections of text without proper referencing, counts as plagiarism just as much as use of another person's essay or project work. This is a serious breach of academic standards. Furthermore, the College regards plagiarism as **cheating**, and as such, a wholly unacceptable breach of discipline, as indicated in Section 6 of the Student Code for University College Dublin, which is given in full in the Student Information Handbook. Plagiarism is defined as:

"Plagiarism, that is the copying of another person's writings or works or ideas in any thesis, essay, project, laboratory report, oral, poster or slide presentation or other exercise, which forms part of the assessment requirement for a module or programme of study without due acknowledgement either wholly or in part of the original source of the material through appropriate citation. For further details on Plagiarism, please see UCD's Plagiarism Policy."

Plagiarism will be penalised heavily and may result in no marks at all being given for a project or essay, exclusion from your examination, or exclusion from your course.

Please note also that the School retains the right to refer suspected cases of plagiarism to the University's **Disciplinary Committee**. If in doubt about any of these guidelines, please consult [UCD's Academic Integrity Policy](#).