

The discipline of Statistics and Actuarial science is one of the most recently created in University College Dublin. It was established in 1986 and has grown from the original founding member, Professor Philip Boland, to comprise 12 full time academic staff. Research excellence centres on Bayesian statistics, spatial statistics, epidemiology, computational methods, and actuarial science. These methods are applied in disciplines across the university, including proteomics and metabolomics, computer science, economics, geology, climatology, ecology, archaeology, and social network analysis, and computational statistics. The discipline offers taught courses in statistics and actuarial science from entry to postgraduate level.

Prior to 1986

Statistics was taught in UCD as part of mathematical science programmes prior to the establishment of the department. Over the years, UCD produced some outstanding statisticians but perhaps none more influential than Roy Geary. Roy Geary graduated from UCD in 1917 and became the first Director of the Central Statistics Office and later Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute. He published over 100 papers, was awarded several honorary doctorates, and played a prominent role in the statistics community both in Ireland and overseas.

1986
Department of Statistics initiated with the establishment of a Chair in Statistics, filled by Dr Philip J. Boland. Department staff members increase with the addition of Dr Adrian Dunne (formerly of the Pharmacology Department), Dr David Williams (formerly of the Mathematics Department), and Ms Marie Doyle (administrator).

1987
Introduction of Statistics as a subject in the Arts degree programme at UCD.

1988
Statistics offered as a full subject in the Science programme at UCD.

1989
Dr John Connolly joins the Department (from Teagasc) broadening the applied research interests to now include ecology and environmental statistics.



1990
Dr Gabrielle Kelly joins the Department (from University College London and Middlesex School of Medicine) to deepen research presence in, inter alia, epidemiology (with Dr Williams). UCD confers its first graduates majoring in statistics.

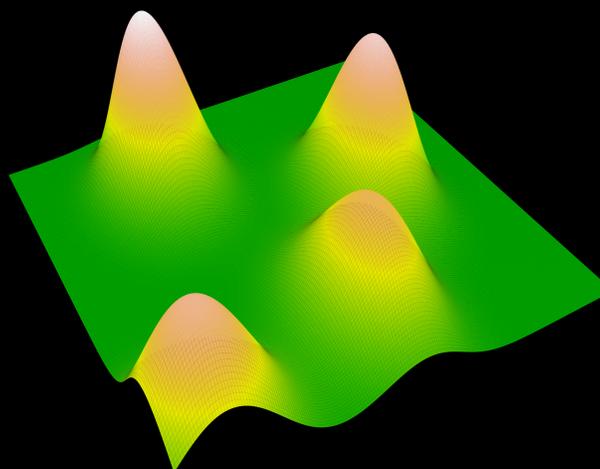
1991
The Department offers a Master's degree in Statistics. The Department establishes the degree programme Bachelor of Actuarial and Financial Studies (BAFS). Over the subsequent years this course proves popular, raising entry requirements to be amongst the most demanding of any degree offered in Ireland.

1996

Gareth Colgan, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, joins the Department from the life assurance industry establishing a research presence in actuarial science.

1999

Patrick Murphy joins the growing Department from the Central Statistics Office, creating a research group in econometrics and official statistics.



2001

Oxford University Press publish a graduate textbook in mathematical statistics by Professor Yudi Pawitan, based on courses he delivered while in UCD from 1991 to 1999. Shane Whelan, Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries, joins the team to expand the research group in actuarial science.

2002

UCD ranks in the top 10 universities in the UK and Ireland by new entrants to the actuarial profession (a ranking that includes Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics). Graduates from the BAFS programme amount to 40% of the qualifying fellows entering the actuarial profession in Ireland.

2004

Department of Statistics changes its name to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science to better reflect its research and teaching emphasis.

2005

The Department becomes a discipline in the newly formed UCD School of Mathematical Sciences. Dr Claire Gormley joins from Trinity College Dublin, with specialism in multivariate analysis.

2006

Professors Brendan Murphy and Nial Friel join the Discipline from Trinity College Dublin and University of Glasgow respectively. This broadens the research interests of the Discipline in the areas of Bayesian statistics, machine learning,

social network analysis, and computational statistics.

2007

Mary Hall, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, joins the Discipline to expand teaching and research capabilities in actuarial science. Nuria Garcia Ordiales joins the Discipline as an administrator. The discipline introduces Higher Diplomas in both statistics and actuarial science.

2008

Dr Andrew Parnell joins the Discipline from Trinity College Dublin, creating a new research group in statistical climatology.

2009

Dr Fiona Boland joins the discipline, expanding existing research in statistical veterinary science. The MSc in statistics is accredited by the Royal Statistical Society



2011

The discipline introduces a new MA in statistics allowing students to combine the Higher Diploma in statistics with the MSc.

2012

A new MSc in actuarial science is created. As part of the new UCD online programme, the Discipline introduces a Professional Diploma in data analytics to be run entirely online. Dr Norma Coffey joins the discipline on a joint position with Systems Biology Ireland. Dr Pierre Alquier joins the department from University of Paris 7, with a focus on non-parametric statistics and model selection. Dr Adrian O'Hagan joins the discipline having recently completed his PhD there, with responsibility for the MSc in actuarial science. His research interests include model-based clustering and classification.