SOCIAL SCIENCE

Social Work path
Environment Policy path
Development Studies path
Human & Organisational path
Rights, Justice & Society path
Crime & Social Order path
Social Media path
Ancient & Modern Societies path

Sociology, Social Policy
Politics and International Relations, Geography,
Economics, Archaeology, Philosophy
Information and Social Computing,
Social Justice, Psychology
Studying UCD Social Science

Foundation year subjects

SOCIAL SCIENCE SUBJECTS

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Choose your Joint Major path

- **Social Work**
  - Social Policy with another Social Science subject

- **Development Studies**
  - Politics and Social Policy or Sociology

- **Rights, Justice & Society**
  - Social Policy and Sociology or another Social Science subject

- **Social Media**
  - Information & Social Computing and Social Policy or Sociology

Bachelor Degree in Social Science [Honours]

Career & graduate study opportunities

MASTER’S DEGREES

- Social Work, Youth & Community Work Studies
- Planning, Housing Policy, Environmental Policy, Development Studies
- Development Studies, Development Practice, Human Rights, Public Policy
- Business Studies, Marketing, HR, Industrial Relations
- Public Policy, Equality Studies, Women, Gender & Society, Sociology
- Social Policy, Sociology, Equality Studies
- Information & Library Studies, Sociology, Social Policy
- Archaeology, World Heritage Management, Experimental Archaeology, Sociology

SHAPE YOUR CAREER

- Professional Social Work**
- Counselling
- Community Work
- Probation
- Urban Planning
- Housing Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Development Work Abroad
- Irish & International NGOs
- Agencies of the EU and UN
- Irish Aid Programme
- Human Resource Management
- Business
- Marketing
- Industrial Relations
- National & International Public Service NGOs
- Community Work
- Crime Prevention
- Youth Work
- Community Work
- Professional Librarianship
- Information Manager
- Researcher
- Professional Archaeological Practice
- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Tourism

Continue to develop your professional career with UCD...

*Psychology is not available as a Joint Major subject in Years 2 and 3 of Social Science.

**The two-year Master of Social Science (Social Work) is a requirement in order to qualify as a social worker.
The UCD Bachelor of Social Science degree offers you the opportunity to explore and understand the society in which you live. In this degree programme you will examine the complexities of social life and see how individuals and groups live and work together. You will also explore how best to respond to individual needs and to the particular requirements of marginalised members of society.

Social Science at UCD:
- Small-group teaching exclusively for Social Science students
- Supports students with individual academic advice to help them choose the Social Science study Path most suited to their needs and skills
- Allows students to progress to careers that are in demand in growth areas both nationally and internationally
- Offers the opportunity of an extra year's university study abroad (BScSc International in one of our many partner universities in Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.A.)
- Provides excellent paths towards a variety of graduate degree programmes
- Under UCD Horizons students may choose a number of elective modules from disciplines across the university
- UCD is Ireland’s largest university, with unrivalled opportunities for study, sports and social activities, as well as superb support services and scholarship opportunities.
SOCIAL WORK PATH

Joint Major in Social Policy with another Social Science subject

This Path offers the opportunity to study Social Policy and another Social Science subject and to take a specialist series of modules that provide an introduction to social work theory and practice in areas such as child welfare and child protection, physical disability, intellectual disability, mental health, physical illness, probation, vulnerable older people and those who are dying or are bereaved.

About the Social Work Path

The Social Work Path prepares students for graduate professional training in social work and provides them with the opportunity to test out their interest in becoming a professionally qualified social worker. Social work is practiced in a variety of settings including child welfare and child protection, probation, hospital-based social work and social work in addiction, mental health, disability and vulnerable older people. Students on the Social Work Path are given an introduction to social work theory and practice and the opportunity to learn about how social work is practiced in the many different settings in which social workers are employed. Students also get the opportunity to participate in skills workshops where they will learn some introductory interviewing and counselling skills.

Careers Opportunities

There are a wide range of organisations, public service, local authority and non-government agencies employing social workers in Ireland. The fact that the professional training is generic, not confined to a particular client group, allows social workers to move from one area of practice to another over their career. The fact that the professional qualification is at Masters level means that it is accepted for practice in a wide range of countries including the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Graduate Study Opportunities

This Path offers a gateway to the UCD Master of Social Science (Social Work) and to Master of Social Work programmes in other Irish universities offering post-graduate professional training in social work.

GAVIN MULHALL
BSocSc, MSOCSC (Social Work)
Community based Social Worker

As a 17 year old completing the Leaving Cert the only thing I was sure of was that I wanted to work with people in a meaningful way, so I chose to apply for the Social Science degree programme in UCD. During the degree, I studied Sociology and Social Policy (as well as a number of modules in Politics and Economics) which focused my interests towards the Social Work Path as a career path.

Following on from the degree programme, I was well prepared to work with Focus Ireland for a year supporting those who had been homeless to live a more dignified, independent life in new housing. This allowed me to gain valuable, direct experience which encouraged me to return to UCD to complete the Master of Social Science (Social Work).

It was easy for me to imagine going back to UCD for further studies as I found both the Degree and Masters courses hugely rewarding, relevant and interesting. I now work as a Community Social Worker, developing the capacities of communities to improve their own health outcomes.
About the Environment Path

We are living in an increasingly complex world where the relationship between humans and the natural environment is undergoing significant transformation and adaptation. As global and local environmental issues become of increasing importance socially, politically and economically, the focus is turning towards social science to produce new knowledge, understanding and innovative responses. The Environment path is a unique bridge between the physical and social sciences and produces graduates with both scientific understanding of the natural world and an awareness of the social contexts within which solutions will be developed.

Careers Opportunities

This Path equips students with the necessary skills and understanding to pursue a diversity of careers or further professional training in related disciplines. Social science students taking the Environment Path will be prepared for careers that demand holistic approaches and an ability to understand complexity such as: international and local development work, consultancy, Geographic Information Systems, and research in the public, private or NGO sectors.

Graduate Study Opportunities

This Path directly maps to a number of Masters programmes at UCD including Urban Environment; Geographies of the Global South; and Geopolitics and the Knowledge Economy.

FURTHER STUDY

- Master of Urban Environment
- Master of Geographies of the Global South
- Master of Geopolitics and the Knowledge Economy
- Master of Geography
- Master of Public Policy
- Master of Regional and Urban Planning

CAREERS

- Geographical Information Systems
- Consultancy
- Community Work
- Development work overseas
- Planning

HAYLEY CORISTINE
Geography/Social Policy Joint Major, MSc Environmental Protection and Management

My time studying Geography and Social Policy at UCD exposed me to different ways of thinking and most importantly, helped me understand how some of the biggest challenges we face today - like poverty, inequality and climate change, for example - are intrinsically linked. Like so many other people, I wasn’t entirely sure what I wanted to do when I began my degree, but I definitely had a clear idea of my interests by the time I finished.

Following on from my degree, I continued to explore my interest in environmental policy by completing an MSc in Environmental Management at the University of Edinburgh. After graduating I worked in environmental consultancy for two years, and have recently made the transition to environmental science communication. My current role as Digital Communications and Press Officer at the Soil Association has drawn on all of the knowledge I acquired in my undergraduate and postgraduate studies and has helped me communicate complex issues to a wider audience.

My time at UCD was an incredibly rewarding experience, and I would highly recommend the Environment Path to anyone who wants to understand how power and policy shapes our landscape.
About the Development Path

The Development Studies Path will allow you to focus on the processes of social, political and economic change taking place primarily – but not exclusively – in the countries of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. The courses you take will focus on how people’s quality of life might be improved in a world characterised by enormous opulence but also by widespread destitution and by threats to both the global economy and to the earth’s climate. Modules will focus on issues including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); globalisation; national and regional economic development strategies; ethnic identity and conflict; human rights; the development dimensions of military and security policies; international justice; the politics of genocide; and development trajectories in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America today.

Careers Opportunities

At the end of this Path, students will be: familiar with the current state of debates on development and how best to promote it; knowledgeable about the diversity of the challenges and opportunities facing developing countries; and in a position to undertake further study in development or to work in the development sector. The Path helps students prepare for careers in official and non-governmental agencies, with international agencies such as those of the European Union and the United Nations, or in sectors such as journalism, education and local community development.

Understanding people and how they interact has always been of interest to me. I wasn’t entirely sure about the kind of job I wanted to work in for the rest of my life, but studying Sociology, Politics and Social Justice at UCD opened up a whole new world.

I went on to study for a Masters degree in Human Rights at UCD, again with a focus on Development. I tutored undergraduate students in Development and Globalization during my Masters studies, and many of them were surprised at how Development affects their daily lives. I’m hoping to work with NGOs such as Amnesty International or Frontline Defenders in the future. My studies in UCD have prepared me well for what’s to come, and I am looking forward to taking the next step.

Graduate Study Opportunities

This Path relates to a number of postgraduate degrees on offer in UCD, including the Master of Development Studies, Development Practice, Human Rights and Public Policy.
About the Human and Organisational Path

The focus in this Path is to provide students with the academic understanding of the key issues involved in management and industrial relations in the context of the sociological and policy issues that can impact on the workplace. Along with the modules in Business Administration, Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management, students on this Path will also have the opportunity to examine areas such as Organisational Psychology and the economic, social and personal impact on individuals of where they work. This will include consideration of the stresses that can arise from the workplace and the nature of a person’s job.

Careers Opportunities

Social Science students taking this Path can progress to careers in the business sector in the areas of industrial relations, human resource management and business organisation.

Graduate Study Opportunities

Students taking this Path can undertake study in the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business or gain professional training in human resource management or industrial relations.

FURTHER STUDY

- Master of Business Studies
- Master of Human Resource Management
- Master of Industrial Relations
- Master of Marketing

CAREERS

- Financial sector
- Public services sector
- Private businesses

KATE GEOFFROY
Graduate, BSocSc

Studying Social Science at UCD was a good path for me to take as when I finished school I wasn’t sure what field I wanted to get into. With the Social Science degree you don’t have to make your mind up about a career immediately and there are plenty of different subject options that help you think about what kind of career that you might like. I studied Social Policy and Sociology and in 3rd year I was able to take a business option which included modules in Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

These modules were well taught and I was able to build on my knowledge of Business from Leaving Cert level. I also enjoyed other modules like Social Policy Theory and Comparative Social Policy that helped me understand more about how services and policies are designed in Ireland and how this compares to other European countries.

I have worked in banking since finishing my degree and am really enjoying it. I feel that the different subject choices in the Social Science degree were helpful in guiding me towards pursuing a career in business and hope to return to do a Masters degree in business in the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business in the future.
About the Rights, Justice and Society Path

The world is facing many challenges, not least of which is its own sustainability, due to social inequalities and injustices. Injustice at local, national and global levels can incite people to violence and war at the political level and can lead to disillusionment and despair at the personal level. You can contribute to ensure a more just world, where women are equal to men, where the colour of your skin does not define your moral worth, and where economic equality is a real political objective. The School of Social Justice and the School of Applied Social Science will give you access to a dynamic staff who not only write and teach about issues of social justice, but are also actively campaigning to create a more socially just world. Their research and teaching spans many fields, including social class inequalities, gender and feminist issues, global injustices and specific inequalities arising from disability, ethnicity, sexuality, age, care and/or other minority statuses.

Careers Opportunities

The Rights, Justice and Society Path will give you the knowledge and skills in the area of social justice. It is the one for you if you want to make a difference in the world, and to learn how to work for social justice. Career opportunities in this field are in national and international public service, non-governmental agencies and community work.

Graduate Study Opportunities

This Path relates to a number of postgraduate degrees in UCD including the Master of Equality Studies, of Women, Gender and Society, of Public Policy and of Sociology.

NIAMH BURNS

BSocSc, M Equality Studies

After a year of volunteer work in Chile and still unclear on what I wanted to do, the flexibility of the Social Science degree made it the perfect choice for me. I chose Politics and Social Policy as my majors while also doing modules from the School of Social Justice. I was interested in a variety of global issues and Politics allowed me to develop these interests through a wide range of modules.

The modules from the School of Social Justice allowed me to focus specifically on issues surrounding inequality and global justice which I found extremely interesting and led me to later complete the Master of Equality Studies. Social Science, in particular Politics, was a great foundation for this Masters and I found I already had a basic understanding of many of the issues discussed which made a big difference.

I am now pursuing a career in International Development, and am currently gaining experience in the Irish office of Plan International, a children’s charity that works in 50 of the world’s poorest countries. I would recommend the Bachelor of Social Science degree with the Rights, Justice and Society Path to anyone interested in learning more about global issues in a flexible and supportive environment.
CRIME AND SOCIAL ORDER PATH

Joint Major in Sociology and another Social Science subject

This Path offers the opportunity to study Sociology and another Social Science subject and to take a series of specialist modules on the levels and types of crime in society, how crime rates change over time, the effects of crime in society, how society defines and responds to crime and the effectiveness of these responses.

About the Crime and Social Order Path
The Crime and Social Order Path explores the nature of crime in modern society as well as wider debates about justice and social control. It takes a national and international perspective, considering how different societies define and respond to criminal activities and the effectiveness of different models of crime treatment and prevention. It offers different perspectives on crime from the viewpoint of the perpetrators, their victims and the professional groups involved in this area such as the judiciary, the Gardai and the Probation Service. Crime is examined in the physical, economic and social context in which it occurs. The range of modules on offer from Sociology, Social Policy, Politics & International Relations, Philosophy, Law, Psychology and Social Justice highlights the contribution of a variety of disciplines to understand the range and complexity, its definition, treatment and prevention.

Careers Opportunities
The Crime and Social Order Path helps students prepare for careers in the justice system, including the civil service, local authorities, youth and community work as well as the area of addiction and related fields.

Graduate Study Opportunities
This Path relates to a number of postgraduate degrees in UCD including the Master of Criminology, Sociology, Social Policy and Public Policy.

ETAIN QUIGLEY
BSocSc, MSocSc, Diploma in Legal Studies, PhD Student.

I decided to study Social Science in UCD due to my interest in social organisation. The course offered me a broad range of modules to choose from which in turn encouraged me to explore and develop my interests further. I studied Social Policy and Sociology as an undergraduate student and specialised in Sociology as a Masters student.

The Masters Degree course offered high quality tuition and allowed me to further develop my skills in both theory and applied research. It provided me with an excellent foundation to confidently take my studies to the next level.

The Masters Degree further developed my interest in social organisation. I became especially interested in the area of law and social control and this prompted me to take my studies into the legal realm. I graduated from The Honourable Society of Kings Inns, Diploma in Legal Studies and am at present conducting PhD research at the Institute of Criminology in the School of Law, UCD.

The Social Science Degree offers multiple pathways and allows the student to develop and grow while studying. I would highly recommend this course.
SOCIAL MEDIA PATH

Joint Major in Information and Social Computing with Social Policy or Sociology

This Path offers the opportunity to study Information and Social Computing with Social Policy or Sociology and with specialist modules in areas such as technology, culture and communication, web publishing and creating and publishing digital media content.

FURTHER STUDY
- Master of Library and Information Studies
- Master of Social Policy
- Master of Sociology
- Master of Information Systems
- Master of Digital Curation

CAREERS
- e-Business management
- Web design
- Content management

About the Social Media Path
The Social Media Path offers students the opportunity to explore the interaction between people and recorded knowledge in terms of its generation, organisation, storage as well as the use of knowledge and information by different individuals and groups.

Careers Opportunities
You will become an information professional prepared for a career in: Social media, web design, content management, digital marketing, and e-Business management. It is also useful for students planning careers in information management, journalism, broadcast media and the public service.

Graduate Study Opportunities
Postgraduate courses associated with this Path are the Master of Library and Information Studies, Information Systems, Digital Curation, Social Policy, Sociology or Public Policy.

MICHELLE BRIEN
BSocSc (International) MSc
Educational Publishing

I have always been interested in the ways people interact with each other. Information Studies gives you a chance to really explore the influence of information in all aspects of everyday life - in society, in business, and in government - and is a perfect complement to Sociology or Social Policy.

My Social Science degree opened a new range of interesting subjects to me, such as knowledge management and information design, which has become so relevant for my current role. I later completed the M.Sc. in Marketing Practice in the Michael Smurfit School of Business, where my background in Sociology and Information Studies gave me a unique perspective into marketing and an advantage in completing market research and communicating the information to clients.

I now work in the international division of the second largest educational publishing company in the world. My role entails creating and sharing marketing information about our educational software solutions and helping our international partners to adapt and localise this information to make it relevant for their culture and education system.
ANCIENT AND MODERN SOCIETIES PATH

Joint Major in Archaeology and Sociology

This Path offers the opportunity to study Archaeology in combination with Sociology. It provides core skills in both subjects and specialist modules focusing on approaches to understanding societies past and present, and in depth consideration of particular periods. Students taking this path will develop a critical perspective on the diversity of human societies across space and time and of the ways in which we can understand those societies.

About the Ancient and Modern Societies Path

The Ancient and Modern path will provide students with core skills in both archaeology and sociology, providing a strong disciplinary basis for further specialisation. This includes key research skills, principles of sociological analysis and introductions to social anthropology as well as archaeological approaches to landscapes or things and the development of archaeological thought. In the third year students will consider the role of cultural heritage in society today and the relationship between archaeology and the public. Options include approaches to understanding combat or the human body. Students will undertake a dissertation focusing on a topic linking archaeology and sociology.

Careers Opportunities

The Ancient and Modern societies pathway equips students for careers in a variety of sectors. This includes professional archaeological practice, cultural heritage and cultural tourism. Students will have a broad range of skills on completing the programme, including presentations report writing and group work. They will have developed skills in critical thinking and will be employable in many different fields.

Graduate Study Opportunities

This path directly maps to a number of Masters programmes at UCD including World Heritage Management and Comparative Social Change.

FURTHER STUDY

- Master of Archaeology
- Master of World Heritage Management
- Master of Experimental Archaeology
- Master of Global Migration and Cultural Differences
- Master of Comparative Social Change

CAREERS

- Professional archaeological practice
- Cultural heritage and tourism
- Research
- Journalism

I choose to study archaeology and sociology as I have always had a strong interest in culture and society. These disciplines complement each other exceptionally well, with many common elements such as social identity and human behaviour running through both. This enabled me to develop a deeper knowledge in areas of particular interest to me. Engaging with these topics from the perspective of the past and the present greatly enriched my understanding of both subjects. The friendliness of the staff and fellow students has made my time at UCD a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

CATHERINE NOLAN
Graduate, B.Soc.Sc.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON APPLYING FOR THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE DEGREE

School Leavers
Your first step to Social Science at UCD is to fill out your CAO form with DN550 as your first choice.

For school leavers there are two supplementary admission routes:
The Disability Access Route (DARE) which is an admissions scheme to promote equity of access to higher education for school leavers with a disability.

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. For more information, please see: http://www.ucd.ie/openingworlds/ucdadmissioncentre/prospectivestudents/

Mature Applicants
If you wish to apply to DN550 on mature grounds, information on mature student applications is available at www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions/myapply.html

Mature students are normally required to take a Mature Student Admission Pathway (MSAP) Test. Information on this test is available at https://msap-ireland.acer.edu.au/

FETAC
Information for FETAC applicants is available at http://www.myucd.ucd.ie/applying-to-ucd/fetac-applicant/

International Applicants
Information for international applicants is available at: http://www.ucd.ie/international

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