



# MA/MSc Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

1 year full time, 2 years part time

## Why UCD?

The School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) at University College Dublin is the oldest and largest school of its kind in Ireland, with over 150 years of experience in political studies and a world-renowned staff drawn from many countries. SPIRe is one of 10 Schools in the College of Human Sciences and part of one of the largest and most dynamic Graduate Schools in Ireland.

Students in all of our programmes have access to visiting speakers and other activities of the School's research centres: the Centre for Development Studies, the Dublin European Institute and the Institute for British-Irish Studies.

SPIRe currently has nearly 170 postgraduate students from over 30 countries.



## Why Is This Course For Me?

This programme uses comparative political science models and methods to analyse patterns of conflict and settlement, with a focus on internal violent conflicts, past and present. Internal conflicts are among the most important factors destabilising entire regions, and affecting wider international relations. Equally, international and global developments - from global economic trends, to climate change, to the rise and fall of empires and states - affect the likelihood of internal conflict.

One key set of topics is concerned with different models of conflict and settlement, from consociationalism to federalism to partition and the role of international interventions. Another looks at the ways in which oppositional categories and groups in conflict are formed. While internal conflicts are often fought in the name of nationalism and conflicting groups see themselves as ethnic descent groups, the very character of nationalism and ethnicity are complex. This course allows analysis of the different ways that religion, ethnicity and inequality combine to generate violence. Examples range widely, and change from year to year: some of the core texts are concerned with countries from Estonia to India, from Transylvania to Cyprus and from Northern Ireland to the Basque Country.

The wide range of expertise in SPIRe feeds into the programme, with its specialist resources in the study of theories of ethnicity, identity, conflict; comparative ethnic conflict; Northern Ireland, Western Europe and relevant cognate specialisms in civic republicanism, justice and human rights, international security, European politics, and development studies.

## What Will I Study?

The programme is designed to provide participants with a rigorous understanding of the character, causes and consequences of processes of conflict and settlement and with a range of skills to enable them to continue on to work in this field, for example in international and national NGOs. Funded doctoral and post-doctoral research on conflict in the Global Irish Institute and the Institute for British Irish Studies creates a lively intellectual environment. Students are often offered special topics courses related to research projects and specialist workshops and conferences.

## Skills Learned

On successful completion of the programme students will:

- be equipped with an understanding of nationalism and ethnic conflict in the contemporary world
- be able to evaluate different policy options and institutional designs for conflict resolution
- understand the different theoretical approaches to explain the onset of conflict and the reaching of settlement



### Prospective Employers

- European and International organisations
- Civil service
- Journalism
- Media
- Civil society organisations
- Voluntary sector

## Career Opportunities

International bodies, NGOs and state agencies commonly seek professionals with academic backgrounds provided by programmes such as this. Graduate students who specialise in this area while developing their research skills are well positioned to enter a range of research positions, and for further study in this or other fields. Several of our students in this field are now teaching in Queens University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin and farther afield.

## Testimonials

### Mark Dunne (Ireland)

Building from my BA Public and Social Policy undergraduate course, the Masters in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict at UCD enabled me to develop my critical understanding in the areas of ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, identity, and aspects of conflict management and resolution.

What makes the course particularly attractive is the wide module choice on offer, its relevance both for employment nationally and internationally and further doctoral study, and the fact that the programs of study are so topical and interesting.

The relatively small numbers and diverse nationalities (from Mexico to Japan) undertaking the course provide an ideal platform for intellectual debate in a stimulating multicultural atmosphere.



## MA or MSc?

SPIRe offers both MA and MSc tracks in nationalism and ethnic conflict. The MA includes more substantive electives and is designed for those who want to maximise their knowledge of the issues. The MSc includes training in research design and research methods and is designed for those who want a research qualification and/or intend to pursue a PhD. Both tracks require a master's thesis, though a limited number of MA students may apply to do a monitored internship instead of a thesis.



### Takashi Asakawa (Japan)

Lectures in Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict not only introduce you to what debates have been crucially discussed in each academic area, but also offer you numerous approaches to understanding the themes and questions posed, all with the warm assistance of the lecturers. I like the teaching style in UCD as it highlighted for me the significance of theory. Without that, I would not have been able to know what 'research' means.

For full programme details see [www.ucd.ie/spire](http://www.ucd.ie/spire).

To seek further information, please contact us at [spire@ucd.ie](mailto:spire@ucd.ie).

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