



Social Science

- a degree of opportunity





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Interested in a people-focused career? Social Science offers you the opportunity to explore different fields of study



Key Facts

CAO code: DN007

Minimum CAO points 2009: 395

Average CAO points 2009: 430

Average intake: 145

Length of programme: 3 years, or 4 years for BSocSc (International)

Entry requirements: Irish, English, third language, plus three other recognised subjects

Why study Social Science?

In a time of rapid social change the BSocSc (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.

In Stage 1 (usually first year) of Social Science, all students choose from a range of subjects in the academic area of Human Sciences. In Stage 2 (usually second and third year) students can choose a tailored path of study that leads to clear career opportunities and to graduate study.

What's special about Social Science at UCD?

- Provides 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 excellent pathways towards a variety of graduate degree programmes. Social Science students progress to a wide variety of graduate studies in different UCD schools including the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business and other national and international universities
- 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. To find out more about UCD, visit www.ucd.ie

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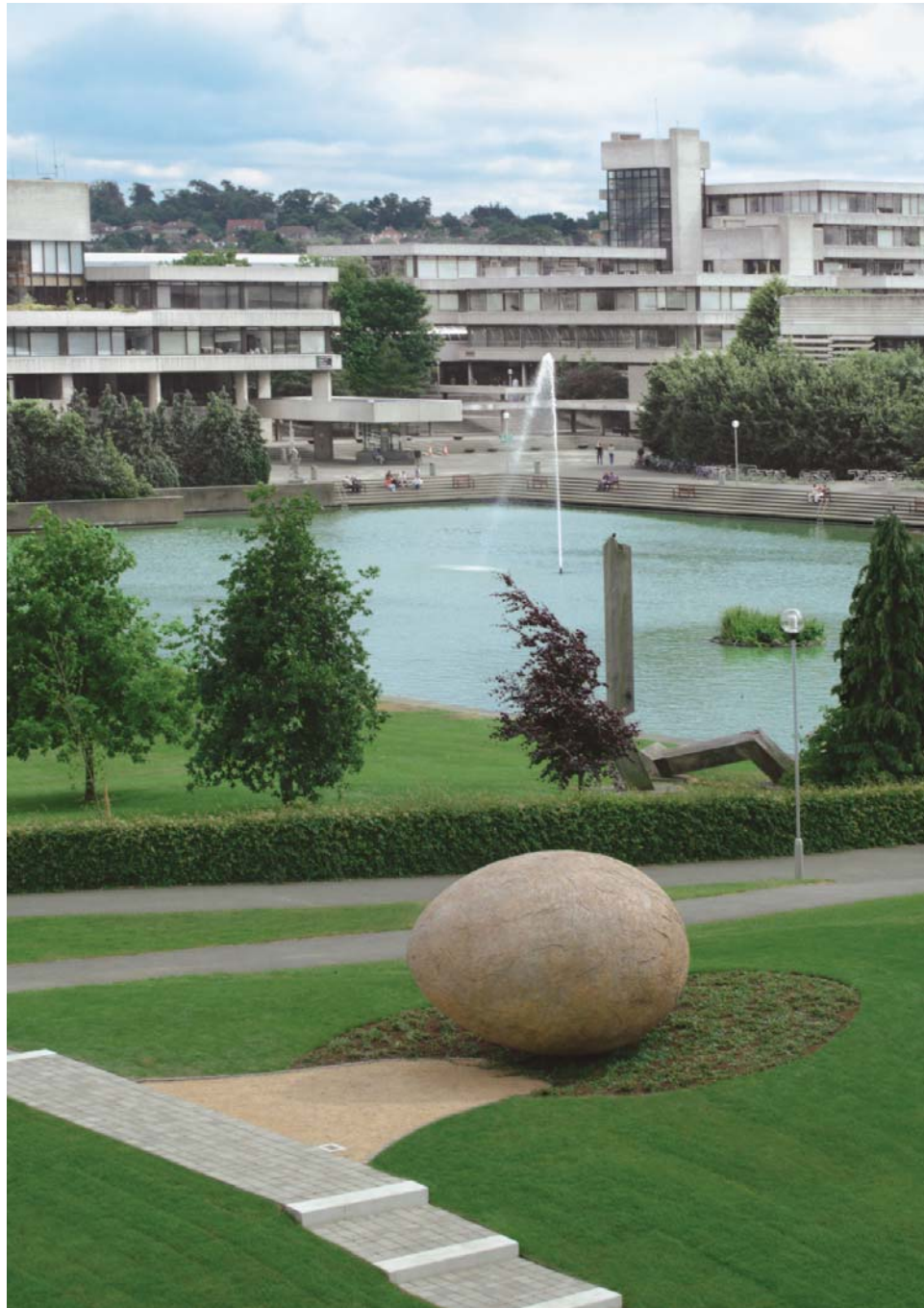


Your First Year Experience

From your first year, you will start to acquire abilities and skills on the BSocSc programme that prepare you for your future studies and for challenging careers in all areas of professional life. Apart from your core modules in Social Policy and Sociology, you will receive all the support and academic advice you need to help you choose the most appropriate combination of subject modules for your career or graduate study choices.

Your first year is also the time to introduce yourself to your fellow students and settle into university life. The smaller tutorial groups within your programme will help you to get to know people and make new friends, as will the many social events and societies on campus at UCD.

The Social Science degree offers a peer support programme for first year students. This involves linking a small group of first year students with a peer mentor. A peer mentor is an experienced student whose role is to help in the transition of new students to third level.





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What will I study?

Stage One

In Stage 1 students take twelve modules from a range of subjects in the Human Sciences. As well as taking four core modules in both Social Policy and Sociology, students also take optional modules from Politics, Geography, Psychology, Economics, Information Studies and Archaeology.

Academic advice is available for students to help them choose the most appropriate mix of subjects for their career choices and to allow them progress to the path of undergraduate and graduate study most suited to their career needs.

Stage Two

In Stage 2 (which usually takes two academic years to complete) students choose from one of seven study paths. In each of the study paths, students continue with chosen subjects that they have begun studying in Stage 1.

Included in their study paths are a range of optional modules from within and outside Social Science including law, business studies and specific, relevant psychology modules. Their choice of modules in Stage 2 is tailored to the type of career pathway which matches their particular interests. Students either directly enter the labour market or progress to graduate study leading to a range of interesting and rewarding careers.



International study opportunities

Students have the option of taking a four-year BSocSc (International) degree that incorporates an extra year's university study abroad as an integral part of the programme. BSocSc students may apply to enter the international programme and, if accepted, they have the opportunity to attend one of a range of European universities the following year.

Overall, the Social Science degree covers a broad range of varied and interesting topics, offering you a sound foundation for any number of potential careers, as well as providing you with a set of skills that will stand to you in any future employment.

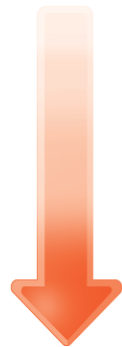
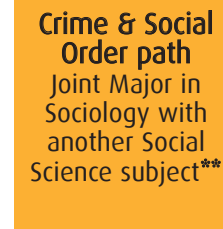
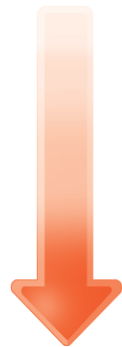
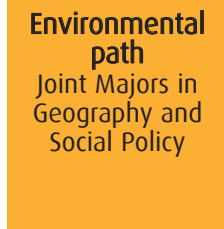
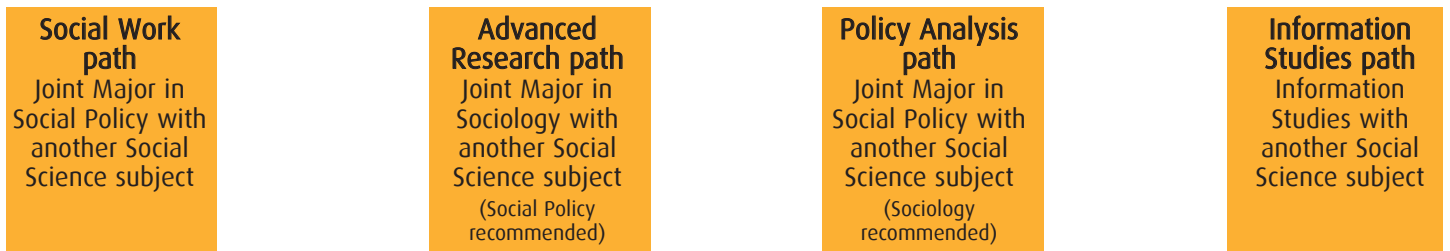


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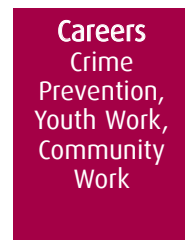
Stage 1 Subjects



Stage 2 Possibilities



Careers and Graduate Opportunities in UCD



*Psychology is not available as a Joint Major subject in Stage 2 Social Science. **Special Note on this Pathway: If you think you might be interested in a career in the Probation Service you should take a Joint Major in Social Policy as Probation Officers in Ireland are professionally qualified social workers.



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In your first year of study

- Your core programme content introduces you to the fields of sociology and social policy
- You also get a chance to choose modules from a variety of social sciences subjects including psychology, politics, geography, archaeology, information studies and economics
- This year gives you the chance to decide which Social Science path you would most like to follow in Stage 2
- You are taught by supportive staff, using a mixture of lectures and small-group teaching, who are interested in helping you choose the modules that will best suit your interests and your career needs



A good social scientist:

- Has an interest in working with people
- Wants to explore the complexities of local and global issues
- Wants to have a people-focused career
- Is interested in understanding the changing society in which they live and what it means to live in a vibrant multicultural society
- Would like to learn how to identify and respond to the needs of individuals and groups

Career possibilities for Social Science graduates

- **Advanced Research path** - careers in research and marketing posts in business, industry and the public service
- **Social Work path** - careers in professional social work, counselling, health service management and community work
- **Environmental path** - careers in urban planning, housing policy, environmental policy and international development work
- **Crime and Social Order path** - careers in justice, youth work, community work, addiction studies
- **Policy Analysis path** - careers as policy makers and analysts in politics, public service, NGOs in Ireland and abroad
- **Human and Organisational path** - careers in human resource management, business, marketing
- **Information Studies path** - careers in professional librarianship, information management, records management, electronic publishing and broadcast media



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Did you know?

The UCD Social Science degree offers a direct pathway to a social work qualification at master's level (the most common entry point into the profession and a necessity for working in the USA).

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 professional social worker. Social work is practised in a variety of settings including child protection and welfare, probation, hospital-based social work and social work in mental health and disability. There is a high level of demand for professionally qualified social workers in Ireland and abroad.

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 many different settings. They also get the opportunity to participate in skills workshops that provides them with some introductory interviewing and counselling skills.

Gavin Mulhall BSocSc MSocSc - 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 options on the course and 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 Masters in 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 with the Health Services Executive as a Community Social Worker, developing the capacities of communities to improve their own health outcomes.





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Environmental path

The Environmental path provides students with the skills and knowledge to explore and understand the relationship between the physical and human environments. The combination of social policy, sociology and geography allows students to examine the links between the environment, economic and social policies and how this interaction shapes the world in which we live.

The Environmental path may lead to graduate study in geography, sociology, social policy and spatial planning as well as to careers in environmental policy and planning, rural development, urban planning, international and local development work.

As society becomes more concerned about global and local environmental issues, the focus is turning towards Social Science to provide new analysis and solutions.

Eleanor Mac Partlin BSocSc, MRUP - Town Planner



The Social Science degree in UCD provided me with a good base to develop my interest in our living environment. I particularly enjoyed subjects like sociology and social policy. My time in Social Science gave me an interest in the social aspects of creating places for living and working. These, in addition to the physical and economic considerations, form the basis of town planning.

Upon graduating I knew that I wanted to proceed to a Masters in Regional and Urban Planning, and securing my degree in Social Science qualified me for entry to the Masters programme. As a Town Planner I have worked both in the public sector, with a local authority, and in the private sector as a planning consultant. As a planning consultant I regularly work as part of multi-disciplinary teams made up of developers, architects, engineers, urban designers, landscapers, housing associations and other disciplines.

I would recommend the Social Science degree for anyone with an interest in the planning and development of villages, towns and cities. The course offers a broad range of subjects, such as sociology, social policy, geography and economics, which are directly relevant to this.

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In the BSocSc you will get the chance to develop skills in undertaking a wide variety of social research methods such as social surveys, observation, personal interviewing, and the use of databases and documentary sources. As part of your programme you will undertake practical work in small groups.

Advanced Research path

Being able to conduct reliable and accurate social research has become central to planning and policy formation. Results from a wide variety of social inquiries are reported in the media everyday. Research skills are essential for those involved in commissioning and evaluating others' research. Social research is central to a knowledge economy.

Students who take the advanced research path will obtain key skills in making sense of and analysing social data, undertaking their own social research, using social surveys and engaging with people through personal interviews and observation. This will enable them to take up employment directly or to go on to study more advanced research methods at graduate level.

Catherine Devitt BSocSc MSocSc - Social Researcher in Environmental Issues

When I started in Social Science I was particularly interested in rural and community development, so I studied geography as well as sociology and social policy. I took courses in environmental sociology, human geography and qualitative research methods and became very interested in environmental issues and social research. On graduating, I took a Masters degree in Social Science, specializing in sociology which developed my social research skills to a more advanced level.

I have been able to combine my interest in the environment and in social research through the GM-Free Ireland movement, completing research on the organic farming movement in Ireland. I have worked on a number of other very interesting research projects and have also worked with an educational charity in Calcutta, India.

My degree in Social Science has given me a very good foundation upon which to develop my specific area of interest. I would recommend the Social Science degree to anyone who wants to engage and interact in society at many different levels. This degree offers a great way to develop a more insightful view into society, while giving you the qualifications to develop a varied and adaptable career.

Catherine Devitt





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Human and Organisational path

This study path allows students to study social policy and sociology and to take a specialist series of modules in business administration, industrial relations and human resource management. Students on this path also have the opportunity to examine areas such as organisational psychology and the economic, social and personal impact on individuals of where they work, the type of stress they encounter in the workplace and the nature of their job.

The focus in this path is on providing students with an academic understanding of the key issues involved in management and industrial relations and also to give them a wider appreciation of the sociological and policy issues in the workplace.

Social Science students taking a business study path can progress to careers in the business sector and can undertake graduate study in the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business or gain professional training in human resource management and industrial relations.

Kate Geoffroy - BSocSc - Social Science Graduate working in the financial sector



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.

Kate Geoffroy

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Students of social policy examine the complexities of pressing social problems and issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, marginalisation, poverty and disability.

Policy Analysis path

Social Policy is the study of social issues and of how society - and especially the government - responds to them. Students will study many of the major social questions which are shaping present day Irish society and its future. Examples include healthcare, housing, education, poverty, disability, immigration and family policy. Students will acquire a range of knowledge which puts them on a sound footing for careers in public service, administration, social work and social research.

If you are interested in social issues and in acquiring the skills to be part of the next generation of leaders who will address them, then the policy analysis may be the pathway for you.

Paul Gill BSocSc MSocSc - PhD Student

My time studying Social Science was extremely rewarding. The smaller class-size made socialising a lot easier. I particularly liked the policy analysis aspect of the course. After two years I decided to take the Social Science (International) programme and got the opportunity to study for an extra year at an international university - I went to Uppsala University, Sweden. Other places on offer included Amsterdam, Stockholm, Leuven, Paris and Melbourne.

This chance to travel and study abroad was a great experience. The staff and the Social Science course itself provided me with an excellent grounding in my current career- undertaking a fully funded PhD project in Politics in UCD, researching the political psychology of militant organizations.

I also lecture and tutor undergraduate students. Many of my former classmates are now in employment in diverse occupations such as social work, policy analysis, trade unions and human resource management. I would recommend this course highly.

Paul Gill





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Crime and Social Order path

The Crime and Social Order path provides students with a solid grounding in understanding the nature of crime in modern society, and the ways in which societies respond to crime.

Students taking this path have an opportunity to examine: levels and types of crime; how crime rates change over time; who is most affected by crime; how crime is related to other aspects of society; how societies respond to crime; and how effective those various approaches are.

This path helps students prepare for careers in the justice system, including the civil service, local authorities, youth and community work, the area of addiction, and other related fields.



If you are interested in exploring the nature of crime in modern society as well as wider debates about justice and social control, this is the path you should choose. 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 crime 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 Gardaí and the Probation Service. Crime is examined in the physical, economic and social context in which it occurs.

An interdisciplinary approach is taken, with modules on offer from Sociology and Social Policy as well as Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and Equality Studies. This mix highlights the contribution of a variety of disciplines to understanding the range and complexity of crime, its definition, treatment and prevention in society today.

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"Today people talk of the knowledge economy or the information society, so the study of how we create, share and use information is more relevant than ever before ... I would recommend this path to anyone who is interested in media and communications, information management and information systems, librarianship, research, marketing, or publishing."

Information Studies path

The Information Studies path will allow you to explore the interaction between people and recorded knowledge. You can examine the generation, organisation, storage and use of knowledge and information by different individuals and groups. This is the stream to equip you for careers in the knowledge economy and is particularly useful for careers in information management, journalism, broadcast media and the public service.

If you are interested in working as a professional with information products, resources or services in the information/library sector, you can choose to take a major in this study path that will enable you to achieve a professional qualification in Librarianship which is recognised by the Library Association of Ireland.

Michelle Brien B.Soc.Sc (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.

I chose to take the librarianship pathway, which provided me with an extra qualification. It also 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 localize this information to make it relevant for their culture and education system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michelle Brien'.





Career and Graduate Opportunities

Each undergraduate study path leads to a number of possible graduate programmes. You will be mentored in your choice of subjects and modules in your second year to ensure that you are progressing to the most appropriate graduate programmes for your career goals.

Those interested in graduate Social Science programmes can proceed to graduate diplomas, master's degrees and doctorates. The newly restructured Social Science degree has been designed to allow you to see clear career pathways and/or graduate study options. The seven study paths in the Social Science degree lead to graduate opportunities and careers. Refer to the diagram displayed earlier in this booklet.

The Social Science degree prepares graduates for a wide variety of 'people-focused' careers both here in Ireland and abroad.

Graduates of the Bachelor of Social Science degree will:

Have a broad based knowledge of the social sciences

Have in-depth understanding of their chosen Social Science disciplines

Demonstrate the capacity to be critical and reflective thinkers in their chosen field/s of study

Have specific understanding and skills in their chosen pathway

Have a good foundation in social research methods

Be well prepared for entry to a Masters programme linked to their selected pathway

Have sufficient understanding and skills in Social Science in general and in their subject and pathway areas specifically to be highly competitive within the employment market, nationally and internationally

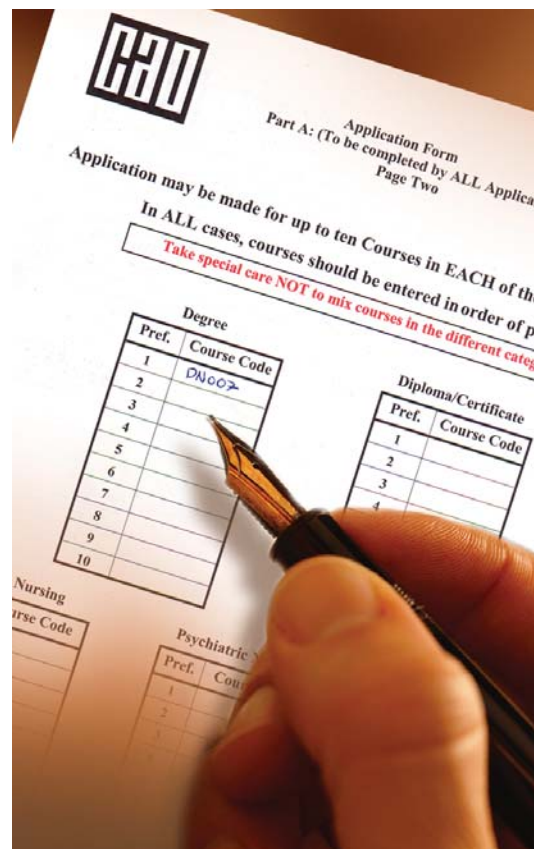
Have enough generic knowledge of the social sciences to move beyond their chosen pathway, if that is their choice

Important Information

- Information on the CAO can be found at www.cao.ie
- The deadline for CAO applications is 1st February
- Information on applying to UCD via the CAO is also available on UCD Admissions website www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions
- If you wish to apply to DN007 Social Science on mature grounds, information on mature student applications is available at www.ucd.ie/prospective.html
- Mature applicants are normally required to take the Mature Student Admissions Pathway (MSAP) Test. Information on the test is available at <https://myucd.ucd.ie/admission/mature.ezc>
- Information for FETAC applicants is available at <https://myucd.ucd.ie/admission/apply.ezc>, at www.ucd.ie/horizons/FETACfull.pdf and from UCD Admissions

The Arts, Celtic Studies and Human Sciences Programme Office also has information on the Social Science degree on their website at www.ucd.ie/acshs.

You will find such information displayed under links for Prospective Students and Current Students.



Your first step to Social Science at UCD is to fill out your CAO form with DN007 as your first choice.

Under UCD Horizons students may choose a number of elective modules from across the university. Academic advice is available to help students choose the most appropriate mix of subjects for their career and study choices.



For more information, please contact:

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