



# MA in Philosophy & Public Affairs

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)



## Introduction

The Masters of Arts in Philosophy and Public Affairs is a one-year interdisciplinary programme (or two years part-time), designed to offer graduates of either philosophy or the social sciences (politics, economics, history) the opportunity to study some of the many areas of overlap between the disciplines, and especially to explore foundational questions in public policy formulation. The innovative programme mixes the abstract and the applied, with half the modules from the School of Philosophy, and half from existing MA modules offered by the School of Politics and International Relations,

the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

Our MA in Philosophy and Public Affairs programme is aimed at students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the core areas of philosophy and its application to public affairs at graduate level. It is also intended to provide a good foundation of graduate work for students who wish to continue to more advanced graduate research. It aims to provide an integration of social and political theory with the philosophical implications of the area.

## Programme Highlight

The School of Philosophy encourages our students to be critical philosophical thinkers with the ability to reflect on current philosophical debates, history of philosophical thought and add their own contribution. We aim to provide a learning environment that fosters collegiality and a pluralistic approach to the main areas of philosophy and encourages students to engage critically with questions.

## Programme Content and Structure

90 credits Taught Masters = 60 credits Taught Modules + 30 credits Dissertation

### Core Modules:

- Dissertation

Please see online for a full list of modules.

### Option Modules:

You must also choose from the list of modules below (Modules are indicative only):

#### 3 x PHILOSOPHY MODULES

- Topics in Continental Philosophy
- Feminist & Gender Theory
- The Good Society
- Ethics in Public Life
- Moral Agency
- Critique & Destruction
- Reading Nietzsche
- Invention of the Modern Self
- Topics in Mind and Cognition
- Philosophy of Time

#### 1 x THEORY MODULE

- Theory of Human Rights
- Theories of International Relations
- Masculinities, Gender & Equality
- Human Rights, Law & Equality
- Intro to Cultural theory
- Global Justice

#### 2 x SOCIAL SCIENCE MODULES

- International Political Economy
- Politics of Development
- Comparative Public Policy
- Comparative European Politics
- Critical Geographies
- Politics of Human Rights
- Peace & Conflict Studies

## Why study at UCD?



### Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



### Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



### Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



### Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



### Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the programme have gone into diverse areas such as public or private research institutes, local, national or international institutions as policy analysts, firms operating in the global market and looking for professionals capable of understanding and interpreting political, social and economic trends and devising long-term strategic plans, media, journalism, publishing and the NGOs.

## Graduate Profile



**Ruth Hurley**  
MA Philosophy & Public Affairs

The Masters of Arts in Philosophy and Public Affairs offers a freedom to explore interdisciplinary subjects of interest and identify how each subject plays a role in your understanding of the world. As a graduate with a wide set of interests this flexibility allowed me to focus on how one's public engagement in society is inextricably linked to our private sphere of family and morality and how the individual enters civic life with both a private understanding of oneself and how society perceives them. Since graduating, I now work on community-based, innovative European Union funded projects that promote the community's future in employment with the Ballymun Job Centre Co-op Ltd. The dynamic approach this course offers, by using both theoretical and practical insights, has no doubt influenced my ability to work in the field of Career Guidance and Community Development.

## Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for students with a primary degree in Philosophy, or in another degree that has significant philosophical components; an upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required.
- Candidates with an upper second class honours in a postgraduate conversion course such as a Higher Diploma in Philosophy may be considered. MA students may be required to attend an interview either via Zoom or in person.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

## Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships) for further information.

## Related Masters

- MA Philosophy
- MA Philosophy & Literature
- MA Philosophy of Mind and Embodied Cognition
- MA Political Theory
- MA Contemporary European Philosophy

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

t: +353 1 716 8186

e: [philosophy@ucd.ie](mailto:philosophy@ucd.ie)

w: [www.ucd.ie/philosophy](http://www.ucd.ie/philosophy)

#### International Students

e: [internationalenquiries@ucd.ie](mailto:internationalenquiries@ucd.ie)

w: [www.ucd.ie/global](http://www.ucd.ie/global)

### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)