



UCD Social Sciences

BSc Social Sciences:

Maximising your learning and engagement through Modules and Other opportunities during stage 3.

Introduction

Stage 3 of the Social Sciences degree is an important year for you as a student. The focus of the year is to broaden your learning experiences to incorporate non-traditional classroom-based activities. While some students may undertake a trimester/year exchange or a one trimester internship, there are also a range of exciting experiential learning modules here in UCD that will provide you with an opportunity to diversify your learning, develop wider transferable skills, and enhance your employability.

This document is a guide for students to make the most of the opportunities available to them during stage 3 in UCD. There are separate guides for students who will undertake [exchange programmes](#) or [internships](#) off campus.

Stage 3 Learning Outcomes

The modules available to you are designed to support you enhance the following skills, knowledge and competencies, and are known as learning outcomes:

- Develop personal and professional competencies.
- Develop skills to communicate information to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Expand and critically evaluate subject-specific knowledge.
- Understand the relevance and application of academic knowledge to the real world.
- Enhance awareness of societal and global issues.

Experiential Modules in your majors:

All social sciences subjects offer modules during stage 3 which are experiential in nature.

Put simply, experiential learning describes the process of learning ***through experience***. While there are different forms of experiential learning, reflecting on what you are actually doing plays an important role within this kind of learning. Most generally, students are much more active in this form of learning compared to other more traditional forms of teaching where students are, for example, asked to memorize content and teaching operates mostly through lectures in a non-interactive fashion.

Please contact your [School\(s\)](#) directly to discuss what experiential learning modules are available to you in the 2024-2025 academic year. The specific choices available to you will depend on your subjects, and you will

choose them as part of your normal registration. Subject specific modules will also be available as part of your stage 3 registration.

Making the most of your electives

[Innovation Academy](#)

UCD Innovation Academy offers four elective modules open to undergraduate students in all schools across University College Dublin. Each class is a community of students from different disciplines and years.

Any three of these four elective modules can now be combined to form a 'Structured Elective' in [Innovation for Change](#). Structured Electives will appear on your official UCD Transcript, and mean future employers will see that you have a block of credits in a specific area; in this case Innovation.

Structured Electives

Details on other Structured Electives you may take in Stage 3 are available [here](#).

Gaining other experience

UCD Careers Network offer a wider range of awards:

- Advantage Award
- Funding for a SPARC project
- Skills for Working Life Programme
- Career Mentoring Programme

Social Sciences Office:

- Peer Mentor Advisers
- Join the Students as Partners Forum

(contact mairead.mccann@ucd.ie)