

## **Our Graduates**

Graduates of the Masters in Applied Social Research typically gain employment in a variety of organisations including public and private research institutes, consultancies, university departments, government departments, semi-state agencies, the NGO sector, and in a range of policy environments. Others go on to pursue further post-graduate study, particularly PhD research.



**Annette Burns, 2012**

I completed the MSc in Applied Social Research programme in 2012 and am now a PhD scholar on the SPHeRE programme (Structured Population and Health-service Research Education). I am now in the second year of my PhD which focuses on smoking and mental health. Prior to commencing my PhD I worked as a research assistant within the General Practice department of RCSI and also worked with the Tobacco Free Research Institute, assisting with funding applications, survey design and analysis. Before this, I was employed as a research assistant at a specialist research company.

The MSc in Applied Social Research gave me an excellent grounding in applied research. I emerged from the programme with a great understanding of both qualitative and quantitative methods and the skills and confidence to conduct both types of research. The modules in statistical analysis, research design, effective literature searching and ethics continue to stand to me. The placement element of the MSc was invaluable and hugely educational for me as was the opportunity to work as a research team on a group project. It was with the continued assistance of my supervisor and placement host that I recently managed to publish my dissertation study as a journal article. I would highly recommend this programme to anyone pursuing a career in social research in Ireland.



**Nerilee Ceatha, 2014**

For anyone considering this course you are in for a treat! The M.Sc. in Applied Social Research provided me with a strong foundation in both qualitative and quantitative research. The highly regarded course facilitated my entry to a welcoming research alumni. The well-deserved reputation owes much to the calibre of teaching staff and their approachability and commitment to providing high-quality lectures and workshops. Following this very positive experience I am planning to complete a PhD in future.

The social application of research is emphasised on the course and encouraged me to focus on dissemination including poster presentations (SPHeRE conference, Health and Social Care Professionals' conference), publication (GCN magazine feature) and an oral presentation (Rainbow Week at TCD). I returned to my Social Work Team Leader role where I have been encouraged to actively follow up opportunities around research within the organisation.



**Theodora Cosco, 2011**

Since graduating from the MSc in Applied Social Research program in 2011 I have gone on to graduate from the PhD in Public Health & Primary Care program at the University of Cambridge and secure a Postdoc position at the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing in London. The MSc program was integral in the development of the qualitative and quantitative skills I would later require in my doctoral and postdoctoral work. The internship was a particularly valuable component of the program; I was able to secure a Research Officer position at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland which resulted in a position that bridged the gap between finishing my MSc, applying for and starting my PhD. During this time I was able to write and publish papers based on my MSc dissertation, which aided in securing a doctoral position. The MSc in Applied Social Research helped to lay the foundation upon which I've built my fledgling academic career.



**Oona Kenny, 2014**

Oona is currently working in Focus Ireland as a research assistant in the Service Standards office. She holds a B.Sc. (hons) in Psychology from the Open University and before completing the MSc in Applied Social Research programme in 2014, worked as a settlement officer in Simon Community. For the Master's work placement module she completed an eight week internship with the Growing Up in Ireland study team in the ESRI and for her dissertation designed a multi-dimensional measure of children's social capital using data collected in the GUI study. Following the MSc course, Oona also spent 3 months working as a data analyst in the Housing Agency. Her main research interests are homelessness, housing rights, social capital and involving 'hard to reach' populations.



**Vanessa Moore, 2010**

I did the MSc in 2009-2010. I did it mainly because I wanted to do something new (I had been working in financial services which I hated, and I was delighted when I lost my job in the financial crash in 2008, partly because I wanted to leave anyway and partly because my redundancy payment paid for the MSc fees!). But the main reason I picked the MSc specifically was that I liked the idea of learning the fundamental tools of research, of being equipped with specific skills that I could use in a specific career. I also really liked the fact that it was a kind of preparation to go on to a PhD if that was what you wanted to do.

I really enjoyed the course -- while I struggled (a lot) with the quant part I still managed to do it, and I really enjoyed learning more about qualitative research. I think one great aspect of the course was being introduced to so many different types of research and the opportunity to see it practically applied in so many different ways, whether it was quant or qual research. The work placement was absolutely brilliant -- maybe I was lucky because I got a great placement which led to me eventually getting a job there, but it was great to get an idea of how research works in "real life" and that you could actually have a career from it.

After I left the MSc I got a job for four months as a research assistant in RCSI, helping with data collection through phone interviews. When that finished, I was incredibly lucky to be able to come back to my work placement with Suzanne Cahill in LiD, where I worked as a research assistant for nearly two years.

Again, I was very lucky that as my contract finished in LiD, I got funding from the School to start my PhD. I was always toying with the idea of doing a PhD, but being equipped with the research skills I got in the MSc made me able to consider it more seriously and with more insight, and the time spent in LiD focused my attention on the particular subject I wanted to study.



**Joanna Orr, 2015**

I completed the MSc in Applied Social Research as a part time student between 2013 and 2015. As part of the course, I carried out a work placement in the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA). After the placement, I stayed on in TILDA as a research assistant, and I am currently applying to complete a PhD on the social determinants of successful ageing in women, using TILDA data. I also completed my dissertation on sexual activity and relationship quality in older age within TILDA, and I am currently working on an article for publication based on it. I also hope to publish as a co-author on reports on housing and transport in the over 50s population.

The MSc gave me a solid grounding in research design and methodology. I find myself using both the quantitative and qualitative skills I gained during the course on a daily basis, both at work and in preparing my PhD proposal. For my PhD, I intend to use a mixed methods design, which I feel well prepared for due to the range of techniques taught in the MSc.



**Daniela Rohde, 2013**

Following my undergrad in Psychology, I worked for several years with homeless people with mental health and addiction problems. I completed the MSc in Applied Social Research on a part-time basis (2011-2013), which was challenging but also a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. As part of my MSc work placement in RCSI I worked on a systematic review that has since been published. Following this I worked as a research assistant in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems in UCD on a number of different projects, including a national review of the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework. In 2014 I started a HRB-funded PhD in RCSI as part of the SPHERE Programme in Population Health and Health Services Research.



**Siobhan Scarlett, 2013**

I hold a B.A in Sociology, a M.A in Addiction Studies and completed the M.Sc in Applied Social Research in 2013. The course was fantastic for honing both my qualitative and quantitative skills in properly preparing me for engaging in research outside of college. The teaching staff offered excellent support throughout the year and have continued to stay in touch after the course. The work placement module within the course was incredibly helpful for allowing us to put the skills we had been taught throughout the year into practice.

I currently work with the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing (TILDA), initially starting out as a Research Assistant focussing on the area of Frailty. I'm now also a Data Manager for the study while continuing research into frailty and pursuing a PhD looking at accelerometer data collected from the older population.



**Travis Tatum, 2013**

The M.Sc. in Applied Social Research at Trinity College proved to be an excellent training for a career in research. The classes were insightful, the assignments were helpful, and the programme in

general was well planned. I am now in my second year of a four year thematic PhD programme at UCD in Complex Systems and Computational Social Science. My plan is either to continue in academia or work as a consultant or analyst. I value the training I received in the M.Sc. in Applied Social Research as it has laid a solid foundation for my current and future research aspirations.



**Lucy Whiston, 2012**

Having completed the MSc in Applied Social Research in 2012 I am now in the first year of my PhD as an Irish Research Council Scholar and working as the Adelaide Research Assistant in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care in Trinity College. During my first two years in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care I worked primarily with the addiction research team on projects such as an RCT on the feasibility of Brief Interventions for alcohol and illicit substance in a methadone maintained cohort. Currently I am working on a national survey of chronic disease management in Ireland by practice nurses and patients, a health asset and need assessment of Tallaght and my PhD which focuses on patient and family participation in healthcare design and delivery in Ireland.

The MSc in Applied Social Research has been particularly advantageous to me in many ways. Throughout the course I found the teaching staff to be approachable, helpful and of a very high standard. Modules in qualitative research, literature searching, SPSS and quantitative analysis provided materials, knowledge and experience which I find myself using on a regular basis. The MSc and placement provided practical experience of the whole research process from concept to write up and provided the necessary key skills for publication. My MSc placement in the Coolmine Therapeutic Community was pivotal in me obtaining my current research assistant position. I would highly recommend this to anybody looking for employment in research or further study.