



# Your Degree What Next:

## *Sociology and Social Policy*

Sociology & Social Policy is a joint degree taught by the Department of Sociology and the School of Social Work and Social Policy. This unique programme combines the study of social theory, social policy and social research. The modules studied are a great platform for graduates to apply their skills in research, social policy analysis and evaluation, or management and planning across a range of settings.

### What skills can I develop at Trinity?

You gain a wide range of skills while at College, through academic study, clubs and societies, voluntary work, student politics, work and other commitments. These are important to recognize as they inform your career decisions and are a critical ingredient in your applications for postgraduate study and jobs. Here are some skills you can gain through your course:

**1. Critical Thinking** - The most fundamental part of a university education is learning to work on your own and to make independent judgments. You have to discover the information that you need to analyse complex questions and develop your ideas about them and to present your arguments clearly and persuasively in a wide range of scenarios.

**2. Teamwork** - Learning to work as part of a team is an important skill; sharing the workload, agreeing roles and working as a team to develop ideas, analyse information and present a coherent group argument.

**3. Independent Research** - You will have learnt how to use the library and other complex information resources and co-ordinate information from a wide variety of sources. You will develop analysis skills, so that you may interpret and use quantitative or qualitative data.

**4. Application of knowledge** - You will gain an understanding of key concepts and theoretical approaches in sociology and their application to social life. You will cover how social policies are organised and how different social groups and individuals experience and respond to these policies.

**5. Logical argumentation** - You will know how to bring together facts and arguments in order to answer a specific question or analyse a problem.

**6. Time and project management** - By working on assignments and studying for exams you will have developed the ability to revise and consolidate your work and know how to extract the essential points from a mass of information. You will also have learned how to manage your own time and to work under pressure of deadlines.

**7. Verbal communication** - You will know how to present your ideas orally such as in the presentation of research reports and to contribute constructively to discussions.

**8. Written communication** - You will have had the opportunity to present your ideas in writing accurately and concisely, using convincing arguments based on solid evidence; responding flexibly to different types of questions and expressing your thoughts concisely; carrying out in-depth research and developing the sustained writing skills needed.

**9. Digital Skills** - You will have the opportunity to develop your computer skills both from typing up your own essays and papers and from undertaking searches on the web & using databases.

**10. Personal Development** – You manage your own learning, recognising any gaps in your understanding and ensuring that these are addressed in ways that best suit your learning style. You will develop self awareness, openness and sensitivity to diversity in terms of people, cultures and management issues.

## What can I do with a Sociology & Social Policy degree?

Sociology & Social Policy students have many options available upon degree completion. Careers are available in all sectors, particularly not-for-profit or the public service, focusing on policy work, advocacy, applied social research or related areas such as management consulting and marketing, nationally and around the globe. Many students are also interested in academic research. Here are some sample employment opportunities:

### Roles

Administrative Officer

Business Consultant

Community Service Volunteer

Marketing Assistant

PR Assistant

### Employers

Department of Finance, Public Service

EY

Focus Ireland

PR Agency

Web Summit

Many Sociology & Social Policy students go on to postgraduate courses such as a Masters or PhD to develop skills in specific disciplines such as Applied Social Research or Public Policy, but also to broaden and deepen their skill base, by studying areas such as comparative social change or development practice.

## Useful Resources

The organisations and professional bodies listed below are useful resources for career / sector specific information:

### Resources

gradireland (IE)

Targetjobs (UK)

Prospects (UK)

Gradpublicjobs (Irl)

Activelink (Irl)

### Professional Bodies

Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD)

Comhlamh

Dochas

Marketing Institute of Ireland

Sociology Association of Ireland

## How can the Careers Service help you?

The Careers Service supports students in exploring their career options and connects students with employers. You can book an appointment with your careers consultant to help you decide your next step in your career.

Login to MyCareer at [www.tcd.ie/careers](http://www.tcd.ie/careers) and book your appointment today.

## Contact Us

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