



Your Degree What Next: **Sociology**

Sociology studies the interaction of people within social groups like families, schools and companies and how this shapes their behaviours and life chances. It explores questions such as: Why do migrants develop their cultural identities in different ways? How is privacy changing with the rise of digital technologies? How does a child's family of origin shape their chances of educational success and future job? Do state rules and regulations represent and protect elite power? Sociology is foremost among the social sciences in its understanding of social change.

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.
- 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.

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

5. 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.

6. Verbal communication - You will know how to present your ideas orally and to contribute constructively to discussions.

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

8. Digital Skills - You will have the opportunity of developing your computer skills both from typing up your own essays and papers and from undertaking searches on the web & using databases.

9. Personal Development – You are managing the learning required for a degree and recognising the gaps in your understanding and ensuring that these are addressed in ways that best suit your learning style.

What can I do with my Degree?

Sociology graduates find that their broad training and appreciation of how society and people work means they can thrive in careers in the media, journalism, consulting, academia and teaching, policy analysis, nongovernmental organisations, management, and advisory roles in the public service. Graduates are working for organisations as diverse as Goodbody Stockbrokers, the ESRI, the European Parliament, Citibank, RTÉ, Google, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Enterprise Ireland.

Below are some examples of the roles that economics graduates are in 9 months after

Roles

Research Associate
Publicity & Marketing Assistant
Project Worker
Business Development Associate
Research and Development Officer
Market Research Interviewer

Employers

Qualtrics
Octopus Publishing Group
Peter McVerry Trust
The Future Laboratory
Irish Sports Council
Behaviour and Attitudes LTD

Each year some graduates also opt to pursue a research career in Sociology, beginning with postgraduate study in Ireland or abroad.

Some of the other areas that students have progressed onto further study in include: Applied Social Research, Conflict Studies, Developmental Practice, Education, Law, Marketing.

Useful Resources

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

Resources

gradireland (IE)
Targetjobs (UK)
Prospects (UK)
Vault Career Insider (Global)

Professional Bodies

Sociology Association of Ireland
British Sociological Association
International Sociological Association

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 deciding your next step in your career.

Login to MyCareer at www.tcd.ie/careers and book your appointment today.

Contact Us

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