



student societies, sports clubs and publications

Why study social studies at Trinity College Dublin

Social Studies is a challenging and a rewarding field and requires a personal commitment to the ideals and values of the social work profession. Students in the BSS are guaranteed small group teaching in social work modules, individual input from active academics and practicing social workers and an interactive class environment. The programme is committed to inclusiveness and diversity in its student group. Overseas, mature and non-traditional students are welcomed.

The School of Social Work and Social Policy offers small classes to promote engaged learning. The school has one of the smallest student to staff ratios in the entire university with only 21 students per every staff member and an average lecture size of 45.

Is this the right course for you?

Social Studies could be the right course for you if you wish to work in a caring and challenging profession. Most importantly it is the right course for you if you believe you have the ability to problem solve, a willingness to make challenging decisions alongside a strong desire to effect positive change. Potential applicants are advised to find out what social workers do before they apply.

https://www.iasw.ie/iasw-career-in-social-work

Current student profiles

Hear from some of our current students about what it is like to study for the Bachelor in Social Studies https://vimeo.com/948671483



Scan me



What our graduates say



"The BSS degree was a fantastic experience for me from a professional and personal level".

Ciaran Carroll



6 th in the world for gender equality

(Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021)

Programme content

This course introduces you to a wide range of social science subjects in the Junior Freshman (first) year, and then increases the number of social work subjects in the following three years. Teaching methods are varied and interactive and draw on your personal and practice experience.

The Freshman years

Junior Freshman (first year) subjects include introductions to social work, psychology, social policy, sociology, economic policy and political science. All first year students are required to undertake 30 hours of volunteering during their first year to build practical experience and help them begin to apply what they are learning in a real world situation.

In Senior Freshman (second year), core subjects include social work theory and practice, law for social workers and psychology. Students undertake a 10 week placement at the end of their second year.

What our graduates say

"To those looking for a comprehensive, challenging, diverse and relevant degree, this may be the one for you".

Leah Keogh

The Sophister Years

Junior and Senior Sophister (third and fourth) year subjects include:

Family and child care studies

Social policy

Sociology

Mental health

Equality issues

Group work

Human rights law

Social work theory and practice, including counselling skills and practice workshops

Placements in the final two years run for 1000 hours (500 hrs per placement) and are generally undertaken from September - December in each of the final years.







(Times Higher Education Ranking 2024)



Placements

In years two, three and four, students undertake a placement in a different social service agency under the supervision of an experienced practitioner. These placements provide practice experience and an opportunity to develop and apply the skills and knowledge acquired in college. Placement in year two takes place in the summer vacation. Placements in the final two years run in the first semester of each year.

Admissions requirements

School leavers who reach the CAO points (or equivalent) needed for entry. School Leaver applicants should enter BSS (TR 084) on their CAO application form.

Mature students and international students eligible to apply for the course.

https://www.tcd.ie/study/international/how-to-apply/index.php

https://www.tcd.ie/study/apply/alternative-paths-to-trinity/index.php

Advanced entry into the BSS degree is not permitted. It is a course requirement for all new students on the Bachelor in Social Studies that they complete Health Screening and Garda Vetting requirements.

Our school areas of research

- Ageing and social policy
- Adoption & Fostering
- Alternative Care and Aftercare
- Drug and alcohol policy and services
- Child protection and welfare
- Criminology and penology
- Critical Theory
- Domestic violence
- Eco Social Policy
- Family and gender
- History of social policy
- Immigration and Social Policy
- Intellectual disability
- Mental health
- Poverty and Social Protection
- Social work
- Sociology of reproduction

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme, please apply online at

www.tcd.ie/courses/undergraduate/ courses/social-studies/

or visit www.tcd.ie/swsp for further information.

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Top 50
University in the world for 5 subject areas

(QS Subject Rankings 2024)

School of Social Work and Social Policy

Situated in the centre of Ireland's vibrant capital city, Trinity's stunning campus is home to a community of scholars at the cutting-edge of research and teaching. Combining historic traditions with world-renowned centres of research excellence, Trinity College Dublin offers a unique opportunity to blend a rigorous academic programme with an unparalleled array of cultural, social and professional experiences.

The School of Social Work and Social Policy offers professional education and training in social work, multidisciplinary study of social policy, and postgraduate training in applied social research. The school seeks to ensure that teaching responds to new social and economic developments, reflects robust empirical evidence, and is infused with a scholarly vigour, in order that students are equipped to engage with the challenges they will face as employees and as citizens.

www.TCD.ie/SWSP





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