

School of Social Sciences  
and Philosophy

# PPES – Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (TR015)



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

[www.tcd.ie/ssp/undergraduate/ppes/](http://www.tcd.ie/ssp/undergraduate/ppes/)

# School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the top universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a lively and cosmopolitan community of students from around the globe. Its bustling 47-acre campus is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

Trinity's School of Social Sciences and Philosophy is at the forefront of research and teaching across the disciplines of philosophy, political science, economics and sociology.

Trinity has an international reputation for its research on issues of global societal and economic importance such as migration, development, international macroeconomics and political and economic integration in Europe. Our students benefit from a research-led education which exposes them to leading academics, the latest knowledge and ideas, and to an education that emphasizes analytical skills and creative thinking.

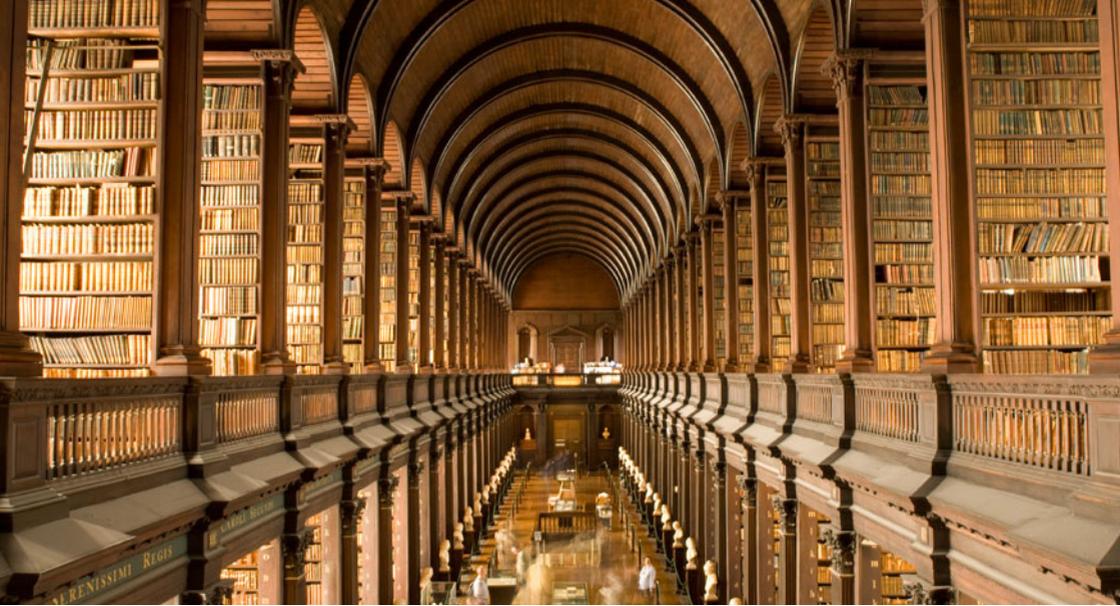
---

## Why Choose the PPES Programme?

---

Trinity's PPES programme is the only university degree in Ireland where students can combine the study of philosophy, political science, economics and sociology. It provides an integrated multidisciplinary education, in the social sciences and philosophy, with students studying four subjects that are central to understanding any society. It brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the social and human world, developing skills suited to a range of future careers and activities.

PPES will appeal to students who are excited about the challenges of understanding the way societies are organised, create wealth and are governed, while drawing on the methods and insights of philosophical enquiry. If you are puzzled about how our world is structured and have a desire to change it, then PPES is the degree for you.



---

## Philosophy

---

If you are interested in questioning society's basic assumptions and in analysing the moral, political, and religious questions at the heart of our culture you will find philosophy a stimulating subject. Philosophy will train you to question your own assumptions, and someone else's, and to articulate your point of view carefully and thoughtfully.

There has been a rich tradition of philosophical excellence at Trinity College since its foundation. Trinity's department of philosophy is a close-knit, intellectual community of researchers, teachers and students which combines high-quality teaching with expansive research activity.

---

## Political Science

---

It's easy to think of political issues that we have opinions about. Should government tax the rich to achieve greater equality? Should it introduce 'green taxes' to help protect the environment? Such questions, along with analysis of political systems and how democracy works, are at the heart of the study of politics.

Political science has been an important part of the curriculum since 1855. Today it is a vibrant, outward-looking department which is recognised world-wide for its research work on the European Union, comparative politics, international relations and public opinion.

---

## Economics

---

Many issues dominating the headlines are economic. Such as why do certain countries enjoy high growth rates and what are the best ways to reduce poverty? Economics blends together theory, data and statistical techniques to help understand economic problems and to make policy recommendations which will hopefully improve society's welfare and living standards.

Economics has been an important part of Trinity's curriculum since 1832. The department is committed to delivering the highest standards of teaching and has a strong research record, with a particular emphasis on applied economics.

---

## Sociology

---

Sociology is foremost among the social sciences in studying social change and the consequences of human behaviour. With core themes such as migration, race and gender, conflict studies, digitalisation, identities and employment studies, sociology students gain a critical global perspective on a variety of social issues.

There has been a strong tradition of sociological education at Trinity since the 1960s. The department is committed to advancing the understanding of society and to igniting the passion of our students through exceptional teaching and research.

# PPES at a Glance

	<b>YEAR 1</b> 6 modules — 60 credits All 4 PPES disciplines	<b>YEAR 2</b> 6 modules — 60 credits Choose 3 PPES disciplines	<b>YEAR 3</b> 6 modules — 60 credits Choose 2 PPES disciplines	<b>YEAR 4</b> Modules to the value of 60 credits, Choose 1 or 2 PPES disciplines
Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central problems in philosophy</li> <li>History of philosophy I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logic, language and science</li> <li>History of philosophy II</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political philosophy</li> <li>Topics in analytic philosophy</li> <li>Moral philosophy</li> <li>Philosophy of religion</li> <li>Logic and philosophy</li> <li>Topics in continental philosophy</li> <li>Metaphysics</li> <li>Philosophy of mind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ancient philosophy</li> <li>Metaphysics</li> <li>Philosophy of language</li> <li>Epistemology</li> <li>Post-Kantian philosophy</li> <li>Philosophy dissertation</li> <li>General paper</li> <li>Early modern philosophy of language</li> <li>Neurophilosophy</li> <li>Analytic philosophy of time</li> </ul>
Political Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to political science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History of political thought</li> <li>International relations</li> <li>Comparative politics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research methods for political scientists</li> <li>Irish politics</li> <li>Democracy and development</li> <li>European Union politics</li> <li>Government and politics of the USA</li> <li>Political Violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contemporary political theories</li> <li>Chinese politics</li> <li>Issues in contemporary politics</li> <li>Contemporary international relations</li> <li>African politics</li> <li>Topics in political science</li> <li>The politics of policy-making</li> </ul>
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to economics</li> <li>Mathematics and statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate economics</li> <li>Mathematics and statistical methods</li> <li>Economy of Ireland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic analysis</li> <li>Money and banking</li> <li>The European economy</li> <li>Economics of less developed countries</li> <li>Investment analysis</li> <li>Economics of policy issues</li> <li>Industrial economics</li> <li>Mathematical economics</li> <li>Econometrics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World economy</li> <li>Economic of financial markets</li> <li>Applied economics</li> <li>International economics</li> <li>Quantitative methods</li> <li>Economic theory</li> <li>Economic and legal aspects of competition</li> <li>Economics dissertation</li> <li>Development economics</li> </ul>
Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to sociology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender, work and family</li> <li>Social Theory</li> <li>Introduction to social research</li> <li>Power, state and social movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Race, ethnicity and identity</li> <li>Globalisation and development</li> <li>Researching society</li> <li>Comparative sociology of Europe</li> <li>Social stratification and inequalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict studies</li> <li>Dissertation</li> <li>Digital lives and social networks</li> <li>Labour markets, gender and institutions</li> <li>Migration, mobilities and integration</li> </ul>

\*Note: Module options are subject to change, see [www.tcd.ie/ssp/undergraduate/ppes/](http://www.tcd.ie/ssp/undergraduate/ppes/) for additional details.

# Degree Options in PPES

PPES is an extremely flexible degree which allows gradual specialisation over the course of the four-year programme. Ten different degree options are available across the disciplines of philosophy, political science, economics and sociology. Students have a great deal of choice and flexibility in shaping their degree pathway. For example in third year you could opt to take both economics and philosophy or both political science and sociology or any combination of these four disciplines. In all cases students graduate with a *B.A. (Moderatorship) in Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology*.

---

## Single Honors

---

- Philosophy
- Political science
- Economics
- Sociology

---

## Joint Honors

---

- Philosophy and economics
- Philosophy and political science
- Philosophy and sociology
- Political science and economics
- Political science and sociology
- Economics and sociology

---

## The PPES Disciplines

The concept behind the PPES programme is that in order to understand social and human phenomena we must approach them from several complementary disciplinary directions and analytical frameworks. For example political decisions often concern economic matters, and government decisions are often influenced by economic events.

## Course Structure and Assessment

Most PPES modules are examined through a combination of continuous assessment and formal examination.

Trinity's PPES degree gives students an exceptional opportunity to join a vibrant community spanning four interrelated disciplines within the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy - where the PPES degree finds its home. In the first three years students take six modules with approximately three teaching hours per week including tutorial classes in each. In the final year there is a reduction in the number of modules taken to recognise the greater commitment to independent work.

---

### YEAR 1

---

In first year all students take the same modules ensuring that they receive a core grounding in the four PPES disciplines. After this students can adjust their discipline and module choices to reflect their academic strengths, interests and emerging career aspirations.

---

### YEAR 2

---

Students choose to continue studying three of the PPES disciplines, selecting two modules from each discipline.

---

### YEAR 3

---

Students begin to specialise in depth in two of the PPES disciplines, selecting from an increasingly rich and diverse range of modules. In third year, many students have the opportunity to study abroad at distinguished universities around the world such as Sciences Po in Paris, Queensland University of Technology and Istanbul's Boğaziçi University.

---

### YEAR 4

---

Students may either continue with two disciplines or choose to specialise only in one. Students pursuing single honor degree programmes can undertake an undergraduate dissertation (mandatory for philosophy and sociology), and all fourth year modules have elements of project work intended to help develop independent enquiry and research skills.

---

“ I found the initial broad subject range extremely useful as it meant I could gain an overview of the social sciences and obtain experience in various different fields before specialising in the later years.”

**Alan Walshe,**  
PPES GRADUATE

“ Studying PPES has made me look at the world in new ways, and has given me analytical and critical thinking skills that have stood to me in diverse positions, both in postgraduate education and employment, thereafter.”

**Eleanor Friel,**  
PPES GRADUATE

“ You can choose from a number of great international universities where you can spend a year or semester abroad. I studied in the University of Copenhagen taking masters level classes in international ethics and peace and conflict studies.”

**Rebecca Kilbane,**  
PPES GRADUATE

## Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

From a career perspective Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide. Many PPES graduates have gone on to postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and at other leading universities around the world such as University College London, the University of Edinburgh and the College of Europe.

PPES students develop exceptional problem solving and critical thinking skills which are highly sought after by employers. PPES students also develop insights and expertise, across a range of disciplines, which enable them to pursue careers in fields as varied as management, research, teaching, journalism, international affairs, public policy and public service. The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations across the globe where PPES graduates work:



The Institute of International and European Affairs



## How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for the PPES programme please visit: [www.tcd.ie/study](http://www.tcd.ie/study)

School of Social Sciences  
and Philosophy

School Office, Room 3023,  
Arts Building, Trinity College  
Dublin, Dublin 2.

+353 1 896 1840  
[www.tcd.ie/courses/ppes](http://www.tcd.ie/courses/ppes)  
[ppes@tcd.ie](mailto:ppes@tcd.ie)