

School of Social Sciences  
and Philosophy

# Sociology – Undergraduate Degree Programmes



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

[www.tcd.ie/sociology](http://www.tcd.ie/sociology)

# Department of Sociology

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and is ranked 1st in Ireland and in the top 40 in Europe for Sociology (2014 QS World University Subject Rankings).

Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a vibrant and cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

There has been a rich tradition of sociological education at Trinity College 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. It has an active research programme and is recognised internationally for its work on migration, conflict, education and employment.

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## Why Study Sociology?

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If you are curious about people and society then Sociology is the course for you. Sociology provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the rapidly changing nature of contemporary society. With core themes such as migration, race and gender, conflict studies, digitalisation, identities and employment studies, you will gain a critical global perspective on a variety of social issues.

You will also learn invaluable analytical, communication, research and presentation skills – transferrable skills which can be applied to a wide range of careers and postgraduate programmes.

# Undergraduate Programmes

Sociology at Trinity may be studied through the following four degree programmes:

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## Business, Economic and Social Studies (BESS)

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Provides a broad-based education in business and the social sciences combined with the opportunity to specialise solely in Sociology or to combine with the study of Business, Economics or Political Science. It is a uniquely flexible programme where, after a common first year, students can adjust their course options to reflect their academic strengths, interests and emerging career aspirations.

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

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Brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the social and human world, developing skills relevant to a wide range of future careers and activities. There is a gradual specialisation over the course of the degree with students ultimately having the option to just study Sociology or to combine with Philosophy, Political Science or Economics.

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## Sociology and Social Policy

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Combines social theory and research with the exploration of social policy. Students take more Sociology courses than BESS or PPES students, especially in the early years. The degree is particularly relevant to students intending to pursue a career in research, social policy analysis and evaluation, management and planning within the social services.

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## Two Subject Moderatorship (TSM)

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Allows students to study two arts subjects to degree level with advanced specialisation in one or both subjects depending on their course choices. The TSM programme offers a choice of 15 subjects which complement the study of Sociology such as History, Psychology, Geography and a range of languages.

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## What our students say:

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“The continual thought-provoking debate we had in sociology tutorials kept me constantly assessing and re-assessing almost everything I encountered in society.”

**Hannah Popham,**

TSM SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE 2013

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“I found that the final year dissertation was invaluable in terms of enabling the student to create an original piece of research and develop core research skills.”

**Elizabeth Hayes,**

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY GRADUATE 2012

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“I came to Trinity planning to study economics, however I found the senior freshman modules in sociology so fascinating that I decided to change to single honours sociology.”

**Peter Robert Gardner,**

BESS GRADUATE 2012

# Study Abroad

In third year, approximately one third of Sociology students participate in Erasmus and non-EU international exchanges at distinguished universities around the world. Opportunities for full-year or half-year exchanges are available in countries such as France, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Australia, Singapore, China, Canada and the USA.

# Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide and from a career perspective Sociology opens up a wide range of opportunities. Many Sociology 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, Kings College London, the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh.

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, non-governmental organisations, management, and advisory roles in the public service.

The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations where Sociology graduates work:



# How to Apply

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

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