



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
COLÁISTE NA TRÍONÓIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF DUBLIN



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Tutorial Support

As well as attending small group tutorials in each subject students are also assigned an academic tutor to assist them during their four years as an undergraduate student.

Applying for TR083 (BA in Sociology / Social Policy)

The course is offered by the School of Social Work and Social Policy in conjunction with the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The course number for CAO applications is TR083. There are 28 places available each year, 20 for school leavers and 8 for mature students. The points level for entry in recent years has ranged between 425 to 445.

*School leavers applying for TR083 are selected by points in the normal way.

*Mature student applicants apply both to the CAO and to Trinity College Admissions Office before February 1st of the year of entry and are selected by interview in March/April.

Sources of Further Information

Trinity College Dublin
www.tcd.ie

Admissions and Entry Requirements

Admissions Office,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 8964444
Email: admissions@tcd.ie

BA Sociology and Social Policy Degree

School of Social Work and Social Policy,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 8962001
Fax: 01 6712262
Email: socpol@tcd.ie
www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie/undergraduate/

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Trinity College
Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 896 2499
www.social-phil.tcd.ie

Bachelor in Sociology and Social Policy TR 083





Aims and Objectives

The degree in Sociology and Social Policy combines the study of social theory, social policy and social research. It is particularly relevant to those wishing to pursue a career in management, planning and evaluation within the social services field, as well as to those with a general interest in society and social policy.

The fundamental aim of the degree programme is to give students a thorough training in the systematic study of society and its social issues. Sociology seeks to describe and explain social behaviour by imparting a range of relevant theories and techniques. Social policy is the analytical study of the use of political power to supersede, supplant, supplement, or modify operations of the economic system in order to achieve results which the economic system would not achieve on its own. The two academic subjects are closely interrelated and have in common a questioning of everyday perspectives and explanations. They also share a range of particular research methods. An essential objective of the programme is to equip students with research skills, in order that they can both critically interpret existing research and conduct their own. Social research is the foundation for the scientific understanding of social phenomena. This programme introduces students to the theory and methods of social research. Students can expect to learn the entire process for conducting social research and evaluating the research conducted by others.

Course activities involve library research, practical assignments that lead to the development of a research project, and communicating about research with other students in the class. In the third and fourth year, students conduct a substantial research project.

The degree aims to give students a wide-ranging knowledge of society and social structure in Ireland, contemporary Europe and the developing world by drawing on a variety of social themes and perspectives. At the end of four years, you should have developed both a general sociological understanding and specific expertise in various contemporary social issues.

You will also have acquired essential research and analytical skills and will have practised these in undertaking your undergraduate dissertation. These should be relevant to work in a wide range of contemporary employments when you graduate.

Social Policy is an interdisciplinary and applied subject concerned with the analysis of societies' responses to social problems - for example crime, poverty, homelessness, employment, migration. It seeks to foster in students a capacity to understand theory and evidence drawn from a wide range of social science disciplines, including economics, sociology, psychology, philosophy and political science. Social Policy is focused on those aspects of the economy, society and polity that are necessary to human existence and the means by which they can be provided.

These basic human needs include: food and shelter; a sustainable and safe environment; the promotion of health and treatment of the sick; the care and support of those unable to live a fully independent life; the education and training of individuals to a level that enables them fully to participate in their society.

Sociology is an attempt to understand how society works. The basic ideas of sociology are: that human life is social life, composed of relationships and interaction between people and groups; that everything we think or do, and the relationships we form, are related to the social groupings within which we live, work and play; and that these social groupings can be studied and understood in a systematic fashion.

BA (Sociology and Social Policy) Course Structure

The degree is structured so that the first two years are comprised largely of general and foundation modules and the second two years of specialist modules in Sociology and Social Policy. In the third and fourth year students complete a dissertation as well as a prescribed number of modules. Students have a degree of choice in their modules, and have the opportunity to study abroad under the college's Erasmus programme.

Year 1

Introductory modules in Sociology, Social Policy, Political Science, Economic Policy and two out of the following optional modules: Introduction to Law; Introduction to Psychology; Math/Statistics; Introduction to Central, Eastern European and Russian Area Studies; or a language module (French, German, Russian, Polish)

Year 2

Introduction to Social Research; Irish Social Policy (Crime, Health, Housing, Social Security); The Economy of Ireland or The Economics of Public Policy. Two other modules from European societies and Gender culture and society in Sociology, and a range of modules in Political Science, Law and Economics.

Students may replace one of the optional modules with a Broad Curriculum module (BC)

Year 3

Researching Society; Social Theory; Comparative Welfare States. Three other modules from Globalisation and development in Sociology; Crime and Family modules in Social Policy and a range of modules in Political Science, Law and Economics.

Students may choose to study abroad under the Erasmus Programme in the third year.

Year 4

Poverty, Inequality and Redistribution; and two modules from: Economic Sociology of Europe; Gender and Popular culture; Conflict Resolution, Governmentality, Ireland; Ageing and Dementia.

Final year students also do a thesis on a topic of their choice.