

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
School of Social Work and Social Policy

Sociology and Social Policy (TR083)



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

www.tcd.ie/sociology

Trinity College Dublin

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 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.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education. Students learn from inspiring academics who are world leaders in their field. And to help ensure students get the most out of their time at Trinity they are assigned a tutor to provide personal and academic support.

Student life at Trinity College is about so much more than education — with over 200 sports clubs and societies ranging from athletics to tennis, debating to investing and from drama to science fiction there is something to suit every interest.

Why Choose the Sociology and Social Policy Programme?

Curious about social and economic policy issues around the world? Searching for a course that demands both academic and vocational qualities? Interested in understanding society, its social problems and have a desire to make a difference? Then Sociology and Social Policy may be the degree for you. It is a unique programme, jointly delivered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy and the School of Social Work and Social Policy, which combines the study of social theory, social policy and social research.

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, both voluntary and statutory, as well as to those with a general interest in society and social policy.



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 in life? Do state rules and regulations represent and protect elite power?

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 and is committed to advancing the understanding of society and to igniting the passion of its students through exceptional teaching and research.

Degree Overview

The degree aims to give students a wide-ranging knowledge of **society**, social structure and social policy in Ireland. At the end of four years, **students will develop** both a general sociological understanding and specific expertise in various contemporary **social issues**.

Students will also acquire key skills in analysis and research and **will practise** these in undertaking their undergraduate Capstone Project.

Social Policy

Social Policy is relevant to all of our lives – it could be described as the water we swim in! As an academic discipline, social policy entails the study of those social relations shaping human welfare and analysis of the means by which governments protect citizens through the formation of social policy, delivery of services and management of social problems. The School of Social Work and Social Policy consists of a community of scholars from related social science disciplines bound together by a common interest in policy issues. The School is committed to ensuring high quality and relevant curriculum that responds to new social and economic developments, reflects robust evidence, and is infused with scholarly vigour, in order to equip graduates for challenges they will face both as professionals and as citizens.

Course Structure and Assessment

The subjects studied include general social science disciplines such as economics and politics and **specialist areas** such as family policy, welfare policy and criminology. The first and second years are more general and foundational in nature, while the **third and fourth years will focus more specifically** on sociology and social policy. A strength of the course is that it explores these issues in a genuinely comparative context. Teaching methods include lectures, seminars and group project work. Assessment is by a combination of continuous assessment, class presentations and written examinations.

“From the first lecture, the role of Social Policy in poverty and inequality was made clear. I learned to question everything I had known or had passed me unnoticed. These analytical skills would later allow me to influence policymaking at the highest levels. Studying Social Policy in Trinity opened up opportunities beyond imagination in giving me a world-class education from lecturers who continue to support me long after I graduated.”

Laura Bambrick,
Sociology and Social Policy Graduate

“Sociology and Social Policy is the ideal course for someone who is passionate about social issues and curious to learn. Its unique blend of theory and policy gave me a greater awareness and understanding of a range of contemporary issues, from poverty inequality to conflict resolution.

Julianne Flynn
Sociology and Social Policy Graduate

Careers and Postgraduate Opportunities

Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide. Many Sociology and Social Policy graduates have gone onto postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and other leading universities around the world such as Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh.

The Sociology and Social Policy degree is particularly relevant for those interested in pursuing a career in the formulation of policy in the public service, community development and voluntary/non-profit sectors. Students also develop exceptional analytical and research skills and a solid education in issues – such as gender, migration, the labour market, poverty, homelessness, families and ageing – which can be applied to real-world problems, opening up opportunities in fields such journalism, policy analysis, education and research.

Our graduates’ work in a range of organisations including Focus Ireland, Web Summit, Department of Social Protection, the Health Service Executive, the Migrant Rights Centre, Economic and Social Research Institute.



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for the Sociology and Social Policy Programme please visit: www.tcd.ie/study

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and Philosophy

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

+353 1 896 1840
socpol@tcd.ie
www.tcd.ie/sociology