The MSc Comparative Social Change is a one year full time programme which is jointly delivered by the UCD School of Sociology and the Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin. It provides students with the theoretical frameworks and practical research skills necessary to understand the processes and pressing issues presented by global social change, and with the skills to critically explore the social, cultural and economic forces that drive social change today.

The programme aims to develop students’ knowledge of major social change issues, such as globalisation, the changing roles of women and the interrelated areas of migration, education and employment, and to offer insights into the different forms they take across states. The MSc uses the recent experience of Irish social change in a comparative European and global context to provide training in substantive topics relating to issues of comparative social change.

The programme provides advanced training in conceptualising, designing and conducting comparative research, across countries, and examines the role that this can play in policy development.

A strong International Focus

The MSc has a strong international dimension drawing on rich and informative experiences from Ireland, Europe and further afield particularly India, China and Brazil (BRICs).

Course Content and Structure

Core modules:
- Research Methods
- Globalisation and Social Change: India, China and Brazil
- Introduction to Comparative Social Change: Concepts and Cases

You must also choose from the list of modules below:
- Race, Ethnicity and Education in Europe and North America
- Migration, Labour and Conflict
- Gender and Social Change in a Comparative Context
- Everyday Nationhood in Comparative Perspective
- Economic Globalisation and Social Change
- Comparing Healthcare Systems

Why study at UCD?

Tradition
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

Global profile
UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide

Global community
Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD

Global careers
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa for Non-EU students

Safety
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre
Keytelynne Radde
US, Student

The specialist sociology masters programme in UCD challenged me in new ways and was really very interesting. It’s helped me to further develop and hone my academic skills, as well as learn new things about myself and my learning style. I also liked that while there were set and required classes, I was also able to choose other classes that fit with my interests and what I would like to do after graduate school.

Even though UCD is a large campus with a very large student body, it is easy to contact and meet with academic faculty. Every lecturer I’ve ever asked to see outside of class has been accommodating and accessible. I also love the culture and all of the opportunities being in Ireland has provided me with. I’ve had amazing opportunities for travel, meeting people, playing sport, and many other opportunities that I would never have had without coming to Ireland.