



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

MA Political Theory (One Year Full Time)

Studying Political Theory means reflecting on and evaluating political activity and institutions. Such systematic thinking about politics is indispensable to understanding and participating in the life of our own state and a newly global world. Students examine the moral dimension of politics, exploring concepts such as justice, freedom, inequality, democratic participation and issues such as human rights, immigration, and climate change; informed by both contemporary political thinkers and the history of political thought. Students also investigate

more immediate policy issues of concern to governments, the media, civil society groups and individual citizens. Students acquire the ability to uncover creative ways forward in situations of conflict, inequality and global change. A wide range of specialisations are available to enable students to select areas where they wish to develop their expertise. The course structure offers students the option to undertake an internship to develop their professional skills.

Oldest and largest School of its kind in Ireland

UCD School of Politics and International Relations is the oldest and largest school of its kind in Ireland, with staff drawn from many countries.

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



Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

90 credits
taught masters

60 credits
taught modules

30 credits
dissertation

or

30 credits
internship

Core modules include:

- Theory of Human Rights
- Poverty, Development and Global Justice
- International Political Theory
- Dissertation Design

Optional modules (two to be chosen):

- Law, Liberty & the State
- Autonomy as a Philosophical Problem
- The Good Society
- Living Well: Aristotle's Ethics & Politics

Sample optional modules (one to be chosen):

- Disability and Equality
- Immigration and Asylum Law
- Theories of International Relations
- Rethinking Security
- International Political Economy
- Ethnicity and Conflict
- Comparative Public Policy
- Northern Ireland
- Politics of Human Rights

In order to develop professional skills, a selected number of MA students may complete an internship in lieu of a dissertation.





Career Opportunities

Graduates work with a wide variety of international private-sector employers, government agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in roles such as: academics, policy analysts, diplomats, lawyers, journalists.



Recent graduates of UCD School of Politics & International Relations now work in: UK Foreign Office, US State Department, Irish Civil Service, University College London, and University of Melbourne.

Graduate Profile

Rhona Gaynor, Project Manager, Civil Service, Ireland

After graduating from UCD with an MA in Political Theory, Rhona completed an MPA in Public Policy and Management in London School of Economics and Political Science.

The MA in Political Theory provided a fantastic education in ethics, citizenship, social justice, and, most importantly, critical thinking. Through a programme of challenging, provocative, and diverse courses – including 'The Political Theory of Violence', 'Contemporary Debates in Citizenship' and 'Poverty, Development and Global Justice' – the MA provided me with core skills that continue to shape and influence my thinking. Through the process of participating in seminars and developing my final thesis, I was both challenged and supported to look at old problems in new ways, express complex ideas clearly and build strong, logical, and original arguments. I highly recommend this course, and if given the opportunity, would take it again tomorrow.

Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/international/apply

Entry Requirements

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in political science, philosophy, law, international relations, sociology, history, geography, economics, public policy, development studies. An upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required.
- Your application will be considered on its individual merits and relevant professional experience will also be taken into account.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships for further information.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MA/MSc Politics
- MSc International Relations
- MA Philosophy and Public Affairs
- Master in Public Policy

Contact Us

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