



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil na hEolaíochta Polaitiúla
agus na Socheolaíochta
School of Political Science
and Sociology

Your Guide to Postgraduate Programmes

School of Political Science and Sociology



University
of Galway.ie

Postgraduate programmes offered by the School of Sociology and Political Science:

MA, PDip (Child, Youth and Community)

MA (Gender, Globalisation and Rights)

MA (Public Policy)

MA (Social Work)

Thinking about furthering your studies?

Learn more about our offerings, people and
opportunities by scanning the QR code below.



MA, PDip (Child, Youth and Community)

Introduction

The MA, PDip in Child, Youth and Community is designed for professionals already working in, or for those aspiring to work in, the community, voluntary or public sector. Professionals involved in the delivery of services to children, young people and communities are increasingly required by funders and central government to provide scientific, robust evidence to measure the social impact of these interventions. Graduates of this programme will develop a specialist skill set in rights-based programme planning and evaluation that responds to current needs of the sector.

Why choose this programme?

This programme gives you the opportunity to study with the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre and is delivered over one year full-time or two years part-time through a blended-learning format. Upon completion, you are equipped for careers in community development, youth work, family support, advocacy, policy and programme evaluation roles across public and voluntary sectors.

Entry Requirements

A NQAI Level 8 degree, Second Class Honours, or equivalent, with a 2:1 in child, youth and family studies, sociology, psychology or a cognate discipline.

Where applicants do not meet the formal academic requirements they can apply for entry through the University's Recognition for Prior Learning Policy.



Core Modules

- Families, Children and Young People: Sociological Perspectives and Policy Issues
- Programme Planning and Evaluation
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Community Development and Community Organising
- Research Methods and Methodology
- Research Workshop

Option Modules

- Professional Experience
- Field-Based Learning
- Working with Specific Populations
- Applied Gender Analysis
- Social and Political Context of Activism and Advocacy



Contact Us

Dr Danielle Kennan

E danielle.kennan@universityofgalway.ie

T 091 495 731

MA (Gender, Globalisation and Rights)

Introduction

The MA in Gender, Globalisation and Rights will equip you with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to identify and address the gender dimensions of timely issues including, for example: extreme poverty and global inequalities, human trafficking, violence against women, disease pandemics, war and conflict and politicized religious movements.

Why choose this programme?

This distinctive programme offers a critical understanding of global policies and norms related to development, human rights, and conflict, peace and security, making it ideal for those aiming to engage with pressing international challenges. A key highlight is the 6–8 week work placement, where you will gain experience with a partner organisation. Graduates are well-prepared for impactful careers in NGOs, research institutes, foundations, media, government bodies and international organisations, equipped with both the knowledge and practical skills to drive meaningful change.

Entry Requirements

A Level 8 degree with upper Second Class Honours (2.1), or better, in a primary degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent international qualification.

Publications and/or professional experience may be considered if the formal requirements are not completely satisfied.



Core Modules

- Feminist and Gender Theorising I: Key concepts in context
- Feminist and Gender Theorising II: Issues and Debates in Contemporary Feminism
- Research Paper
- Research Methods & Methodology
- Gender, Women and Human Rights
- Gender Perspectives on Globalisation
- Research Workshops

Option Modules

- Women, Conflict and Human Security
- Applied Gender Analyses
- Engaged Research Practice: Women in Agriculture
- Development and Human Rights
- Field-Based Learning
- Professional Experience
- Social and Political Context of Activism and Advocacy



Contact Us

Professor Nata Duvvury

E nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie

T 091 495 399

MA (Public Policy)

Introduction

The MA in Public Policy is designed for graduates who want to make a meaningful impact locally and globally by shaping public decisions and driving positive change. This programme will prepare you to work in government, public bodies, civil society organisations, NGOs, international organisations, businesses and other organisations that require an expert understanding of policymaking, administration and governance. In addition to core policy and research training modules, you will experience first-hand how EU policies are shaped.

Why choose this programme?

This programme equips you with the skills and insights to shape public decision-making at national and international levels. Our graduates are in high demand across government, NGOs, international organisations and the private sector. Ranked among the top 300 in the world for Politics and International Studies in the 2025 QS World University Rankings, the programme offers both academic excellence and practical experience.

Entry Requirements

A Bachelor's Degree in political science/politics, social sciences, economics, law or cognate disciplines, passing with the mark 2:1 (minimum).



Core Modules

- Public Policy and Politics
- Policy Challenges: National, European and Global
- Research Workshops
- Research Paper
- Public Policy Seminar
- Research Methods & Methodology

Option Modules

- Imprisonment & Rights
- Advocacy and Access to Justice
- Families and Children in Society and Policy
- Environmental Economic Modelling
- Global Issues in Agricultural, Marine and Renewable Energy Economics
- Women, Conflict and Human Security
- Applied Gender Analyses
- Urban Public Policy: Smart & Liveable Cities
- Field-based Learning
- Conflict, Peace and Security



Contact Us

Dr Evans Fanoulis

E evans.fanoulis@universityofgalway.ie

T 091 492 297

(September 2026 - December 2026)



Dr Bernadine Brady

E bernadine.brady@universityofgalway.ie

T 091 495 759

(January 2027 - June 2027)

MA (Social Work)

Introduction

The MA in Social Work at University of Galway prepares you for a meaningful career supporting individuals, families and communities to change. Through a dynamic mix of theory and practical experience, you'll develop the critical thinking, adaptability and values-driven skills needed to tackle social challenges.

Why choose this programme?

This fully accredited programme, recognised by CORU, the regulatory body for social work in Ireland, offers a strong foundation for a career in social work. As a graduate, you will be well-prepared for a wide range of roles across the social work, care, health and criminal justice sectors. The programme includes two supervised work placements in diverse practice settings, providing invaluable experience. With a strong focus on practice-based learning, the course blends academic theory with hands-on training, equipping you with the professional skills and confidence needed to work effectively with people and make a positive and meaningful impact in people's lives by working together.

Entry Requirements

Level 8 undergraduate degree with a minimum Second Class Honours, Grade 2 (2.2) or BSc in Social Sciences or other relevant qualifications deemed equivalent by the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies. Prior relevant work experience is compulsory (this must equate to 3 months/480 hours).



Year One

- Counselling in Social Work
- Theory and Social Work I
- Methods of Social Work
- Support and Protection across the Lifecourse
- Social Policy
- Mental Health and Applied Law
- Placement I
- Research Methods

Year Two

- Social Work, Law and Human Rights
- Contemporary Social Issues
- Social Work, Supervision, Management & Administration in a Culturally Diverse Setting
- Theory and Social Work II
- Criminal Justice System, Probation & Social Work
- Research Dissertation
- Placement II



Contact Us

Dr Declan Coogan

E declanp.coogan@universityofgalway.ie

T 091 495 373

WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY



I entered this programme with a strong foundation, but it took my thinking to an entirely new level. It pushed me to question more deeply, engage more critically with diverse perspectives, and sharpen my articulation of complex global issues. The teaching is dynamic and inclusive, with lecturers who actively centre diverse voices and global perspectives, including a strong presence of scholarship from the Global South. This approach expands conversations and deepens understanding, broadening the scope of learning and bringing global issues into sharper, more nuanced focus. This meant I always felt encouraged to share my perspective. I felt consistently supported throughout because the programme is thoughtfully structured to strengthen essential skills and build confidence, especially for those returning to academic study, making the learning process genuinely rewarding.

- Nomasiko Nyathi,
MA Gender, Globalisation and Rights Graduate

My experience while studying the MA in Social Work programme at the University of Galway has been both transformative and deeply rewarding. The course equipped me not only with a solid theoretical foundation but also with extensive practical learning opportunities that significantly enhanced my skills and confidence in working with diverse populations. Engaging with complex social issues deepened my understanding of human rights, social justice, and the crucial role of advocacy in promoting positive change. The support I received throughout the programme was exceptional. Faculty members were consistently approachable, offering invaluable guidance and encouragement. Moreover, the collaborative atmosphere among students fostered a strong sense of community and mutual support, greatly enriching my learning experience over the two years of study. I would highly recommend this programme to anyone passionate about making a positive difference in people's lives.

- Nisarg Nagwadia
MA Social Work Graduate





For me, the MA in Child, Youth and Community was everything I had expected and more. It challenged me, but the lecturers encouraged and supported me through those challenges. Every module in this course was delivered by someone who is truly passionate about the topic and the class environment always allowed for discussions and voicing my opinion. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to study this course and look forward to applying all that I learned in my work.

- Edward Doheny,
MA Child, Youth and Community Graduate

A key component of the MA in Public Policy is the opportunity to complete a dissertation, engaging in sustained independent research in a subject area of personal and academic interest. The balance between working closely with an academic supervisor and self-autonomy was instrumental in strengthening my analytical, writing, and critical-thinking skills. This experience has been central to academic development and policy analysis abilities for long-term career advancement.

As I have now completed the programme, I strongly encourage this course to any future potential candidates. It is particularly rewarding due to the combination of theoretical grounding and practical policy application. A supportive academic environment, alongside opportunities for independent research, makes it an intellectually stimulating and enriching experience. I would highly recommend the programme to anyone interested in public policy, as it fosters critical thinking, deepens subject knowledge, and provides a strong foundation for future career progression.

- Caoimhe Mc Cauley
MA Public Policy Graduate



Find out more

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University of Galway
E sopsas@universityofgalway.ie

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