



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

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

Your Guide to Undergraduate Programmes

School of Political Science and Sociology



University
of Galway.ie

Explore your path



GY101 Bachelor of Arts

(Joint-Honours) in Sociological
and Political Studies

GY123 Bachelor of Science

(Social Sciences and Sustainability)

GY132 Bachelor of Arts Government

(Politics, Economics and Law)

GY137 Bachelor of Arts

(Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice)

Thinking about studying one of the programmes listed above?

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



GY101 Bachelor of Arts (Joint-Honours) in Sociological and Political Studies

Introduction

The BA (Joint Honours) in Sociological and Political Studies explores how society and politics shape our everyday lives. This engaging degree helps you understand key social and political issues, from inequality and identity to power, policy and global change. You will develop critical thinking and research skills valued across sectors, from public service and journalism to advocacy and international development. You'll also have opportunities for study abroad and learning experiences that prepare you for impactful careers.

What will you study?

This programme introduces basic concepts in political science and sociology, Irish society and politics, political sociology, political and social theory, social science research methods and computer skills, European society and politics, public policy, environmental sociology, and development theories and practice. You are also facilitated in choosing a specialist interest from a range of special topics.

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/ H7 in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



Contact Us

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Year 1

- Introduction to Politics
- Introduction to Sociology
- Practicing Politics
- Practicing Sociology
- Problems in Politics & Sociology

1



Year 2

- Politics and Society: Themes and Topics
- European Politics
- Social Issues and Policy Responses
- Sociology of Health
- International and Global Politics
- Society and Politics: Ideas and Research
- Methods for Social and Political Science
- Modern Political Thought
- Classical Social Thought

2



Year 3/Final

- Development and Change
- Thinking Politically: The Power of Ideas
- Politics of Peace and Conflict
- Equality, Diversity & Collective Action
- Care, Power and Information
- Comparative Government and Politics
- Contemporary Social Thought
- Youth and Society
- Contemporary American Politics
- Political Liberty

* All elective modules are subject to change

Study

Abroad Option:

Choose to study the BA International and complete the programme across 4 years and spend year 3 abroad!

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GY123 Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences and Sustainability)

Introduction

Are you curious about how the world works and how you can make it better? The BSc in Social Sciences and Sustainability gives you the tools to understand complex societal issues and drive meaningful change. Explore diverse disciplines, gain real-world experience and become a future leader in shaping society.

What will you study?

This interdisciplinary programme offers a dynamic blend of theory and practice across the social sciences. In the early years, you'll build a strong foundation in sociology, political science, geography, economics, and digital skills. As you progress, you'll engage with world issues through research methods, a European fieldtrip, and applied learning.

Entry Requirements

Leaving Certificate: Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 to include Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



Contact Us

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Year 1

- Introduction to the Study of the Social Sciences
- Practicing Sociology & Politics
- Introduction to Economic Policy
- Principles of Human and Physical Geography
- Geography in Practice
- Digital Citizenship
- Digital Skills for the Social Sciences

1

Year 2

In addition to further developing your critical understanding of key areas of the Social Sciences, you will focus on problem-centred learning. You will undertake research method courses aimed at understanding social scientific research and how it contributes to tackling current societal challenges and learn how to use social scientific technology tools such as GIS. Year 2 also involves a significant European fieldtrip in Semester 2.

2

Final 4

You will select modules within your preferred career pathway. In addition, you are paired with an experienced academic supervisor to design and develop an independent research project, with a strong focus on publishing your completed work. The four indicative study pathways offered in this final year are:

- Environmental Social Studies
- Culture, Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- Politics, Society and Identity
- Communities, Engagement and Development

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Year 3

You will undertake a significant work-based semester-long internship. You may avail of a wide range of existing placement opportunities or seek your own tailored to your preferred career or further educational pathways. You will also undertake the Professional Skills and Pathways module to prepare you for this work internship and your future careers, and several additional modules such as a Government fieldtrip; The Live Arts Event; Policymaking, Lobbying, and Advocacy; and Development & Change.

3

GY132 Bachelor of Arts Government (Politics, Economics and Law)

Introduction

The BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law) at University of Galway offers you the chance to explore how politics, economics and law shape our world. This dynamic degree equips you with the skills to understand and influence public policy, preparing you for careers in local and national government, business, voluntary and non-governmental organisations, the EU, UN and global development agencies. Engage in real-world experiences through study abroad or work placements and build a foundation for a meaningful career.

What will you study?

In the first year, you will take an equal number of modules in each of the three disciplines (Politics 20 ECTS, Economics 20 ECTS, Law 20 ECTS). From the second year onwards, you will select one of the disciplines to major in, and the other two core subjects will be your minors. You will take 30 ECTS for a major in years 2 and 4, and 15 ECTS for each minor).

The third year of the course will consist of a semester-long work placement or study abroad, and/or core and complementary study options. The modules listed are subject to change.

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 level in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



Contact Us

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Year 1

- Introduction to Politics
- Practicing Politics
- Introduction to Government
- Practicing Government
- Principles of Micro and Macro Economics
- Skills for Economics
- Tort Law
- Irish Legal Systems
- Legal Skills

1

Year 2

- International and Global Politics
- European Politics
- Methods for Social and Political Science
- Modern Political Thought
- Intermediate Micro and Macro Economics
- Mathematics and Statistics for Economics
- Legal Methods and Research
- Contract Law
- Constitutional Law
- Financial Economics
- Economics of Public Policy
- Irish Economic History
- Housing Law and Policy
- Environmental Law
- Introduction to Policy Making

2

Final 4

- Political Liberty
- Contemporary American Politics
- Contemporary African Politics
- Thinking Politically
- Government and Public Policy
- Public Economics
- Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Health Economics
- Administrative Law
- European Union Law
- Criminal Law

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Year 3

- Study Abroad
- Work Placement
- Professional Skills for Government and Policy
- Policymaking, Lobbying and Advocacy
- Government Field Trip
- Introduction to Sustainability
- Green Political Thought
- Governing the Poor
- Perspectives on Government

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3rd year consists of study abroad in the second semester and/or complimentary study options. The modules listed are subject to change.

GY137 Bachelor of Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice)

Introduction

If you're passionate about supporting children, young people and families to thrive, this programme is designed for you. Our BA in Child, Youth and Family Studies offers an in-depth understanding of family life and child and youth development, combined with strong foundations in sociology and political science.

What will you study?

This is a multi-disciplinary programme that examines the impact of societal developments on children, young people and families over the life course, from both national and international perspectives. You will learn about the latest policy and practice approaches in the field and gain in-depth understanding of a broad range of topics including; social justice, social inclusion, protection of vulnerable cohorts, welfare, poverty, trauma, conflict, equality and human rights, and human development.

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 level in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



Contact Us

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Dr. Helen Casey - Programme Director
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Year 1

- Introduction to Child, Youth and Family Studies
- Youth Development
- Children and Health
- Introduction to Politics
- Practising Politics
- Introduction to Sociology
- Practising Sociology
- Introduction to Economic Policy
- Community Development
- Social Research Skills
- Personal and Professional Development

1

Year 2

- Understanding Family and Society
- Youth Work Principles and Practice
- Child Protection and Welfare
- Economics of Family Policy
- Sociology of Health
- Politics and Society: Themes and Topics
- Economics of Public and Social Policy
- Methods for Social and Political Science
- Professional Development Skills
- Welfare, Rights and Policy Issues

2

Final 4

- Research, Policy and Practice
- Family Law
- Youth and Society
- Equality, Diversity and Collective Action
- Children and Young People in Families Today
- Introduction to Social Work
- Equivalent modules may be substituted for any of the above under exceptional circumstances and when approved by the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies.
- Development and Change
- Sociology of The Environment

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Year 3

- Professional Work Placement (Sept-June).
- Examples of placement settings include community, youth, education, family support or cultural organisations and government agencies.

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What Our Graduates Say



Graduating from the Bachelor of Arts (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) programme was the ultimate stepping stone for starting my Master's in Social Work. The hands-on work placement gave me invaluable practical experience, while the diverse range of modules, from child protection to family law gave me the exact foundation I needed for postgraduate study. The programme didn't just build my confidence, it opened doors I didn't even realise were there, preparing me for the next chapter in my professional journey.

- Emma Donatella
BA Child, Youth and Family Studies Graduate

The Social Sciences degree really gives you all the necessary skills and knowledge to follow your desired career pathway. The fieldtrip and work placement allows you to apply the knowledge from the classroom in a real-world context and are invaluable. The small course size also allows that extra feeling of support.

- Luke Roche
BSc Social Sciences and Sustainability Graduate



The BA Government programme has given me a strong understanding of Economics, Politics, and Law. I majored in Law in second year, which helped develop my analytical and critical thinking skills. The course also gave me the opportunity to complete a full-time work placement in Galway, preparing me for a professional office environment and the workforce after graduation.

- Gary Murtagh
BA Government (Politics, Economics and Law) Graduate

Find out more

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