



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí  
Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh  
College of Arts, Social Sciences  
& Celtic Studies

# *Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences and Sustainability)*



University  
ofGalway.ie

Explore the  
programme:



# Course Overview

- The BSc in Social Sciences and Sustainability is a four-year applied social science degree providing students with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to tackle the most pressing social, ecological, political and economic challenges of our times.
- This interdisciplinary course exposes graduates to multiple perspectives, building their capacities to respond to complex societal issues with innovative solutions that cannot be provided by one discipline alone.
- The programme focuses on the applied nature of the social sciences in order to equip students with practical research skills while also supporting career development and readiness to pursue employment and further educational opportunities in diverse fields where social science competencies are vital.
- The BSc in Social Sciences and Sustainability offers a range of internship, project and international experiences that develop students' competencies to undertake social scientific research and translate findings into action.

## Applied Learning

A distinctive feature of the BSc in Social Science and Sustainability is a strong focus on the applied nature of the social sciences, which equips students with practical skills in designing, conducting, and disseminating research. The skill set acquired by students enables them to be proactive leaders across multiple societal, cultural, economic and policy domains where interdisciplinary research ability is in demand. A semester-long work placement in Year Three provides real world experience and interactions with programme partners that enhance the employability of graduates.

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course Name:</b>           | BSc (Social Sciences)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>CAO Code:</b>              | GY123                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Course Level:</b>          | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Duration:</b>              | 4 years                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Min Entry Points 2026:</b> | 341                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Entry Requirements:</b>    | 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. |

# Course Outline

## Year One

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

## Year Two

- Introduction to Sustainability
- Research Methods for Social and Political Science
- Cooperative Learning and Group Research Methods
- Social Issues and Policy Responses
- Sociology of Health
- European Politics
- Introduction to GIS
- Theory and Practice in Geography, Climate and Sustainability
- Political and Cultural Geography: Identity, Race and the Nation
- Classical Social Thought
- Modern Political Thought

## Year Three

- Professional Skills and Pathways for Social Scientists
- Megatrends
- Work Placement for Social Scientists
- Research Placement for Social Scientists
- International Work Placement for Social Scientists
- Global Engagement
- Space, Place and the Irish Landscape
- Economics of Public and Social Policy
- Biogeography
- Development and Change
- Aimsir agus Aeráid/ Weather and Climate
- Equality, Diversity and Collective Action

## Year Four

- Research Seminar in Social Sciences
- Research Project Design and Development
- Geographical Perspectives on Rural Change
- Political Sociology
- Migration, Mobility and Belonging
- Thinking Politically: The Power of Ideas
- Contemporary American Politics
- War and Representation: Spaces and Politics of the Media
- Comparative Public Policy
- Environmental Social Studies
- Culture, Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- Politics, Society and Identity
- Communities, Engagement and Development.
- European Women's Studies
- Contemporary African Politics
- Youth and Society
- Care Power and Information
- Sociology of Environment
- Migration, Mobility and Belonging
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Critical Geographies of Children



# Further Opportunities and Career Prospects

## Career Prospects

The BSc (Social Sciences and Sustainability) prepares students for careers in government bodies from local to EU and international levels; Irish and global NGOs; community and international development; security and crime prevention; urban planning and sustainability; business and industry; human resources, marketing and public relations; journalism and media; education and social research.

## Why Study Social Sciences and Sustainability?

It allows for the synthesis of ideas from diverse disciplines and perspectives because the challenges facing all of us - whether food or energy security, clean transport or public health for example - cannot be solved by a single field of science or technology.

## Further Studies

Graduates will be eligible to apply to a range of MA programmes including the MA in Public Policy, MA in Politics and Sociology, MA in Gender Globalisation and Rights and MA in Community Youth and Family.



## Find Out More

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### Professor Frances Fahy

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Explore the  
programme:

