



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

# Take Your Studies Further



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

**MA, PDip** (Child, Youth and Community)

**MA, PDip** (Family Support Studies)

**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, with a focus on ensuring the rights of children and youth. 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 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. 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
- Gender, Sexuality and Global Health



### Contact Us

Dr Danielle Kennan

**E** [danielle.kennan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:danielle.kennan@universityofgalway.ie)

**T** +353 91 495 731

Dr Cormac Forkan

**E** [cormac.forkan@universityofgalway](mailto:cormac.forkan@universityofgalway)

# MA, PDip (Family Support Studies)

## Introduction

The Family Support programme is designed to help you deepen your knowledge and strengthen your skills as a professional working in social services. You will explore the Family Support approach to meeting the needs of children, young people, parents and communities. Through research-informed teaching, the programme equips you with a strong foundation to apply Family Support principles across diverse roles, disciplines and sectors.

## Why choose this programme?

Established in 2003, this programme is one of the few specialised courses of its kind in Europe, offering a unique opportunity to develop expertise in a growing and impactful field. As a graduate, you will be well-positioned for careers in management, frontline practice, policy development or research across both statutory and community-based services. It's the ideal choice for those looking to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of children, families and communities.

## Entry Requirements

A third-level qualification or a recognised professional qualification in a field broadly related to Family Support service delivery. Participants must have a minimum of one year work experience in health and/or social services areas. Applicants with relevant professional experience who do not meet the formal qualifications requirement may be considered for entry into the PDip in the first instance.





## Year One

- Family Support Theory I
- Family Support Practice I
- Families and Children in Society and Policy I
- Family Support with Specific Populations
- Child Protection and Family Support
- Families in Communities
- Family Support Practice Seminars
- Research Methods for the Applied Social Science

## Year Two

- Family Support Theory II
- Family Support Practice II
- Families and Children in Society and Policy II
- Family Law and Family Support
- A Public Health approach to Family Support
- Social Science Research Dissertation

### Contact Us

Dr Carmel Devaney,

**E** [carmel.devaney@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:carmel.devaney@universityofgalway.ie)

**T** 091 495398

# 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
- Gender, Sexuality and Global Health
- 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](mailto: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
- Data Analytics for Social Sciences
- Strategic Communication
- Communicating Climate Action and Science
- 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](mailto:evans.fanoulis@universityofgalway.ie)

# MA (Social Work)

## Introduction

The MA in Social Work at University of Galway prepares you for a meaningful career supporting individuals, families and communities. 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 make a meaningful impact from day one.

## 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](mailto:declanp.coogan@universityofgalway.ie)

**T** + 353 (0)91 495373



# WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY



The MA in Family Support Studies has been insightful and transformative. The programme expanded my understanding of family dynamics and equipped me with practical tools to support diverse families effectively. The lecturers were knowledgeable and supportive, and the curriculum was relevant and engaging. I feel more confident and ready to make a real difference in my professional practice. Highly recommend this course to anyone passionate about family support.

- Becky Kofo Fred Ameh,  
MA in Family Support Studies Graduate

Completing my Masters in Social Work been an immensely positive transformative experience. From the time I started the course I felt a sense of belonging and purpose that continued to grow throughout my time there. I found there to be a great group of faculty members present that are not only experts in their field but also deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of social workers. Their passion for the subject matter, social justice and advocacy is contagious, and it inspired me to push myself beyond my limits and strive for excellence in my work. As I reflect on my journey at the University of Galway, I feel immensely grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me and the growth it has facilitated.

- Patrick Rice,  
MA in 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 in Child, Youth and Community Graduate

The MA in Public Policy gives an excellent grounding in how policy is created and the challenges and opportunities that it brings. The lecturers are deeply experienced in their fields and offer practical and theoretical insights into policy formation. I particularly enjoyed the fieldwork modules I undertook, including a trip to the European Parliament in Brussels and a work placement in Leinster House. Both offered excellent opportunities to network and make links that may be useful for future career moves. As a mature student, I found the faculty incredibly supportive, responsive, and open to ideas.

- Katie Harrington,  
MA in Public Policy Graduate



# Why University of Galway?

World-renowned research-led university nestled in the vibrant heart of Galway city on Ireland's scenic West Coast.

**284**

**World University Ranking**

Based on the QS World  
University Rankings

**1**

**Ranked first in Ireland for  
Sustainable Development**

THE World Rankings

**TOP  
5**

**5th in the EU for our  
Commitment to Sustainability**

Times Higher Education's  
Impact Rankings

**TOP  
2%**

**University of Galway is ranked in  
the Top 2% of Universities Globally**

QS World University Rankings

## Find out more

School of Political Science and Sociology  
University of Galway

**E** [sopsas@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:sopsas@universityofgalway.ie)

University  
of Galway.ie