Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies

CAO Code: GY123

Bachelor of Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOUR YEAR INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE DEGREE

5 MONTH WORK PLACEMENT PROVIDED

INTERNATIONAL FIELDTRIP IN YEAR TWO

THIS CUTTING EDGE DEGREE COURSE...

... strongly focusses on the applied nature of the Social Sciences and equips students with practical research skills, in addition to focussing on career development and readiness, and further educational opportunities.

... is of 4 years duration with a significant internship and dissertation or research project element affording students real-world experience and knowledge of working in areas of social scientific research.

www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/undergraduate-courses/social-sciences.html

Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)

What is Social Science? Social science is the study of society and the manner in which people behave and influence the world around us. Social science tells us about the world beyond our immediate experience, and can help explain how our own society works - from the causes of unemployment or what helps sustainable growth, to how and why people vote, or what makes people happy. It provides vital information for governments and policymakers, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and others.

This innovative Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences) at the University of Galway is a four-year applied science degree, which is developed to address the current and future skills requirements in the social sciences. This degree course provides students with an understanding of contemporary issues vital for tackling society's most critical and pressing social, ecological, and economic issues and concerns. In addition, this degree is interdisciplinary, providing graduates with multiple perspectives and knowledge to respond to complex societal challenges and providing new possible solutions that cannot be provided by one discipline alone. This interdisciplinary programme draws on the key strength of Schools and Disciplines right across the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To equip students with the ability to respond effectively and develop practical solutions and actions
- To develop students' research methods, skills and practical experience and afford them the confidence to undertake contemporary and pioneering research work in the Social Sciences
- To promote community and public engagement and policy design participation amongst students undertaking the programme
- To encourage the personal growth and development of each individual through student-focussed learning & teaching throughout the lifecycle of the programme.

WHY STUDY THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (SOCIAL SCIENCES)?

Understanding processes of change, making reasoned arguments, communicating concisely and clearly to solve problems are all highly sought after qualities by many employers. Graduates from this programme have a wide range of skills and abilities that are invaluable in many sectors and professions, and some of the specific skills and understanding developed while undertaking the Social Sciences degree at the University of Galway include:

- Valuable experience from undertaking a five month work placement, where students acquire invaluable practical work experience in diverse organisations and industries
- Research knowledge and design skills, and practical experience with research tools and applications
- Analytical skills, including interpreting and presenting various forms of data and information
- Engagement in independent research and other initiatives for addressing wider societal challenges
- Development of socio-economic, ecological, political, psychological and ethical awareness
- Information Communications Technologies (ICT) skills, including an emphasis on Social Media engagement
- The ability to think and write critically and purposefully and communicate with a wide range of audiences such as policy designers, communities, as well as academic audiences.

Course Facts: Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)

CAO Code: GY123

Number of places: 50

Duration: 4 years

- This course also includes a national or international internship - with a civil society organisation or Small to Medium sized Enterprise (SME) - or an international exchange with a university or institutional partners in an EU or non-EU member state integrated into the third year.
- In addition, students are paired with an academic supervisor to design, develop and undertake a research project in year four, with a strong focus on publishing in an Open Access peer-review journal.

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.

A Level Grades: CCC or equivalent combination

Next start-date: September 2025
How to apply: www.cao.ie

Fees: Please refer to https://www.universityofgalway.ie/ courses/undergraduate-courses/social-sciences.html#course_fees

Course Outline

The programme and modules offered may be subject to change

1st Year

Students are given a broad understanding of the Social Sciences in Year One

- Introducing the Social Sciences
- Introduction to Sociology and Political Science
- Digital Skills for Social Scientists
- Introduction to Economic Policy
- Principles of Geography
- Digital Citizenship

2nd Year

Year Two focuses on problem centred learning and students will undertake research methods courses aimed at tackling current and future societal challenges

Further Study in Sociology and Political Science
- European Politics
- International Relations
- Social Issues & Policy Responses
- Sociology of Health
- Classical Social Thought
- Modern Political Thought
- Methods for Social Sciences Research

Theory and Practice in Geography
- Theory & Practice (I)
- Theory & Practice (II)
- Introduction to GIS
- Political & Cultral Geography

Critical Skills for the Social Sciences
- Cooperative Learning & Group Research Methods
- Introduction to Sustainability
- Residential Fieldtrip (usually based overseas)

3rd Year

In Year Three students will undertake a work based internship and a dedicated member of staff coordinates and places every student within their selected sector and tailors their training and experience

Understanding the Study Pathways

Environmental Social Studies (ESS) • Community Engagement & Development Politics, Society & Identity • Culture, Creativity & Entrepreneurship

- Career Development & Readiness
- 5 Month Work Placement
- Understanding the Social Sciences Study Pathways

4th Year

In Year Four students will again select modules within their focused pathway and in addition students will be paired with an academic supervisor to design, develop and undertake a research project, with a strong focus on publishing their finished work

- Environmental Social Studies (ESS)
- Community Engagement & Development
- Politics, Society & Identity
- Culture, Creativity & Entrepreneurship

Students are given a broad understanding of the Social Sciences in years one and two, and will choose a focused study pathway in years three and four that is most appropriate to their essential requirements and future employability or continuing education.

In **Year 1** of this interdisciplinary Degree, students undertake Introducing the Social Sciences, Introduction to Sociology and Political Science, Digital Skills for Social Scientists, Introduction to Economic and Social Policy, Principles of Geography and Digital Citizenship. Students are not expected to have studied any of these subjects prior to undertaking the course.

Year 2 focuses on problem centred learning and students will undertake research methods courses aimed at tackling current and future societal challenges.

In **Year 3** students undertake a work based internship for 5 months (January-May) and a dedicated member of staff coordinates and places every student within their selected sector and tailors their training and experience.

In **Year 4** students again select modules within their focused pathway and, in addition, students will be paired with an academic supervisor to design, develop and undertake a research project, with a strong focus on publishing their finished work.

Applied Learning

A distinctive feature of the BSc (Social Sciences) will be the strong focus on the applied nature of the Social Sciences, which equips students with practical skills in designing, conducting, and disseminating research.

This skill set enables our graduate students to be proactive leaders across a multiple of societal, cultural, and economic sectors that require and need interdisciplinary research talent. A 5 month work placement, providing real world experience and interactions with programme partners, operates in Year 3 thus enhancing the employability of graduate students of the course.

Field based learning is an essential component of social scientific training. During the spring of year two of the BSc (Social Sciences), a residential field module will take place as part of the compulsory module 'Cooperative learning and Group Research methods'.

Careers

Why is 'being interdisciplinary' so important?

> **It allows for the synthesis of ideas from many 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.**

The Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences) equips students with the skills to pursue careers in a wide range of roles as civic leaders in the cultural, social, intellectual, and economic development of your locality and regions. We aim to educate students who will demonstrate a capacity for independent critical thinking, innovative problem solutions, creativity and innovation, dynamic team-working, socially responsible leadership, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Choice of 4 growing areas in years 3 and 4 - possible career pathways after graduation outlined below:

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Teacher/Lecturer/Education Roles
2. Ecologist
3. Environmental Policy Specialist
4. Conservation Scientist
5. Renewable Energies Industries
6. Marine Biologist
7. Hydrologist
8. Geographer
9. Forensic Biologist
10. Atmospheric Scientist
11. Climatologist

CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. Human Resources Management
2. Business and Industry
3. Management
4. Management Consultancy
5. Strategic Innovation
6. Public Relations Officer
7. Marketing Executive
8. Advertising
9. Customer Services
10. Risk Manager
11. Creative Arts

POLITICS, SOCIETY AND IDENTITY

1. Politics (local, national, European, global)
2. Non-Governmental Organisations and Global Activism
3. Immigration, Customs and Border Roles
4. Local Government Careers
5. Public Administration
6. Police(wo)man or Probation Service
7. Journalism and Media
8. Intelligence Analyst
9. Foreign Service careers
10. Opinion Pollster
11. Criminologist

COMMUNITIES, ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Community Development
2. Community Education
3. Social Worker
4. Social Researcher
5. International Aid/Development Worker
6. Urban Design and Planning
7. Rural Development
8. Transportation
9. Change Management

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:

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www.ssrc/bass/prospective.html