

MA SOCIOLOGY:

WORK,  
LABOUR MARKETS  
AND EMPLOYMENT

UNIQUELY THIS NEW  
PROGRAMME OFFERS YOU:

- \* Access to leading academics with international reputations in the fields of political economy and labour market analysis.
- \* Creative problem-solving approach to dissertation work with input from academics and practitioners.
- \* Internship opportunities on a competitive basis.
- \* Study field trip to the Universidad de Valencia, Spain.



This full-time one year course provides graduates with the necessary critical and analytical skills to understand the dramatic and rapid changes in work, labour markets and employment in recent decades and how different societies are responding to them.

Ireland is adjusting very rapidly to change in the external and internal environments. This requires us to re-think prevailing assumptions about the nature and direction of socio-economic development both in Ireland and elsewhere.

In the context of seismic shifts in national and international political economies and labour markets, including chronic unemployment, this one-year Masters programme will provide you with a skill set:

- \* To critically engage with the most up-to-date analysis of the changing worlds of work.
- \* To understand and develop competence in the forecasting of economic futures.
- \* To develop expertise in the field of labour market activation and unemployment alleviation.
- \* To acquire the practical skills necessary to design, conduct, write up and communicate evidence-based reports on work, labour market and employment related issues.

**Programme co-directors:**

- \* Professor Seán Ó Riain ([Sean.oriain@nuim.ie](mailto:Sean.oriain@nuim.ie))
- \* Dr. Mary P. Murphy ([mary.p.murphy@nuim.ie](mailto:mary.p.murphy@nuim.ie))



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad



## Target Group and Career Opportunities:

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This programme will be of interest to a wide range of constituencies including those working in or interested in a career in social or public policy making; labour market analysts; trade union and business and trade association officials; social entrepreneurs; people working in local and national government with responsibility for work and labour market initiatives; those working in training, up-skilling and work transition initiatives and those involved in Intreo, Solas, Education and Training Boards and in Local Employment Services. It is also relevant to graduates in the social sciences and cognate disciplines considering undertaking doctoral research in the fields of sociology of work, social policy, education and innovation.

A Certificate in the Sociology of Work, Labour Markets and Employment will be available to students who complete 20 CREDITS of this 90 CREDIT programme.

**'Sociology opened me up to all sorts of ideas, thinkers, concepts, a whole world of reading that was amazing'**

John Bissett, Sociology Graduate, NUI Maynooth, community activist and author of *Regeneration: public good or private profit?*

**'The critical analysis into how Ireland operates as it does, or our attitudes towards people, different cultures ... really is a wonderful foundation for anybody who is going out into the workplace'**

Mags Murphy, Sociology Graduate, NUI Maynooth, political organiser and former radio researcher and producer.



Core Theoretical Module

Substantive Modules

Research Methods Modules

The taught programme is built around three components:

CODE	Focus	Title	Credit	Semester
SO610	Social Science Reasoning	Analytical reasoning in the social Sciences	10	1
NIR621A	Methodological skills	Quantitative analysis	10	1
SO620A	Methodological skills	Qualitative Methods	10	2
SO602A	Thematic knowledge acquisition	Political Economy	10	2
SO608	Thematic knowledge acquisition	Work: Future and trends	10	1
SO609/A	Thematic knowledge acquisition	Labour Market Policy (including an optional fieldtrip).	10	2
SO690	Thematic knowledge acquisition	Thesis	30	Summer

#### SO610: Analytical Reasoning in the Social Sciences

This module is intended to equip students with a strong foundation in the thinking and reasoning processes applicable in the social sciences.

#### NIR621A: Quantitative Analysis

To enable the student to understand and appreciate the critical role that statistical science can play in social research and to stimulate an inherent interest in statistical thinking, develop a base for further exploration of other statistical methods and introduce students to the concept of comparative trend analysis and spatial dependency.

#### SO620A: Qualitative Methods

This module offers students a theoretical and practical guide to qualitative research methods. The course explores human behaviour through methods such as participant observation, interviewing and focus groups and also how social action is represented through visual methods.

#### SO602A: Political Economy

This module examines how the organization and development of economic life is socially and politically produced, contested and shaped. The focus will be on political economy theory, financialisation, varieties of capitalism and welfare state typologies. There will be a strong emphasis on the global context of these processes including salient issues such as global trade, foreign investment, migration, regional economic integration policies (EMU, etc.).

#### SO608: Work: Future and Trends

This module will focus on occupational sector trends, organization and human resource management, occupational segregation, shifts in working time, duality and precarity, the process of collective bargaining, labour legislation.

#### SO609: Labour Market Policy

This module focuses on the institutions and policies associated with the labour market including the extent and impact of underemployment and unemployment in the EU, education, training and labour market activation strategies.

This includes the opportunity to study Labour Market Policy in Comparative Perspective through a study visit to Universidad de Valencia.

#### SO690: Thesis

The dissertation will be guided by action research methods developed in collaboration with the Nevin Economic Research Institute in Dublin. (<http://www.nerininstitute.net/>). The dissertation is designed to blend social science research with collaborative civic engagement with a local, national or international agency involved in policy or practice interventions in labour market or employment related issues. Submission deadline: Aug 1, 2015.

## HOW TO APPLY:

Online application only [www.pac.ie/nuim](http://www.pac.ie/nuim)

**PAC Code:** MHY52

The following information should be forwarded to PAC, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway or uploaded to your online application form.

Certified copies of all official transcripts of results for all non-NUI Maynooth qualifications listed **MUST** accompany the application. Failure to do so will delay your application being processed.

Non-NUI Maynooth students are asked to provide a copy of their birth certificate or valid passport, two academic references and official transcripts.

A personal statement is required. This should include any information that you consider relevant to your interest and ability in the MA in Sociology. It should include reference to any academic or personal experiences you have had that are relevant to your interest in taking the course and your ability to benefit from it, your personal motivations for taking the course, and what you hope to gain from the course. The personal statement should be between 250–750 words.

Further information at <http://sociology.nuim.ie/postgraduate/taught-ma-courses>

### Contact Details

**Tel:** +353 (0)1 708 3659

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### Assessment:

Modules are examined by a range of methods including essays, projects, class presentation and in-class participation. Students must complete all items of assigned work by the stated deadline, otherwise they will not be eligible for award of the degree. 60% of total marks are allotted to continuous assessment, 40% allotted to the minor thesis. Students must pass both on course work and on the minor thesis to complete the MA successfully.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

<b>Available Full Time?</b>	Yes
<b>Full Time course length?</b>	One Year
<b>Available Part Time?</b>	No
<b>Closing Date?</b>	Applications process open until August 31, 2014
<b>Entry Requirements?</b>	Second class honours grade 2.2 in Sociology or related discipline
<b>Anticipated enrolment?</b>	Fifteen students
<b>When will classes take place?</b>	The programme will mainly be delivered on Fridays (all day) over the course of the academic year. Some modules will be offered on other days during the week.

