



Sociology Department

MA Sociology: Internet & Society

NEW

2016 was the 25th anniversary of the internet coming to Ireland. The Department of Sociology at Maynooth University also launched this innovative new MA that year.

Today the internet provides an infrastructure for work, socialising, active citizenship and surveillance. It is no longer possible to talk about online and offline life, they are enmeshed. What are the social, political, economic and cultural implications of this?

This one year full time MA encourages students to critically engage with the opportunities and challenges of social life online, and develop an analytical skillset that combines advanced qualitative and quantitative research methods with new digital research methods.

Q. Why study this MA at the Dept. of Sociology at Maynooth University?

A. The Department of Sociology at Maynooth has strong expertise and a proven research track record in studies of new media and technology in everyday life, the sociology of work (e.g. software and digital media work), sustainable communities, active citizenship and in data infrastructures and research methods. Staff members are active in national and international research projects, international professional Media and Communication and Sociology associations and are active publishers. We are also committed to public sociology and working to bring sociological perspectives to bear on contemporary social issues.

Q. What are the career prospects for graduates of this course? ?

A. The MA aims to prepare students to work in academic and non academic research positions, and in emergent industry roles which require knowledge of social behaviour in online environments.

With the development of big data and new data management regulations we also see the emergence of a range of data 'savvy' roles (Expert Group on Future Skills and Forfás, 2014). Some of these roles are suitable for social science graduates with strong research and data analysis skills.

For questions about course content please contact the course coordinator Dr. Aphra Kerr - aphra.kerr@nuim.ie

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MA Sociology: Internet & Society

PAC CODE MHY56 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include understanding on-line communities and social media, advanced digital research methods and analytical reasoning in the social sciences. This programme is delivered in association with the Departments of Law, Geography and Media Studies.

Entry Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Sociology or cognate discipline with a strong 2.2 result or higher, or international equivalent is required. For international students for whom English is not their first language, an English language exam certificate showing IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required.

Careers

The proposed MA seeks to equip social science and humanities graduates with the intellectual and practical research skills to understand social behaviour online. It might also be of interest to students from other disciplinary backgrounds who seek to explore and understand social life online. Graduates of this course will be able to interface with programmers and designers and with those working on the analysis of digital and big data sets. There is a demand for digitally literate graduates who understand the social, cultural, political, legal and business aspects of transnational online users and communities.

Further Information

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/ma-programmes>

MA in Sociology: Internet and Society

Social Science Analysis

The Political Economy and Cultures of the Internet

Advanced Digital Research Methods

Thesis

Optional modules:

Quantitative Research Methods

Qualitative Research Methods

Information Technology Law

Information Privacy Law

Identity Technologies

Political Economy (of Work)

Critical Data Studies