



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Sociology Department



Critical Skills
Creative Thinking
Constructive Practice

Q&A

Q. Do I need a degree in Sociology to do a Masters?

A. No, we accept applications from students who have degrees in other disciplines. We are also willing to consider students who have a combination of some third level qualification and relevant work experience.

Q. What are the fees for the course?

A. The fees for a one year full time MA in the last academic year were €5000.

Q. Does this fee have to be paid up front?

A. You can pay half the fee up front and then pay the remainder in instalments over a period of months.

Q. I have been out of the education system for a while. Is that a problem?

A. We welcome applications from mature students who bring a lot of life experience with them into third-level programmes. There are a range of supports available on campus for mature students and others for whom returning to learning is a particular challenge.

Q. What am I qualified to do? What kind of jobs can I get?

A. Our MA programme provides professional training in analytical reasoning and research methods in the social sciences. These skills are transferable to a wide range of careers. Please check out student testimonials on our website www.maynoothuniversity.ie/graduates

Graduate Studies at Maynooth University

Sociology at Maynooth University prioritises a vibrant research culture. We provide postgraduate students with high quality research training in a lively intellectual atmosphere. We actively promote students' professional involvement in academic life. We ensure that students will make a contribution to the advancement of knowledge in sociology, and to the understanding and wellbeing of contemporary societies.

In a time of crisis and uncertainty we search for an understanding of the world around us – in our teaching, research and public engagement. The longest established sociology department on the island of Ireland, we pride ourselves on being the most dynamic. We have a strong commitment to graduate studies and our MA programmes build on the expertise and interests of our faculty in the analysis of power, social change, activism and social justice and the interdisciplinary study of society and space. Should you choose to join us you will become part of a community of scholars that is committed to scholarly excellence and to expanding the boundaries of sociological knowledge and social critique.

As part of our graduate community you will have access to specialist modules led by subject experts, regular departmental seminars and symposia featuring the work of advanced students, staff and invited speakers. Please read on to find a programme of study that matches your interests and ambitions. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at: sociology.department@nuim.ie

We look forward to welcoming you to graduate studies in the department of sociology at Maynooth University.



President Michael D Higgins marks 75 years of Sociology at Maynooth University

'To navigate successfully through today's troubled, uncertain, and probably uncharted waters, now, more than ever before, we need vision, foresight and bold strategies. Now, more than ever, an original and confident education system is needed, to help us to achieve our social and economic objectives and to place us on a sustainable footing.'

President Michael D Higgins on the occasion of his conferring with an honorary doctorate by the NUI, January 25, 2012



Why Sociology at Maynooth University?

All departments have their strengths and we believe that the sociology department at Maynooth University is a distinctive and stimulating place to learn and to practice sociology at its very best.

- We have a strong tradition of theoretically informed empirical research, tackling key issues in sociological theory through ground-breaking research
- The Department is home to Ireland’s leading sociologists who contribute to our vibrant social and intellectual community that is networked into other departments at Maynooth University, other institutions in Ireland and the sociological community worldwide
- We offer students a range of courses and other supports – including specialised courses in research methods, professional development modules, thesis workshops, and more
- The Department hosts the Maynooth University network on power, politics and society which forges national, regional and local links with other academic and civil society networks to contribute to the public understanding of politics and power in the context of systemic change and to further intellectual exchange.
- The Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies (formerly the Centre for the Study of Wider Europe) is an inter-disciplinary centre of excellence in research and teaching on

contemporary Europe. Directed by Departmental staff, the centre is unique in the Irish context and seeks to develop academic, student, diplomatic and professional links between Ireland, the European Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

- We want our sociology to make a difference – and we contribute to a ‘public sociology’ through our teaching, our involvement in public debates, informing policy debates, engagement with civil society groups and movements, and more

The department has a number of areas of research concentration, with activities associated with each of these ‘clusters’ – such as reading groups, courses, seminar speakers, and more.

- Critical Political Thought, Activism, and Alternative Futures
- Globalisation, Identities and Cultural Practices
- Historical and Comparative Sociology
- Political Economy, Work and Working Lives
- Urban/ Suburban Studies

We also have expertise in many other areas. Please review staff profiles within this brochure.

^A
 Dr Jane Gray, Sociology
 Department congratulates
 Dr Aishling Jackson on her PhD

Staff research interests

Dr Mary Benson

Cityscapes; gentrification; place; community; and visual representations. Current research focuses on urban agriculture.

Dr Delma Byrne

Social stratification in education and the labour market, along the divisions of social class, race/ethnicity, gender and disability.

Dr Barry Cannon

Latin American politics with interests in democratisation; state/civil society relations; Left and Right-wing politics; lessons from Latin America for Europe in a context of crisis.

Dr Brian Conway

Religion, with particular reference to Catholicism; collective memory, history of Irish sociology.

Professor Mary P Corcoran

The Irish migratory experience, public culture and urban transformation and change. Current research focuses on the culture of suburbs and urban agriculture initiatives in Europe.

Dr Colin Coulter

Development studies, global politics, Marxism, ethnicity and nationalism, popular culture and in particular popular music and Northern Irish politics and society.

Dr Pauline Cullen

Political sociology; European Integration; social policy, social movements; nongovernmental organisations; gender equality.

Dr Laurence Cox

Social movement studies, western Marxism, counter-cultures, activist sustainability, oral history, new religious movements, western Buddhism.

Professor G Honor Fagan

Gender and development; globalization and culture; environmental sustainability; governance and e-democracy; human security.

Dr Jane Gray

Families and households, comparative-historical sociology, life-history analysis, qualitative data archiving and re-use.

Dr Aphra Kerr

Media and technology; gender and the media; knowledge society, digital media and innovation; media and cultural diversity.

Dr Rebecca Chiyoko King-O'Riain

Race/ethnicity, critical race theory, people of mixed descent, beauty, technology and emotions.

Dr Mary Murphy

Globalisation, political economy, politics of redistribution, gender, social security and labour market, and civil society.

Dr Peter Murray

Political mobilisation, the state, industry and work, health and archival research.

Dr John O'Brennan

The process and politics of European Union enlargement; the dynamics of EU external relations; international politics; European integration.

Professor Seán Ó Riain

New Deals: Comparative Political Economy, Work and Inequality. Economic growth and crisis in Ireland and Europe.

Dr Paul Ryan

The sociology of personal life specifically families, intimacy, sex work and gay and lesbian studies.

Dr Eamonn Slater

Historical sociology, historical materialism, visual sociology, environmental sociology with special emphasis on Ireland.



> Staff Profile

Dr Mary Murphy

Dr Mary Murphy graduated from TCD in 1986 with a BA in Economics and Sociology. Mary has worked as a campaigner and policy analyst in antipoverty and labour market NGO's for 15 years, among other areas. Mary returned to academic research in 2002 and graduated with a PhD from DCU in 2006, taking up her present position in Maynooth's Sociology Department in 2007.

Mary's research interests include political economy, social politics, globalisation, welfare states, social security, activation, gender, poverty, political sociology, power and civil society.

There are three full time faculty members in the Sociology Department whose primary focus is in politics. Faculty members are experts and prominent contributors on political issues to a range of domestic and international media, including leading newspapers such as The Guardian, the Irish Examiner, the Irish Times, the Sunday Business Post, RTE, TV3, BBC and many more.

Programmes available

Taught Masters

MA Sociology: Work, Labour Markets & Employment **MHY52**

MA Sociology: Societies in Transition **MHY50**

MA Sociology: Internet & Society **MHY50**

MA Community Education, Equality and Social Activism **MHA64**

MA Society & Space **MH50E**

PhD & Research Programmes

PhD & MLitt Sociology

PhD Full-time **MHY02** Part-time **MHY03**

MLitt Full-time **MHY04** Part-time **MHY05**

MA Sociology: Work, Labour Markets & Employment

This new MA programme offers students the opportunity to develop expertise in the field of work and employment studies. Students will benefit from access to leading academics in political economy and labour market analysis, creative problem-solving approach to research, an international field trip and internship opportunities on a competitive basis.

PAC CODE

MHY52 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include political economy, work: future and trends, labour market policy and quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Entry Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Sociology or cognate discipline with 2.2 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

This course will be of interest to people involved in or aspiring to work in a career in social or public policy making; labour market analysis; trade unionism and workers' rights organisations; social entrepreneurship and local and national government programmes.

Further Information

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MHY52

MA Sociology: Societies in Transition

The key idea underlying the MA is to interrogate the political, economic and social dimensions of change in transitional societies, using Ireland as a key point of reference. We hope to stimulate students to think about the role that sociological analysis can play in helping to advance solutions to the current social and economic challenges.

PAC CODE

MHY50 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include societies in transition: debating big ideas, analytical reasoning in the social sciences, quantitative research and qualitative methods.

Entry Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in sociology or cognate discipline with 2.2 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

It will be attractive for those seeking to go into policy-making, advocacy, journalism, social and market research, politics and development work and will also provide an excellent platform for those interested in progressing to PhD studies.

Further Information

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MHY50

MA Sociology: Internet & Society



Are you reading this on a computer, smartphone or tablet? Are you in work, at home or on the train? Increasingly the internet provides an infrastructure for work, socialising, active citizenship and surveillance. It is no longer possible to talk about offline and online life, they are increasingly enmeshed and mutually shaping. What are the social, political, economic and cultural implications of this? This MA aims to provide a learning environment in which students can critically engage with the opportunities and challenges of social life online, and develop an analytical skill set that focuses on the application of both established qualitative and quantitative research methods and new digital research methods to this domain.

PAC CODE

MHY50 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include understanding on-line communities and social media, advanced digital research methods, analytical reasoning in the social sciences. This programme will be delivered in association with the Department of Law and the Centre for Media Studies.

Entry Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Sociology or cognate discipline with 2.2 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 deep statistical analysis of user data. 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

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MHY50

Q. What is the purpose of the new MA Internet & Society?

A. The MA aims to prepare students not only to work in academic and non academic research positions, but also in emergent roles which require knowledge of social media and online community management. Ireland is the European headquarters for many multinational digital media companies, and with the development of big data and data warehousing 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.

Q. Why study the MA on Internet & Society 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. Additional expertise in technology and internet law, and the textual and cultural significance of digital media, are provided by the Departments of Law and Media Studies respectively.

MA Community Education, Equality and Social Activism

This course, jointly offered with the Department of Adult and Community Education, seeks to develop the capacity of ordinary people to change the world through community education, grassroots community activism and social movement campaigning. It enables students to think about how to build real alternatives that challenge existing structures of oppression and injustice. It provides fundamental resources for anyone trying to make a better world possible.

PAC CODE

MHA64 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include the market, the state and social movements, participatory action research, the politics of environmental justice, radical education and critical pedagogy, power and politics.

Entry Requirements

The basic requirement for entry is a BA honours degree with a 2.2 result or higher. In addition, a short (one – two pages) statement about relevant experience in popular education, action for equality and / or social movements is required. For international students for whom English is not their first language, an English exam certificate showing IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required.

Careers

Students will find employment as researchers, policy workers, campaign coordinators or educators within community, social movement or civil society groups; others will find tools to create new organisations which are sustainable within the changing political and economic landscape.

Further Information

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MHA64

MA Society & Space

Taught jointly by the Department of Geography, the Department of Sociology, and NIRSA, the course brings together leading social science researchers in Ireland with an international reputation in their fields, and offers an advanced introduction to social science, human geography and sociological research. Internship opportunities available on a competitive basis.

PAC CODE

MH50E 1 year Full-time

Course Structure

Modules include qualitative and quantitative methods, nature and society, urban studies and analytical reasoning in the social sciences.

Entry Requirements

All candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree at honours 2.1 level or above – in certain exceptional circumstances a grade of 2.2 will be acceptable. 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 course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to social scientific and human geographical research on contemporary social, economic, political, and economic policy. The course is particularly suitable for people wishing to pursue a career in research, advocacy, social and public policy.

Further Information

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MH50E

PhD/MLitt Sociology

The Department has a national and international reputation for teaching excellence and a vibrant research culture. We provide research students with high quality research training in a lively intellectual atmosphere and encourage our students to make a contribution to the advancement of sociology and related disciplines, and to the understanding and well being of contemporary society.

PAC CODE

PhD	MHY02 4 years Full-time	MHY03 6 years Part-time
MLitt	MHY04 2 years Full-time	MHY05 3 years Part-time

Research Interests

Research activity in the Department includes: critical political thought, activism and alternative futures; globalisation, identities and cultural practices; historical and comparative sociology; political economy, work and working lives; and urban/suburban studies.

Entry Requirements

Minimum 2.1 degree in BA or MA in sociology or related subject is required. Applications with equivalent learning are also welcomed. For international students for whom English is not their first language, an English language exam certificate showing IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required. Applicants are advised to contact the Department to discuss their research topic before submitting a required research proposal of 7-10 pages duration. Please see course website for further details.

Further Information

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/MHY02

MA in Sociology Programme

MA in Sociology: Societies in Transition	MA in Sociology: Work, Labour Markets & Employment	MA in Sociology: Internet and Society
Analytical Reasoning in the Social Sciences	Analytical Reasoning in the Social Sciences	Analytical Reasoning in the Social Sciences
Society in Transition: Debating Big Ideas	Political Economy of Work	The Political Economy and Cultures of the Internet
Quantitative Research Methods	Quantitative Research Methods	Quantitative Research Methods
Qualitative Research Methods	Qualitative Research Methods	Qualitative Research Methods
Advanced Research Methods	Advanced Research Methods	Advanced Research Methods
Nature and Society		Advanced Digital Research Methods
Urban Studies	Labour Market Policy (Including field trip to Spain)	Information Technology Law or Information Privacy Law
Work: Futures and Trends	Work: Futures and Trends	Work: Futures and Trends
		Digital Bodies, Digital Selves: Sex and Gender Online
Thesis	Thesis	Thesis



> Graduate Profile
Lana Cummins

The MA in Sociology–Societies in Transition, was the highlight of university for me. There were so many opportunities to learn about social challenges from different perspectives and to learn about their influences on each other. The skills that I gained through these opportunities have been extremely beneficial to my career path. Since completing the Masters, I have been fortunate enough to obtain a position as a policy analyst with the Government of Alberta, Canada. The course work and thesis taught me how to efficiently and accurately analyse policies and literature which form the basis of my work. A big thank you to all of the lecturers, who were always interesting and thought-provoking which made the course compelling to learn!



> Graduate Profile
Anna Szolucha

Coming to study for a PhD at Maynooth was probably one of the best choices that I have ever made. The experience was truly exceptional. I have found there everything that I needed to be able to successfully complete my thesis and grow professionally as well as personally. I gained immensely from a close cooperation with my supervisor who is a leading researcher in the field of social movements; studied in a friendly and intellectually stimulating environment and was part of a vibrant and extremely supportive department. I particularly liked the freedom to pursue engaged research in ways that strive to make it relevant to real struggles and people.

Interdisciplinary MA Programme

MA Society and Space (co-delivered with Dept of Geography & NIRSA)	MA Community Education, Equality & Social Activism (co-delivered with Dept of Adult and Community Education)	MLitt/PhD in Sociology¹
Analytical Reasoning in the Social Sciences	Radical Education and Critical Pedagogy	Craft and Logic of Social Research I
Theories of Society and Space	PAR in Social Movement Practice	Craft and Logic of Social Research II
Quantitative Research Methods	Power and Politics	Prof Certificate in Postgraduate Teaching and Learning
Qualitative Research Methods	Community of Praxis	
Landscape, Place, Mapping	Research Methods	
Nature and Society	Feminist Theory and Practice	
Urban Society	Critical Media and Cultural Pedagogy in Communities	
	Equality and Social Justice	
Thesis	Thesis	

¹All MLitt and PhD student may choose modules from across the MA programme offered by the Department of Sociology.



> Graduate Profile **Philip Finn**

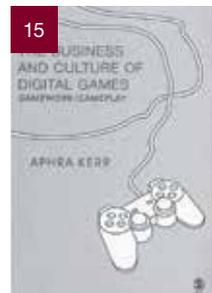
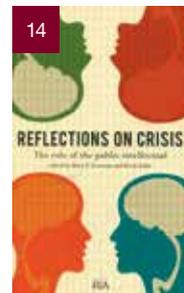
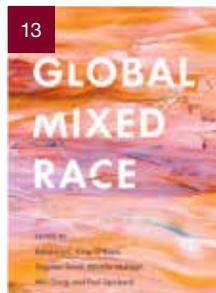
I returned to education in 2010 to study Politics and Philosophy as a mature student in Maynooth University. This decision was guided by my interest in equality and social activism with the aspiration to learn what I considered useful knowledge for achieving social justice. I found a welcoming atmosphere conducive to learning in the Department of Sociology.

After graduating with my degree in Politics and Philosophy I participated in the MA programme Community Education, Equality and Social Activism (CEESA) in Maynooth University. It is difficult to offer an account of my experiences in CEESA which could adequately reflect the originality of the course; it is quite unique! It is a course dedicated to creating a dialogue between academic research and social activist practitioners. As such, it is designed for practitioners and those who wish to

become activists, without adhering to a predefined criteria of what counts as an activist. The course is informed by a diversity of backgrounds; both students and lecturers are dedicated to the co-creation of useful knowledge through understanding and ‘learning from each other’s struggles’. Learning from one another can be a challenging experience as ideas and interests clash and differences begin to emerge. Yet, such discussions not only highlight the pervasiveness of oppression and injustice in society, but that in being too uncritical about our own actions we can and do re-enact these oppressions and injustices in our own practice.

Throughout the course my own ideas and practices were challenged through dialogue with others which encouraged an increasingly reflective engagement on my part regarding my own practice.

This introduction to genuine active learning has been invaluable and continues to inform my own thinking and practice as a tutor within the Sociology department. After being awarded the John and Pat Hume scholarship, I was able to begin my current PhD research on voluntary unemployment and welfare which maintains a ‘politics from below’ frame emphasising the active agency of those facing oppression and injustice.



1 New Deals conference 2012

2 Ruth Geraghty and Dr Linda O'Keeffe presenting their work at the Sociological Association of Ireland conference 2014

3 Dr Rebecca King O'Riain speaking at the Sociological Association of Ireland conference 2014

4 Professor Mary Corcoran with President Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins 2013

5 Marching for change, Dublin, 2010

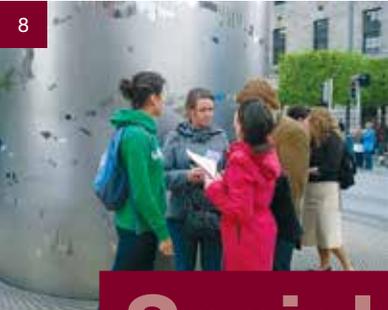
6 Everyday politics: elections '09

7 Dr. Aphra Kerr and the Around the World Virtual Conference, 2014

8 MA student field trip, Public Art in Dublin 2010

9 Allotment gardening in the city

10 Joint Maynooth/UPENN PhD Summer School, July 2013



Sociology at Maynooth active and engaged



- 11 Symposium on rethinking the Irish welfare state, January 2015
- 12 Political economy of work
- 13 Global Mixed Race Eds., Rebecca C. King-O'Riain, Stephen Small, Minelle Mahtani, Miri Song and Paul Spickard
- 14 Reflections on Crisis, Eds., Mary P Corcoran and Kevin Lalor
- 15 The Business and Culture of Digital Games, Aphra Kerr
- 16 MA student field trip, Dublin Contemporary 2011

- 17 Fieldtrip to Belfast, Joint Maynooth/ UPENN PhD Summer School, July 2013
- 18 Public sociology at the Royal Irish Academy 2014
- 19 Dr Paul Ryan and colleagues at the Sociological Association of Ireland conference 2014

Maynooth University Graduate School

The Graduate School at Maynooth University is dedicated to ensuring the best academic and social experience for all graduate students. We are here to support you through your studies and to help prepare you for the next step in your professional career.

We are committed to excellence in graduate education and to supporting a diverse range of innovative graduate programmes within state-of-the-art research and learning facilities, ensuring:

- social and networking opportunities with other graduate students
- support in scholarships and funding applications
- an outward-looking educational experience influenced by a strong international perspective
- all graduates leave Maynooth University with an understanding of the possibilities for employment and their contribution to the wider society.

For further information email graduatestudies@nuim.ie, telephone +353 1 708 6785, visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies or call into our office at Graduate Studies, John Hume Building, North Campus, Maynooth University.



www.pac.ie/nuim

Online application

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