



MSc Politics and Data Science

(One Year Full Time or
Two Years Part Time)



Introduction

The explosion of online and social media, the proliferation of digitized information, and improved electronic access to political decision-making processes provide new opportunities to study existing and emerging political processes in various democratic and non-democratic political regimes. The simultaneous development of cutting-edge data science methods to study digital text, audio, and video provide the tools we need to take advantage of these opportunities. The MSc Politics and Data Science is designed to equip students with the

theoretical knowledge and methodological skills necessary to examine and understand politics in the digital age.

The MSc Politics and Data Science programme is organised around two streams of study. The first stream grounds students with backgrounds in political science and related social sciences in data science methods. The second stream is geared towards students with computer science or related technical backgrounds, teaching them about social science research design and theories in political science.

Programme Highlight

- Work with the most popular programming languages (R and Python)
- Apply computational approaches to pressing issues in politics and society
- Conduct cutting-edge research in the group-based module Connected_Politics and the dissertation

Programme Content and Structure

90 credits Taught Masters = 60 credits Taught Modules + 30 credits Dissertation or 30 credits Internship

Core Modules:

Stream 1

- Politics of (Mis-)Information
- Connected_Politics 1
- Connected_Politics 2
- Applied Data Wrangling and Visualisation

Stream 2

- Introduction to Statistics
- Programming for Social Scientists
- Connected_Politics 1
- Connected_Politics 2
- Applied Data Wrangling and Visualisation

Core Choice Modules:

Stream 1

- AI and Large Language Models
- Quantitative Text Analysis
- Programming for Social Scientists
- Sociological Thinking in the Digital Age

Stream 2

- AI and Large Language Models
- Quantitative Text Analysis
- Sociological Thinking in the Digital Age

Please see www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions for a full list of modules.

Optional Modules:

- Data & Society
- Theories of Global Justice
- Political Violence
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- EU Foreign, Security, and Defence Policy
- IR Theory: Conflict and Identity
- AI and Society
- International Security
- Comparative European Politics
- Gender Peace and Security
- International Political Economy
- Theory of Human Rights

Why study at UCD?



Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



Career Opportunities

Graduates from this programme will be ideally equipped for careers in a large and varied set of employment sectors. The combination of a solid understanding of social science theory and the technical ability to apply advanced data-science approaches to answer questions of political and societal relevance, makes our graduates a unique addition to any data science team.

Furthermore, graduates will be well-positioned to apply for quantitative social science PhD programmes with the aim of pursuing an academic career.

Graduate Profile



Jeanette Garcia
Graduate

I entered the program with nothing more than an enthusiasm for quantitative research, and I left with a skill set that includes data wrangling, machine learning, and quantitative text analysis. The faculty at UCD is very passionate about education and research, encouraging my peers and me to take the initiative in our learning processes and collaborative projects.

At UCD, I found a supportive network and developed a deep appreciation for data and how its study and nuanced interpretation promotes informed policies and decisions. The MSc in Politics and Data Science offers a much-needed bridge across disciplines and expertise.

Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants with either a computer science or related technical degree (stream 1) or a political science or related social science degree (stream 2). An upper second class honours degree, or international equivalent is required.
- Your application will be considered on its individual merits and relevant professional experience will also be taken into account.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships for further information.

SPIRe also offers a Masters Graduate Scholarship to full-time EU and Non-EU Masters students. Please see www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship for further information.

Related Masters

- MSc Politics
- MSc International Relations
- MSc International Political Economy
- MSc International Development
- MSc Business Analytics
- MSc Social Data Science

CONTACT US

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International Students

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APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

www.ucd.ie/apply