



MA in Geopolitics and the Global Economy

One Year Full Time or Two Years Part-Time

Introduction

The MA Geopolitics and the Global Economy is the most popular Graduate degree programme offered by the School of Geography (admitting 10-15 students each year) and has been in existence for over a decade. It is led by Professor Alun Jones, Member of the Irish Academy and Academia Europea, and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK. It equips students with an in-depth understanding of critical political geographies and geopolitics, international relations, war and diplomacy as well as global economic processes.

The programme is designed to enhance conceptual understanding, analytical abilities, and practical skill sets through small group teaching, appraisal of up to date readings, and student engagement with geopolitics through face to face interviews with political elites and diplomat practitioners. To this end, high-level fieldwork in Brussels is offered exclusively for students on this programme.

Course Highlight

Top International Ranking

UCD School of Geography has an established international track record as a leading research centre in a variety of specialised areas pertaining to the spatial analysis of socio-economic phenomena, and is in the Top 100 QS World University Rankings by subject area.

Programme Content and Structure

90 credits
taught masters

Core modules:

- Research Design
- Critical Geopolitics and Diplomacy
- Dissertation
- International Fieldwork

In addition to core modules in Critical Geopolitics and Diplomacy and Fieldwork in Brussels, students can select a number of optional modules from Political Science, International Relations, History and American Studies.

Optional modules:

(Indicative list, may vary year by year):

- Geopolitics of Risk and Polycrisis 2025-2030
- Media and US Foreign Policy
- Public Diplomacy
- Challenges in US Foreign Policy
- Global Politics CyberSecurity
- Trump's America
- Global Economic History
- Urban and Regional Development
- Comparative Public Policy
- International Political Economy
- Theory of Human Rights
- Economic Globalisation and Society
- Development & the Global South
- Middle East and North Africa
- Critical Geographies

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

The Programme has regularly attracted high-calibre students from leading Irish, European, North American and Chinese universities. Many of its graduates have gone on to lead highly-successful careers in:

- European policy making (including the European Commission)
- Departments of State
- International NGOs
- Research/Policy Consultancies, and
- Journalism.

Graduate success has been firmly based on the skill sets offered in the programme including: critical approaches to international relations, in-depth assessments of contemporary geopolitical changes and interactions, and first hand engagement and networking opportunities with senior diplomats and political representatives in the European Union on a range of pressing geopolitical concerns including Brexit, EU enlargement, and EU foreign and security policy.

Graduate Profile



Stewart Doyle
Assistant Vice President at AON

"Embarking on the MA in Geopolitics at UCD proved to be an immensely positive experience. The program's curriculum, led by a knowledgeable and engaging faculty, not only expanded my understanding of geopolitical dynamics, theories and global affairs but also encouraged critical thinking and analytical skills."

Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in geography or a related discipline including political science, history, economics and sociology, or professionals working in related fields.
- Applicants should have a minimum of an upper second class honours (2.1) degree or international equivalent at Bachelors level.
- In certain circumstances, we will consider students who have a GPA 2.48 (2H2) and some relevant work or other experience. Contact Prof. Alun Jones (email: alun.jones@ucd.ie). This includes students returning to study after a break.
- 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 the costs of travel and subsistence for some fieldwork modules are borne by the student.

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.

Related Masters

- MA Geography
- MA Critical Geographies: Crises, Climate & Inequality
- MSc GIS and Remote Sensing
- MSc Risk, Resilience and Sustainability
- MSc Urban Data Analytics



Natalie Norris
Aon Ireland
Client services for global cyber solutions

"The MA Geopolitics & Global Economy programme was one of the few master's programs that let me tailor the program and modules specifically to my passions and career goals, allowing me to take an interdisciplinary approach to a new field of study.

I was eager to have the opportunity to build off of my politics and security background and expand further into the field of geography by studying not only geopolitics but also GIS, the economy and pursuing fieldwork."

CONTACT US

EU Students

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W: www.ucd.ie/geography [@UCD_Geography](https://www.instagram.com/UCD_Geography)

International Students

e: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie

W: www.ucd.ie/global [@UCD_Geography](https://www.instagram.com/UCD_Geography)

APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

www.ucd.ie/apply