UCD DUBLIN

University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

MSc Politics and Data Science
(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)

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.

Apart from two required core modules in each stream, all students can select four optional modules that best fit their interests. These modules can either revolve around methods needed to study digital and digitised politics (such as programming and machine learning, quantitative text analysis, statistics, and experimental methods), or they can be modules relating to comparative politics, international relations, political violence, political economy (and related fields that the School of Politics and International Relations has strengths in). All students will gain extensive experience in conducting group-based research projects under guidance of faculty.

Oldest and largest School of its kind in Ireland

UCD School of Politics and International Relations is the oldest and largest school of its kind in Ireland, with staff drawn from many countries.

Why study at UCD?

Tradition
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

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

Global community
Over 8,000 international students from over 136 countries study at UCD

Global careers
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1-2 years stay-back visa for Non-EU students

Safety
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

90 credits taught masters | **60 credits** taught modules | **30 credits** dissertation

Core modules:

Stream 1
- POL42070   Politics of (Mis-)Information
- POL42350   Connected_Politics

Stream 2
- POL40950   Introduction to Statistics
- POL42340   Programming for Soc Scientists
- POL42350   Connected_Politics

Core choice modules:

Stream 1
- POL42050   Quantitative Text Analysis
- POL42340   Programming for Soc Scientists
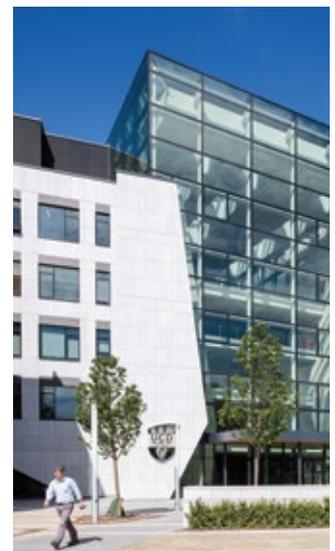- SOC40760   Dynamic Social Networks

Stream 2
- POL42050   Quantitative Text Analysis
- SOC40760   Dynamic Social Networks

Optional modules:

- Politics of European Governance
- International Political Economy
- Political Behaviour in the Middle East and North Africa
- Comparative Public Policy
- Political Violence
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Gender & the Political System
- Econ & Policy Analysis
- Qualitative Research Methods for Political Science

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

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.

Fees Fee information at www.ucd.ie/fees

Entry Requirements

- 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.

Graduate Profile

Daniel Stairs, Graduate

Coming into my MSc, I felt confident about my understanding of the subject matter but that I needed to develop my methodological knowledge; particularly in newer methods such as quantitative textual analysis. The faculty at UCD helped me find my feet and have always been approachable if I had any queries or issues. I feel that all facets of life, and especially political decision making, will become dependent on the intelligent interrogation and interpretation of data.

The MSc in Politics and Data Science is perfectly timed to ensure graduates are prepared for these challenges and understand the world around them.

Contact Us

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International Students

www.ucd.ie/international
internationaladmissions@ucd.ie

Visas / Funding / Scholarships / Accommodation

Related Masters

MSc Politics

MSc International Relations

MSc International Political Economy

MSc International Development

MSc Business Analytics

MSc Social Data Analytics

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