



# MSc Human Rights

(One Year Full Time or  
Two Years Part Time)



## Introduction

The MSc in Human Rights is a one-year intensive course that prepares you for a career in human rights research, policy or advocacy in international organisations, governmental and non-governmental bodies, or academia. Studying human rights means exploring the rights that all people have as human beings, how these rights are reflected in national legislation and international law, how people mobilise collectively on behalf of these rights and how governments respond to these claims and obligations.

The course is delivered by academics in the UCD School of Politics and International Relations, the UCD School of Law, and the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, reflecting the inherently multidisciplinary nature of human rights practice encompassing political philosophy, empirical political science (comparative politics and international relations) and legal studies. You will explore the theory, politics and law of human rights and examine the mechanisms and limitations of national and international action to protect human rights.

## Programme Highlight

The progressive realisation of human rights represents perhaps the most challenging political issue of our times. This programme aspires to develop and nurture the skills in students that would allow them to meet that challenge and contribute constructively to both policy and practice in the field of human rights.

## Programme Content and Structure



\*Students are responsible for securing their own internship placements. The School provides a list of potential host organisations, and UCD Careers offers support with application writing and related resources.

### Core Modules:

- Human Rights Law and Equality
- Politics of Human Rights
- Theory of Human Rights
- Research Design

### Option Modules:

MSc Students choose two optional modules from the following partial list:

- Law of the ECHR
- International Refugee Law
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- The Politics of International Trade and Investment
- Theories of Global Justice
- Gender, Peace, and Security
- Globalization, Empire and Race: Economic Geography
- Politics of Authoritarianism
- Quantitative Text Analysis
- UN Human Rights Practice
- Middle East & North Africa
- Gender, Conflict Harm and Transitional Justice

## Why study at UCD?



### Graduate Education

13,000 graduate students; 15% graduate research, structured PhDs



### Global Careers

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



### Global Profile

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



### Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



### Global Community

10,000 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 189 countries



### Sustainability

UCD is ranked number one in Ireland and 50th in the world for Sustainability



## Career Opportunities

Graduates work with international private-sector employers, government agencies and NGOs in roles such as: human rights specialist, field officer, human rights consultant, child protection adviser, public information officer and journalist.

Recent graduates of MSc in Human Rights now work in:

- Front Line Defenders
- United Nations
- Amnesty International
- Médecins sans Frontières
- PLAN Ireland
- Irish Aid
- Oxfam

## Graduate Profile



**Ellen Ince**

As someone with a passion and interest in learning about different cultures, it was important that my Masters featured an international outlook. This course appealed to me because Human Rights is such a broad field and I was able to make the course my own by choosing the areas I wanted to focus on - combining law, political theory, sociology and social justice studies. I had the opportunity to study a range of topics including asylum and refugee law, the origins of human rights, how human rights norms spread and what effects they have on state behaviour, the procedures of United Nations human rights bodies, as well as the functions and limitations of human rights law in achieving equality.

The course was fast-paced and interactive; consisting of class debates on challenging political issues with students from all around the world, as well as group projects and presentations. I was lucky to have amazing lecturers who were fully supportive of my decision to work part-time and volunteer/intern alongside my studies. I greatly appreciated their expertise, kindness and dedication to making the learning experience as enjoyable as possible. I now have the confidence, skills and motivation to succeed with a strong educational foundation behind me.

I would recommend this course to anyone interested in working cross-culturally and looking to pursue a global career in a diverse field.

## Applicant Profile

- A primary degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade 1 (2H1) in any discipline. 2H1 is equivalent to 60 percent, B minus or 3.08 GPA - in American system: B or 3.00 GPA.
- Applicants with a Second Class Honours Grade 2 (2:2) in their primary degree may be considered for the Graduate Diploma in Politics and International Relations.
- 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. Other accepted certificates include TOEFL, the University of Cambridge, and the Duolingo English Test. Please refer to **UCD's Minimum English Language Requirements** for full details.

## Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://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](http://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](http://www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship) for further information.

## Related Masters

- MSc Equality Studies
- MA Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
- Master in Public Policy

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

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e: [graduatespire@ucd.ie](mailto:graduatespire@ucd.ie)

w: [www.ucd.ie/spire](http://www.ucd.ie/spire)

#### International Students

e: [internationalenquiries@ucd.ie](mailto:internationalenquiries@ucd.ie)

w: [www.ucd.ie/global](http://www.ucd.ie/global)

### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)