



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



## MA in Social and Political Thought (1 year full-time, 2 years part-time)

SPT is a new inter- and multidisciplinary Master's degree. It brings together expertise from a range of UCD's academic departments, namely Sociology, Philosophy, Geography, History, Music, and Politics and IR.

Thinking about social and political issues and problems doesn't stop at disciplinary boundaries. The MA in Social and Political Thought harvests the benefits that come with

a more openly structured, interdisciplinary approach that is based on a wider contextual appreciation of political and social ideas. It will provide students with a rich understanding of the theoretical and practical dimensions of key social ideas. Students will develop the knowledge base and critical skills required to think beyond disciplinary boundaries when addressing contemporary social and political problems.

### Learning and Skills

The new SPT degree puts an emphasis on:

- Improving analytical and interpretative skills through analysing politically and socially relevant meanings in texts and other media, and engaging with critical methodological approaches;
- Developing an awareness and diagnostic skills that allow for addressing the complex relationship between thinking and action;
- Building the resourcefulness and facilitating scholarly/intellectual capacity-building powers to address social and political problems and issues;
- Sharing an awareness and encouraging a more self-reflective approach vis-à-vis a purely practical-oriented political engagement or a propensity towards ideological politics;
- Encouraging political and social engagement by stressing the educational dimensions of citizenship and civic engagement.

## 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; Two-Year 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

and

30 credits  
dissertation

### Core modules:

- Social and Political Thought in past and present: traditions, theories, paradigms
- Social and Political Thought: Problems of Method

### Optional modules:

- Organised Violence and Society
- Critical Geographies
- War, Peace & Globalisation
- Global History
- Feminist and Gender Theory
- Political Theory & the European Union
- International Political Theory
- Sociological Thinking in the Digital Age
- Critical Acting

Modules will be mainly lecture- and seminar based.





## Career Opportunities

The degree provides the necessary inter- and transdisciplinary skills to understand, analyse and communicate appropriately about a given social and political issue, problem or task. It is crucial to comprehend that thought, theories, ideologies and/or ideas never just appear out of nowhere and are never just free-floating or 'relative', that is without any context or history.

Graduates are prepared for careers in journalism, policy analysis, civil society and the NGO sector, the civil service as well as further studies and academia.



## Staff Profile

Prof Andreas Hess,  
Programme Director  
[a.hess@ucd.ie](mailto:a.hess@ucd.ie)

Being a good citizen and intellectual openness depend on each other. The SPT Master degree offers a critical perspective on the all-too-often prevailing methodological nationalism and the tendency to form fragmented communities of academic disciplines that all too often follow solely the somewhat limited horizon of the existing division of labour.

**Fees** Fee information at [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees)

## Entry Requirements

- Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in the social sciences or humanities (or equivalent). A Second Class Honours Grade One (2:1) or higher is required but Second Class Honours Grade Two (2:2) standard or equivalent may be considered.
- All candidates are expected to be proficient in written and spoken English. Applicants whose primary language is not English must submit evidence of a certificate of proficiency (such as TOEFL, Cambridge or IELTS). Test results must be less than two years old and equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.5 with no component below 6.0.

## Contact Us

### EU Students

[www.ucd.ie/sociology/contact](http://www.ucd.ie/sociology/contact)  
[socialjustice@ucd.ie](mailto:socialjustice@ucd.ie)  
+353 1 716 8674

### International Students

[www.ucd.ie/global](http://www.ucd.ie/global)  
[internationalenquiries@ucd.ie](mailto:internationalenquiries@ucd.ie)

*Visas / Funding / Scholarships /  
Accommodation*

## Related Masters

MSc Comparative Social Change  
MSc Global Solutions  
Master of Public Policy

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