



# MA Ethics: Theory and Practice

(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)



## Introduction

In association with the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life (CEPL), UCD School of Philosophy is offering an MA that provides philosophical training in Ethics, as well as enabling students to experience a context for professional Ethics through inter-disciplinary elements of the programme. Ethics is understood broadly as the study of how to act well, and includes elements of moral philosophy and political/social theory.

As graduates of this module you will be well-placed to understand and help deal with ethical issues in areas such as government, healthcare, business, agriculture, planning, education, law and journalism. But you will also have had the opportunity to develop a theoretical understanding of the nature of Ethics and its place in human life more generally. Having an understanding of Ethics, both at the level of theory and in its practical contexts is of obvious benefit in a very wide variety of career paths.

## Programme Highlight

The UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life brings academic work into the public sphere by researching, teaching and talking about Ethics. It aims to become a resource for communication on ethical issues between UCD academics and the wider community - the media, schools, regulation bodies, ombudsmen, ethics advisory committees, NGOs and government bodies. It aims to take a central role in widening ethical thinking in business, medicine, law, biotechnology, IT, urban development, veterinary and food science and the financial sector. To this end, it offers a suite of short courses in professional ethics.

## Programme Content and Structure

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

### Core Modules:

- Ethics in Public Life
- Dissertation

*(These are an indicative list of modules and there may be some minor changes)*

### Option Modules:

You must select three modules from a list of Philosophy Ethics modules:

- Aristotle's Ethics and Politics
- Philosophy of the Emotions
- The Good Society
- Feminist & Gender Theory
- Topics in Continental Philosophy
- Newman - A Philosophical Perspective
- Critique & Destruction
- The Cultural Mind

Finally, you must choose one module from a list of modules provided by other disciplines

- Information Ethics
- Theory of Human Rights
- Responsible Marketing
- Ethics in Psychology
- Human Rights & Law Equality
- Critical Geographies
- Children's Rights and Participation

*You must also choose one philosophy module from any of the range of PHIL modules*

## 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 of our Philosophy Masters programmes have gone on to pursue successful careers in journalism, the civil service, industry, teaching, politics and consultancy. The MA in Ethics: Theory and Practice may be particularly suited for people wanting to work in regulation agencies and NGOs as well as areas of business and public service that have an ethical component.

Graduates should be well placed to offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training in Ethics themselves. Ethical practice, good ethical judgement and responsibility is a highly significant aspect of all workplaces and in public life more generally.

## Academic Profile



**Assistant Professor Danielle Petherbridge**  
Director, UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life

We are all likely to face ethical situations in everyday life, at work, and in the various institutions in which we participate. The ethical decisions we make may have an impact that goes beyond our immediate environment, affecting individuals, local communities, society and the environment. Even small decisions may have a significant impact. Being able to act and make decisions in an ethical manner is important from the perspective of personal integrity, but it is also of enormous value to the success and good governance of the organisations for which we work or institutions in which we participate.

In this MA program we explore ethical challenges that arise in a range of situations, professional environments and institutions. You will be introduced to key notions and views in ethics, as well the basis of good decision-making practices, problem-solving and ethical forms of reasoning. You will also develop an understanding of how ethical frameworks are applied in practical contexts.

## Applicant Profile

- Candidates may apply for admission to the MA Degree Programme if they have obtained a BA degree with at least Second Class Honours, Grade I in Philosophy (or in a subject where the degree programme contained a significant proportion of philosophical components)
- However, all applicants will be assessed on a case-by-case basis so that in certain exceptional cases an award at a lower level or a 2.2 classification may be considered. MA students may be required to attend an interview either via Zoom or in person.
- Fluency in English is a requirement. Candidates who have not completed their primary (bachelor's) degrees with English as the language of instruction will need to satisfy the University College Dublin's English Language Requirements.

## 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.

## Related Masters

- MA Philosophy
- MA Philosophy & Public Affairs
- MA Contemporary European Philosophy
- MA Philosophy & Literature

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

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#### International Students

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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)