University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

MA Political Theory
(One Year Full Time or Two Years Part Time)

Introduction

Political Theory—contemplating how we should live together —is as old as politics itself. Issues such as justice, freedom, inequality, democratic participation, human rights, immigration and multiculturalism, security and terror call for consideration of the moral dimension of politics, informed by both contemporary political thinkers and the history of political thought. Political theory combines a rigorous training in argument analysis and value theory with room for an imaginative search for and discussion of solutions. Some of the biggest challenges in political life is how to prioritise our moral commitments: How do we square free speech with protections from hate speech?, Given the urgent need for climate action, is it permissible or even required to close down entire industries with the resulting loss of jobs and livelihoods?, How should we balance the commitment to democratic participation with the need for expert advice on many important policy issues? etc. Part of doing political theory is to analyse the different normatively significant concerns and discuss how to argue for and against different orderings.

Programme Highlight

The MA in Political Theory allows you to explore the moral dimension of political choices, institutions, and ideologies. It has a flexible design that allows you to set your own priority with regard to deepening your understanding of normative theory and/or exploring different moral issues and concerns.

Programme Content and Structure

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

Core Modules:

- Thesis (30 credits)
- Research Design
- Comparative Political Theory
- Theories of Global Justice
- Theory of Human Rights

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

Option Modules:

MA students choose 2 modules from the following partial list:

- Comparative Public Policy
- Introduction to Statistics
- Politics of Human Rights
- Political Violence
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Politics of (mis-)information
- Gender, Peace, and Security
- Feminist Theory
- Quantitative Text Analysis
- IR Theory: Conflict and Identity

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 work with a wide variety of international private-sector employers, government agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in roles such as: academics, policy analysts, diplomats, lawyers, journalists.

Recent graduates of UCD School of Politics & International Relations now work in:

- UK Foreign Office,
- US State Department,
- Irish Civil Service,
- University College London, and
- University of Melbourne.

Applicant Profile

- A primary degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade 1 (2H1). 2H1 is equivalent to 60 percent, B minus or 3.08 GPA - in American system: B or 3.00 GPA.

- 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.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on **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** 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** for further information.

Related Masters

- MA/MSc Politics
- MSc International Relations
- MA Philosophy and Public Affairs
- Master in Public Policy

Graduate Profile

Luke Ecock

I enrolled on the MA in Political Theory to learn more about how our political institutions worked, where they failed, and what could, and should, be done better. Political theory is a study of a potential tomorrow: what should our political institutions look like? Who should they serve? I wanted to study on a programme that would point me towards the critical tools that could answer these questions, help me discover new ones, and confront today's political challenges head on, which was precisely what the MA in Political Theory offered.

One of the reasons I chose SPIRE's programme was its open and accessible curriculum. I do not have an educational background in politics, but the variety of modules available and the encouragement of students of all backgrounds meant that the MA in Political Theory was a hotbed of innovative ideas and diverse thinkers from all over the world. This meant that while my Tuesdays could be concentrated on questions concerning what constituted a just transition to renewable energy, my Thursdays might be spent investigating the probable causes behind wealth inequality.

The MA in Political Theory challenged me to leave my comfort zone and to think of how we live together and organise ourselves in new and exciting ways. The programme recognises that there is no one set of answers to the questions we have about our political institutions. Fresh ideas are always welcome, and with as academically adventurous as this cohort of peers and mentors, they were never in short supply.