CAREERS FOR PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES

PHILOSOPHY AT UCC

Philosophy is the attempt to understand fundamental truths about the world, ourselves, and our relationships to the world and to others. It involves asking, discussing and attempting to answer some of life's most basic questions, such as: What is knowledge? Do we have free will? What is the mind? What is right or wrong? Philosophy is largely about asking questions, and looking for reasons in the answers. Studying Philosophy at UCC will expose you to the most important philosophical ideas, thinkers and frameworks – ancient and modern, western and eastern – enabling you to address contemporary problems in a globalised context.

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Department of
Philosophy

WHAT CAN PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

·········

Your degree is an essential stepping stone to direct employment in various professions, including work in areas such as law, politics, business, education, and computer science. The following are some of the attributes and skills acquired by our students:

- A deep knowledge and appreciation of the most important concepts used in the modern world.

- An ability to think critically and write with analytical precision.

- Improved attention to detail, analysis, judgment, planning, and organisation.

- An ability to question, listen, and communicate with greater interpersonal sensitivity and respect.

- An understanding of professional practice, legal frameworks, and ethical standards in most professions.

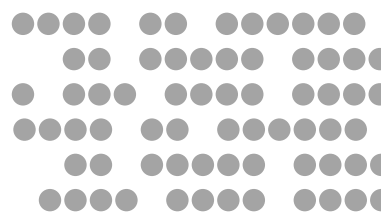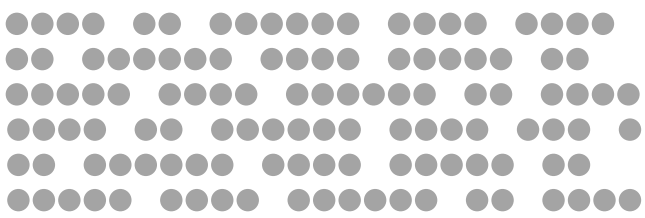- An ability to master complex material and apply it to concrete problems.

- An ability to develop cogent and clear arguments.

- An ability to identify and solve problems, work with information, and handle a mass of diverse data, assess risks, and draw conclusions.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR PHILOSOPHY

Each year, UCC Career Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on an annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. UCC students study Philosophy as a subject offered within the Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme. Over the last 4 years 90%+ of Bachelor of Arts graduates progress to employment or further study. You can see the 5-year trend for BA graduates at the following link on the UCC Careers website.

UCC CAREERS

GRADUATE STUDIES

Your BA degree is a foundation for a further course of study, which will provide enhanced critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of certain topics in Philosophy. UCC Philosophy offers two taught masters degrees covering broader areas in philosophy like value theory and philosophy of mind and more specific areas like health and society. These one-year programmes are designed with professional career requirements in mind, where professional skills are combined with academic learning. For those interested in further research, the Department offers a three to four-year PhD programme.

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES

Philosophy is an internationally recognized area for the development of essential professional skills, with opportunities for those with university-level qualifications and relevant work experience. UCC Philosophy will provide students with academic training and the professional skills necessary to develop a career. The following are the main opportunities for employment in the Republic of Ireland:

Philosophy provides the communication and critical thinking skills for success as a teacher. Often, philosophers work in the field of education.

01

Philosophy provides the skills and knowledge necessary for an effective career in the public sector, including local and national government and national health services.

02

Philosophy provides the research, organizational, reading, and writing skills
for a successful career in journalism
and publishing.

03

Philosophy is often a solid foundation for a career in law. Philosophers accrue the critical thinking and arguing skills for effective careers in the legal profession.

04

Philosophers often develop the emotional intelligence needed for an effective career in psychotherapy and counseling. Philosophers can have the skills that make for good mental healthcare professionals.

05

Some of the most creative and successful entrepreneurs have a degree in philosophy. Philosophers often succeed in the fields of business and advertising.

06

There is really no career path where the critical and creative thinking skills and interpersonal sensitivity one obtains from Philosophy
are not in demand from employers.
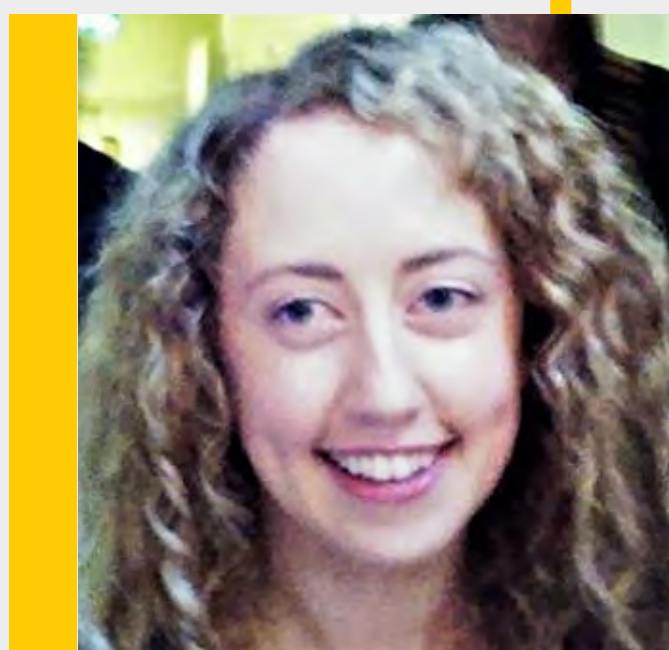
07

Graduate Profile 1
CIAN WHELAN

I graduated UCC with a PhD on the potential for mainstreaming environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) analysis in China. I am now a governance and sustainability analyst at Baillie Gifford, an investment manager in Edinburgh. Baillie Gifford has a long-term investment horizon, which makes it vitally important to assess factors that could impact the long-term sustainability of the businesses we invest in. As an analyst I conduct company-specific and thematic research, and engage with investee companies on sustainability topics. UCC's Philosophy Department enabled me to develop skills that not only differentiated me from other candidates in the job market, but also continue to inform my day-to-day work.

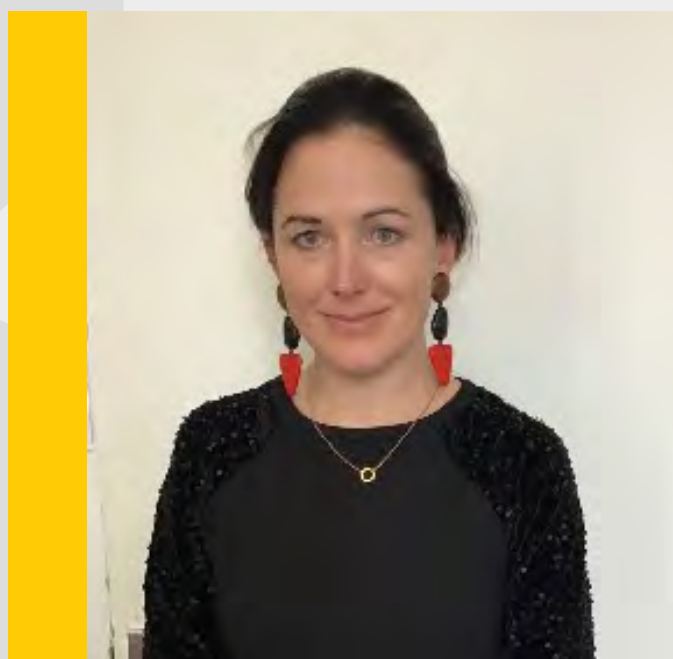## Graduate Profile 2
EMMA DORE-HORGAN

My experience on the MA program quickly made me realise that I wished to embark upon doctoral study in philosophy. After submitting my dissertation, I applied for PhD opportunities; was fortunate enough to secure fully-funded scholarships for both the LSE and Oxford; and from October 2019, I shall be a Wellcome Trust-funded DPhil student at Oxford. I could not recommend UCC's philosophy program highly enough. My experience was excellent, my lecturers were highly supportive, and my receipt of the above opportunity is due to both their support and to the quality of the teaching and supervision I received from UCC.

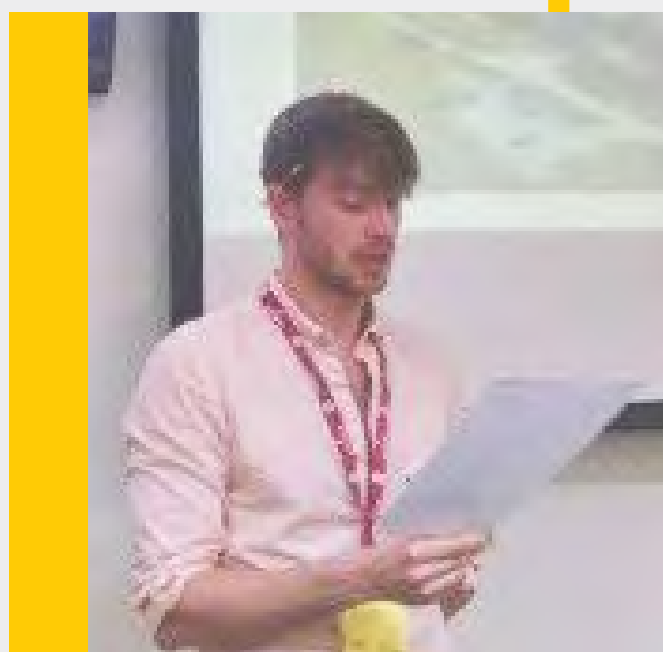## Graduate Profile 3
JENNIFER HORGAN

I graduated from UCC with a BA in English and Philosophy in 2002, with an MA in Gender and Sexuality in Irish Writing in 2004 and a Higher Diploma in Education in 2006. I taught English in East London for six years and English and Philosophy in Abu Dhabi for another four. The British curriculum provided me with an opportunity to revisit philosophy in my teaching. I was thrilled to discover the new Ethics course in the Junior Cycle in Ireland. I have returned to Cork, teaching English and ethics in Educate Together Secondary School. My qualifications from UCC set me on a wonderful path of lifelong questioning and learning.

Graduate Profile 4
DAVID WHYTE

I graduated from UCC with a BA in Philosophy in 2012. I moved to University College London for an MSc and PhD in Anthropology. My doctoral research used surf culture to study rural coastal communities and environmental politics in Ireland. I am now employed as Graduate Development Officer by Ballyhoura Development, a community development non-profit operating in North Cork/South Limerick. By studying and later tutoring philosophy at UCC, I encountered a fascinating discipline and methods of conceptual analysis that have been useful throughout my studies and employment. My relationship with the department has been essential.

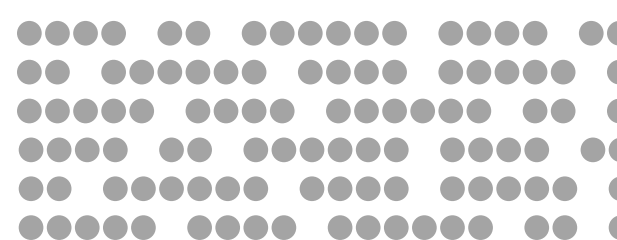# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

UCC PHILOSOPHY →

FACEBOOK →

TWITTER →

PHILOSOPHY IRELAND

· · · · · →

IRISH PHILOSOPHY

· · · · · →

IRISHTIMES PHILOSOPHY ARTICLE

· · · · · →

12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR PHILOSOPHY DEGREE TO WORK

01 Participate fully in the professional training of your degree by attending lectures and completing coursework.

02 Gain practical experience by applying critical thinking skills learned in the Philosophy classroom to real life situations.
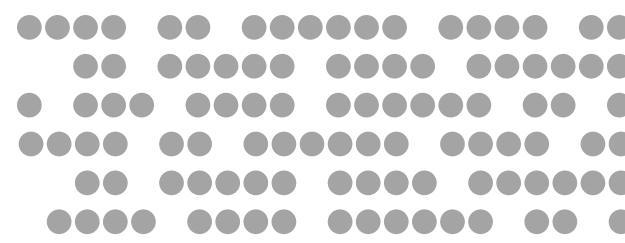
03 Gain relevant skills and experience through the "UCC Works" award.

MORE INFO

04 Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering – find out more by attending the annual UCC volunteering fair.

05

Gain relevant skills and experience by taking an active role in a club/society that interests you, or the Student's Union.

06

Avail of university-wide modules and skills training that will equip you with professional skills, such as business planning, IT, languages or presentation skills.
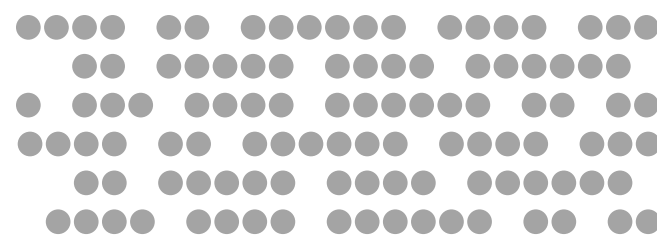
07

Attend careers workshops and talks given by past graduates and qualified professionals in your field.

08

Join relevant professional and industry networks in Ireland and abroad.

09 Create an up-to-date CV and professional social media profile and presence.

10 Avail of professional, confidential and impartial careers advice at UCC Career Services by booking a consultation online.

11 Attend employer events on campus and use them to build relationships with potential employers.

12 Get a Masters in Philosophy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Philosophers have the highest mid-career salaries of non-STEM majors.

CONTACT US

**UCC Career Services,
3 Brighton Villas,
Western Road, UCC**

☎ **021 4902500
021 4903202**

Email Careers

------ ➤

**Email Graduate
Recruitment**

------ ➤

**Book an
appointment
to meet a
careers advisor**

------ ➤

**Work
Placement**

------ ➤

UCC Works
Award Programme

UCC Careers

MyStudentJob

Employability Events

Careers Fairs, Roadshows, Employer Presentations

Volunteering Opportunities

JOB

Connect with your job

EVENTS

VOLUNTEER