



# CAREERS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AT UCC

Social Science students explore the social, cultural, psychological, political, and economic influences that shape the world we live in. It is a dynamic area of study that enables graduates to analyse complicated social issues, such as mental health, children's rights, education, disability, migration, sexual identity, housing and homelessness, equality and sustainability. The BSocSc degree is ideally suited to open-minded people who are committed to social justice and motivated to work with people in social- and community-focused contexts. It offers an entry into professional careers that promote people's rights and well-being in various ways.



**UCC**

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

School of

**Applied Social Studies**

# WHAT CAN SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

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Social Science is an essential stepping stone to employment in social professional and related people-centred careers. Employers value the range of transferable skills and attributes acquired by our students such as:

- A comprehensive knowledge of contemporary social issues and the capacity to analyse complex ideas.
- An appreciation of social justice, equality, diversity and social inclusion and the motivation to promote social change in accordance with these values.
- A deep understanding of social policy and practice issues from local to global contexts.
- The knowledge and skills to work with different groups to achieve positive change in their lives.





- Critical thinking, problem-solving, and argumentation skills.

- Team work skills.

- An ability to gather, analyse and evaluate information from multiple sources, appreciating detail, nuance and context.

- Research and report writing skills.

- Digital skills and an ability to disseminate information in various formats.



# GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE

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UCC Career Services produces an annual Graduate Outcomes Report surveying graduates six months after graduation, capturing the early stages of their career journey. Typically 90% of our students progress to either employment or further study in a diverse range of areas. You can see the 5-year trend for BSocSc graduates via [this link](#):



**5-YEAR  
TREND**

**UCC  
CAREERS**

## GRADUATE STUDIES

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In terms of postgraduate opportunities, a big advantage for Social Science graduates is that they can access a broad range of postgraduate courses in diverse fields in Ireland and abroad. Many Social Science graduates pursue a career in Social Work and progress to the Master of Social Work in UCC. Other UCC options include professional qualifications and further study in youth work; voluntary and community sector management; planning and sustainable development; and youth arts and sports education. Research degrees are also an option. Graduates also pursue professional qualifications in education, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, public health, human resources; whilst others branch into business-related qualifications.



# AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES

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Social Science is a long-established area of study recognised nationally and internationally principally leading to employment in the social professions for those with university-level qualifications and relevant work experience. The following are the main opportunities for employment in the Republic of Ireland:

For BSocSc graduates who progress to a professional social work qualification there are numerous opportunities to practice social work in statutory and voluntary settings.

01

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency employs social workers in Child Protection and Welfare, Children in Care and Adoption, Family Support, Early Years and School Age Services, Educational Welfare Services, and Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Services.

02





BSocSc graduates are employed by public and community services including charitable and non-profit organisations in support, advocacy, and caring roles.

03

Graduates often work with social groups who have particular needs, including children and young people, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, migrants, and older people.

04

The public and civil service employ BSocSc graduates in administration and in services such as housing, mental health, education, youth services, and family support services.

05

BSocSc graduates also work in and develop careers in advocacy, as policy officers and social researchers with statutory, voluntary and campaigning organisations.

06

For BSocSc graduates who branch out to other areas of professional development, employment destinations include teaching, occupational therapy, planning, human resources, management and marketing, journalism etc.

07





## Graduate Profile 1

### **JENNIFER GOFF**

I graduated from UCC with a BSocSc degree, and followed with a MSc in Drug and Alcohol Studies, University of Glasgow. After graduating, I worked in the addictions field supporting people living with Hepatitis C to get treatment and recover. I now work as a Communications and Engagement Officer for Scotland's HIV, Hepatitis C and sexual health charity, where I work to make sure the voices and needs of marginalised people are heard in research, policy, health services and wider society. The BSocSc helped me to form the values that guide my practice today – challenging inequality, fostering empathy, and promoting empowerment.



## Graduate Profile 2

### **KEITH DUFF**

I graduated with a BSocSc degree and subsequently a Master of Social Work. I started my career working for the Health Service Executive as a Social Worker in the Child Protection Services. I now work with the Prevention, Partnership, and Family Support initiative which assists families in identifying the challenges or needs in their lives and establishing strategies to address them. My degree and post graduate qualification provided the skills and knowledge necessary to work collaboratively with children and families across a wide domain of experiences, to assist them in seeking solutions and resources in securing their future.



### Graduate Profile 3

## **NESSA COSGROVE**

Graduating with a BSocSc, I then completed a Masters in Youth & Community Work. Having worked in Family Support, Community Development and Youth Work, currently I am a Youth Liaison Worker with Sligo/Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service. I support vulnerable young people and their families in accessing community supports. I am also trying to bring about positive social change through the Labour Party and Trade Union movement. The BSocSc provided me with a strong understanding of how people and their communities are affected by social structures and how effective social policies can address inequalities within our social world.



### Graduate Profile 4

## **SEAMUS BANE**

I entered UCC as a mature student and graduated with a BSocSc. I work as a Youth Officer with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. My career has included settings in community development, life-long learning and the youth work sector. In all of these I found that the theories and perspectives explored in the course have a resonance and impact on real lives and the society in which we live. The critical skills developed on the BSocSc will challenge you to examine core beliefs and values about how we as interdependent humans relate to others –locally and globally, an important skill in today's world.





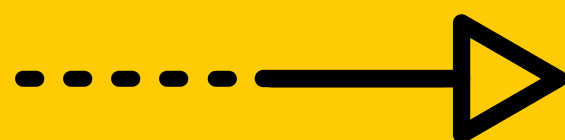
# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

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**UCC SOCIAL  
SCIENCE  
PROSPECTUS**



**UCC SOCIAL  
SCIENCE ON  
TWITTER**



**GRADIRELAND JOBS  
AND CAREER ADVICE  
FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE**



**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE PUBLIC AND  
CIVIL SERVICE**



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**THE WHEEL  
INFORMATION  
ON TRAINING,  
JOBS ETC**



**ACTIVELINK**



**IRISH ASSOCIATION OF  
SOCIAL WORKERS**



**NATIONAL YOUTH  
COUNCIL OF IRELAND**



**IRISH SOCIAL POLICY  
ASSOCIATION**





# 12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR SOCIAL SCIENCE DEGREE TO WORK

01

Attend talks by professionals who regularly contribute to the BSocSc degree.

02

Choose BSocSc placement options. Gain work experience in settings from your local community to working abroad and grow your networks.

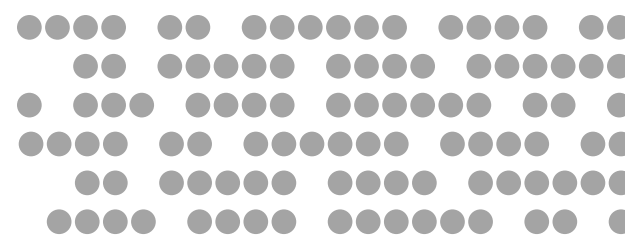
03

Expand your skillset: become a Peer Support Leader and support new students.

04

Gain skills and experience through volunteering: attend the UCC volunteering fair; connect with the Student Volunteer database or the Cork Volunteer Centre.





**05**

Pursue community engagement: for your final year project, choose a CARL (Community-Academic Research Links) project and collaborate with a community organisation.

**06**

Participate in the Applied Social Studies Critical Social Thinking Initiative: present and publish your final year project.

**07**

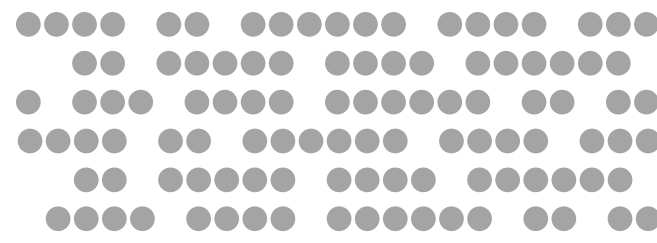
Follow the achievements of previous BSocSc students: apply for the Quercus Talented Students' Programme (Active Citizenship Scholarship).

**08**

Explore your interests and find your niche: become active in a UCC society and in campaigns that inspire you.







**09**

Follow the successful track record of BSocSc students and run for Student Union election.

**10**

Seek advice from UCC Career Services.

**11**

Attend UCC employer events and build relationships with potential employers.

**12**

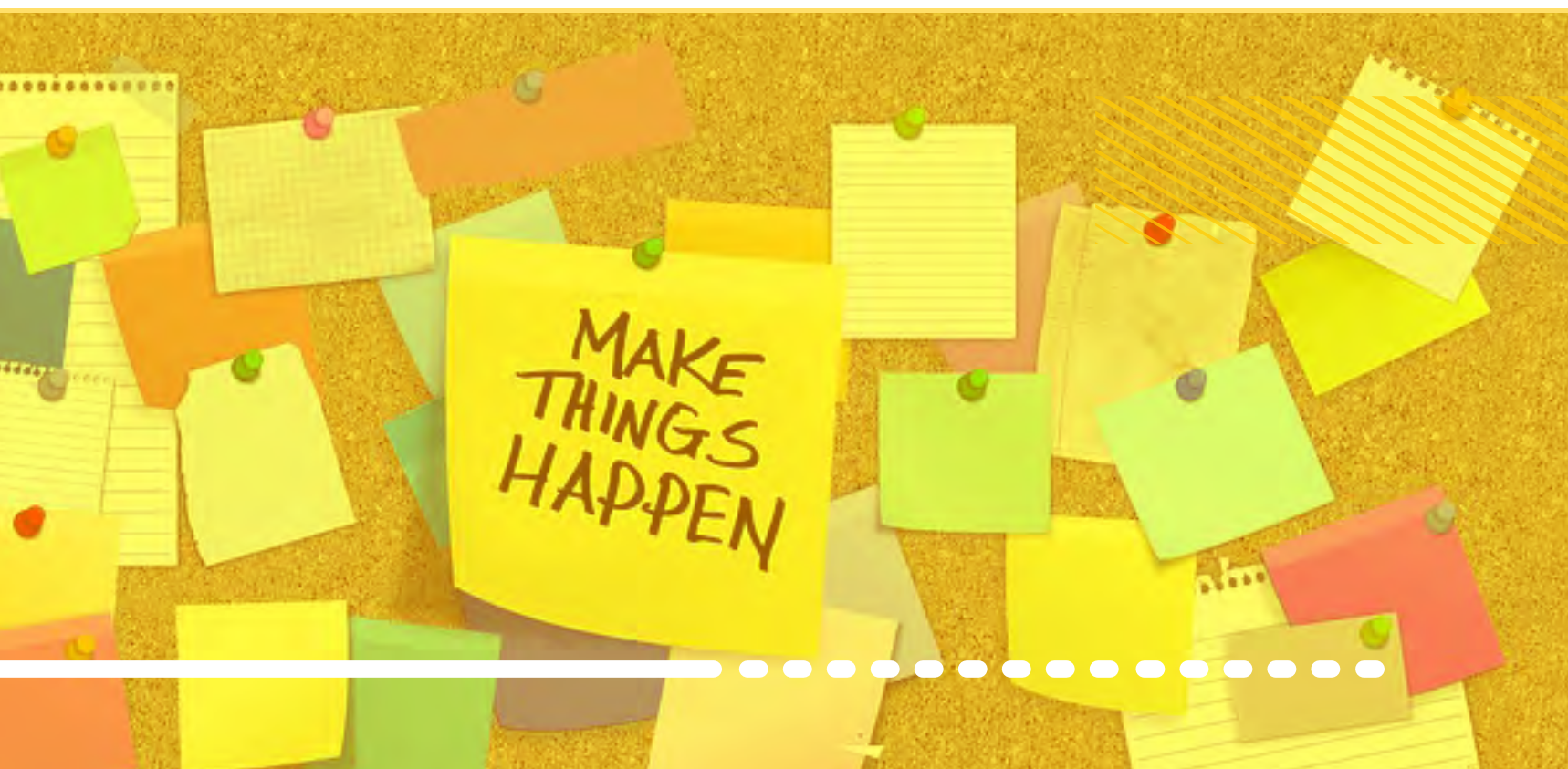
Build skills and experience with the UCC Works Award.



# DID YOU KNOW?

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There are a wealth of Social Science related employment opportunities in Ireland's burgeoning non-profit sector. The Wheel, Ireland's national organisation in the area, has over 1,500 members.





# CONTACT US



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



**021 4902500  
021 4903202**



**Email Careers**



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



**Work  
Placement**





## **UCC Works Award Programme**



**Connect with  
your job**

## **UCC Careers**



## **MyStudentJob**



## **Employability Events**

**Careers Fairs, Roadshows,  
Employer Presentations**



## **Volunteering Opportunities**

