



# CAREERS FOR SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES

## SOCIOLOGY AT UCC

Sociology studies society as a whole. It shows us how we may think our way through the problems confronting us today. Sociology is concerned with how the modern world came into being and what challenges it faces, at local and global levels. It asks questions about power and social inequality; about identity and globalisation; about economic and political crises; climate breakdown and the future of Western civilisation. Sociology helps us understand these issues, in Irish and international contexts. You will learn useful skills such as interviewing, questionnaires, onsite observation and ethnography, discourse analysis and archival research.



**UCC**  
University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Department of  
**Sociology and  
Criminology**

# WHAT CAN SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

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Your degree in Sociology can lead to a career in education, media, arts & culture, policy, social justice advocacy in civil society organizations. Attributes and transferrable skills acquired by our students include:

- Knowledge and understanding of social structures, cultures, powers and processes that drive social change.
- Present and convey information to different audiences and various contexts.
- Situate questions and issues within a 'big picture'.
- Gather evidence from field research, ethnography, interviews, online sources, libraries.





- Grasp and articulate complex and often hotly conflicted social & political issues.

- Apply theoretical ideas to social problems.

- Work in teams where personal initiative, time management, problem solving, emotional intelligence and critical thinking are important.

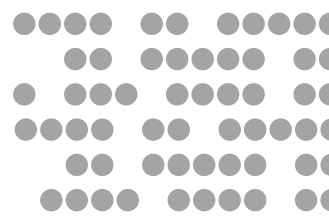
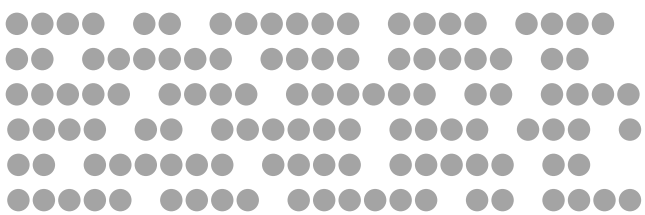
- Understand and appreciate subtle, nuanced cultural phenomena where tact and sensitivity are essential (e.g. working with different cultures and with marginalized & vulnerable people.



# GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR SOCIOLOGY

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Each year, UCC Career Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on an annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. UCC students study Sociology 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 all BA graduates at the following link on the UCC Careers website



## GRADUATE STUDIES

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Your BA degree is a foundation for a further course of study, which will provide career-specific training in a particular field of Sociology. UCC Sociology offers two taught masters degrees, MA Sociology, MA Sociology of Globalization & Development. These one-year programmes are designed with professional career requirements in mind, where training on social theory and research methods are combined with academic specialization. For those interested in an academic career, the Department offers PhD research supervision across a wide range of intellectual interests and substantive specialized fields.



# AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR SOCIOLOGY GRADUATES



Sociology graduates' specialized training and general education have high-level transferable skills that make them attractive to employers in a wide variety of occupational fields. Our graduates have been employed in the following areas:

**Third Level Education:** UCC Sociology graduates are Professors and Lecturers in Ireland at:

- UCD
- NUI Maynooth
- University of Limerick
- UCC
- Waterford Institute of Technology
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Tralee Institute of Technology
- In the UK - Sussex, Lancaster, Newcastle
- In Canada - Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph, McMaster
- Other international - Princeton NJ, Canterbury NZ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia
- Research Institutes: ESRI, CSO, TASC.

- **Media and Creative Industries:** UCC Sociology graduates are editors and journalists with the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, RTE, Russia Today. Also in theatre, film, documentary and animation companies, e.g. Pixar.

- **Civil Service** e.g. Policing Authority; Revenue; Financial Services Ombudsman.
- **Community, Planning & Sustainable Development:** Local Authorities in Ireland, in the UK, Canada and Australia.

- **Civil society organizations:** including Concern, Fair Trade Ireland, Respond Housing Association.
- **Charities and Advocacy Bodies** e.g. Concern; Doras Luimni
- **Insurance** e.g Allianz.





## Graduate Profile 1

### **MERVYN HORGAN**

I set out to become a Psychologist, but after a few challenging and liberating Sociology lectures I was hooked! I did a BA in Sociology & Psychology and an MA in Sociology from UCC and then a PhD in Sociology at York University, Canada. I'm currently Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at Guelph University, and previously Assistant Professor in Sociology at Acadia University, and a Visiting Fellow in Sociology at Yale. I received a world-class education in Sociology at UCC. The mixture of discipline, playfulness, critique, and engagement is what made my career possible.



## Graduate Profile 2

### **KATHLEEN WHITE**

I'd worked in criminal justice reform in the USA and I wanted to critically analyze the larger issues of mass incarceration both in the US and abroad. UCC's Sociology MA gave me an international perspective on social justice in a way that addressed structural issues in society. My experiences both inside and outside of the classroom allowed me to connect my academic training with real world contexts. Following a government funded Internship with the Department of Social Protection I became a Community Development Coordinator at SICCDA (South Inner City Community Development Association) in the Liberties and Dublin 8.



### Graduate Profile 3

## **IVOR CROTTY**

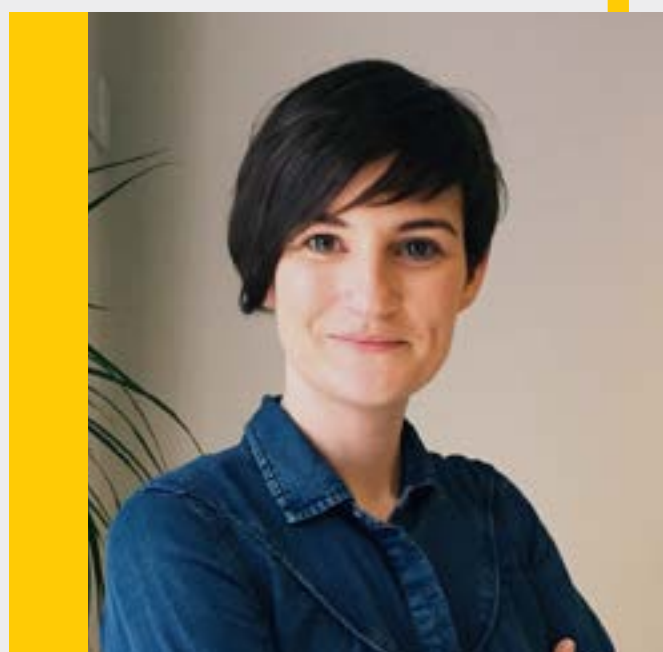
Since completing my studies in Sociology at UCC I've worked in radio, investigative journalism, mobile advertising, and TV news. Since 2015 I've worked exclusively with digital media and communities. I opened a digital news innovation hub in Dublin, and I'm now Deputy Director of Creative & Innovation at Russia Today in Moscow, where we build award winning real-time storytelling on digital platforms. Sociology has given me a framework that evolves with the times, that informs my day-to-day tactics & strategy, and is a constant source of pleasure and inspiration.



### Graduate Profile 4

## **GRAINNE CURTIN**

I currently work in a communications role at the Policing Authority, having previously worked in a similar role at the Irish Film Board. I hold a BA in Sociology and Politics and an MA in Sociology, both from UCC. Understanding audiences is the cornerstone to being a good communicator. At UCC Sociology, I learned how to think about people collectively, how to look at patterns in their behaviours and values, and try to put context on this. My job requires me to analyse and evaluate, to be critical, and to break down complex concepts. In all of these ways UCC Sociology provided a great foundation for a career in communications.





# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

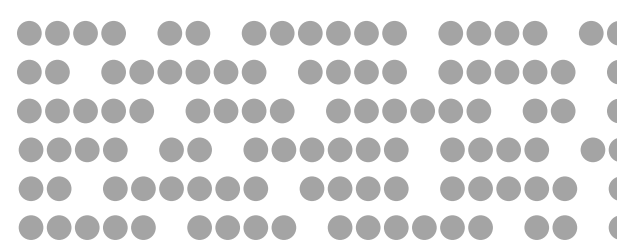
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Training bodies and professional associations, and websites:

**DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY UCC**



**SOCIOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
IRELAND**



# 12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR SOCIOLOGY DEGREE TO WORK

01

Participate fully in the professional training and fieldwork aspects of your degree.

02

Gain practical experience through summer or part-time employment in relevant organisations (social movements, NGOs and advocacy groups in Ireland and abroad).

03

Gain relevant skills and experience through the “UCC Works” award.

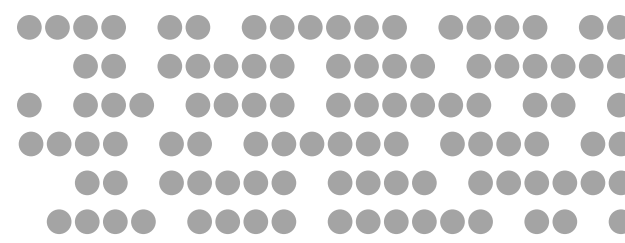
**MORE  
INFO**

04

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







**05**

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

**06**

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

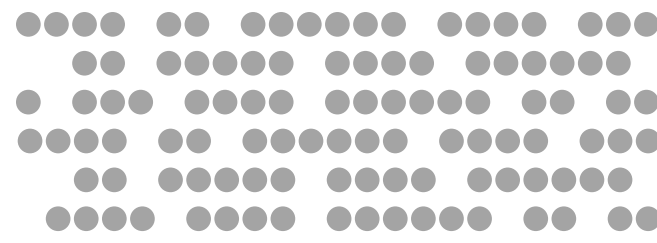
**07**

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 (e.g. the Sociological Association of Ireland).





**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.

**11**

Attend employer events on campus to build relationships with potential employers.

**12**

Develop your degree with a Masters course in Sociology.

**MORE  
INFO**





# DID YOU KNOW?

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## **Famous people who studied Sociology:**

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Michelle Obama.

Michael Dell (Dell computers)

Martin Luther King jr.



# 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**



**Connect with  
your job**

## **UCC Careers**



## **MyStudentJob**



## **Employability Events**

**Careers Fairs, Roadshows,  
Employer Presentations**



## **Volunteering Opportunities**

