



# School of Applied Social Studies Information Session

BSocSc  
Youth and Community Work  
2025-26





# BSocSc Youth and Community Work CK114, School of Applied Social Studies

- Programme duration: 3 years
- Professionally accredited by NSETS (North/South Education and Training Standards Committee for Youth Work)
- Offers a degree and professional accreditation in Youth Work.



# Who is this degree for?

People who are interested in making Irish society a more just society.

People who are interested in what happens in their community and who are actively involved in their community.

People who enjoy working with young people and who believe that by working with young people you can help them to help themselves.

People who are interested in groups which are struggling for rights and equality.

People who want further education and a professional training in youth and community work.

# Course Objectives

Prepare students who take part in the course for **employment and/or enhanced roles as volunteers** in a range of youth and community work contexts.

**Value participants' prior experience** and enhance this by engaging them in a process of learning which will facilitate their personal development and growth, contribute to their professional development as youth and community workers and increase their knowledge and skills bases.

Provide the opportunities and resources for each student to ensure the **integration of theory and practice**.

Provide, through negotiation, a range of **fieldwork placements** which will both enhance the skills development of the student and development of the agency as part of the on-going training process.

Provide a framework for **political and social analysis** with which to explore the tensions and realities of youth and community work as an area of professional practice.

Locate the practice of the students within an **international context**, by examining issues and practices in youth and community work internationally.

## **BYCW: Year 1 Modules**

### **60 credits in total in Year 1**

<b>SS1101</b>	<b>Introduction to Youth &amp; Community Work (10 credits)</b>
<b>SS1102</b>	<b>Social Analysis 1 (10 credits)</b>
<b>SS1104</b>	<b>Principles and Practice of Youth and Community Work (10 credits)</b>
<b>SS1105</b>	<b>Social Policy 1 (10 credits)</b>
<b>SS1107</b>	<b>Level 1 Professional Placement (10 credits)</b>
<b>SS1154</b>	<b>Informal and Global Education in a Youth and Community Work Setting (5 credits)</b>
<b>SS1130</b>	<b>Contemporary Issues in Youth and Community Work (5 credits)</b>

<https://www.ucc.ie/admin/registrar/modules/>

## Principles of Youth and Community Work which inform the course

- Youth and Community Work is about working *with* people. The course, thus, aims to develop particular skills in the youth and community worker as an educator which will facilitate them to work alongside and with people rather than *for* them.
- As youth and community workers, core skills of enabling and facilitating are seen as crucial in working with communities, allowing the worker to be of service to the community and those in it.

# About the Course

## How is the degree delivered?

- Full-time course
- 3 years duration
- 2 consecutive days per week at lectures
- 2 days/16 hours per week on placement
- Same model for years 1 & 2; Year 3 has 10-week block placement

## Course Curriculum

- Year 1 – 7 Subjects/Modules
- 4 Subjects/Modules at a time
- Building from one year to the next

## Support

Consistent individual and group academic and placement tutorial support.

# Application Process

Four entry routes:

1. Leaving Certificate
2. Mature Student
3. QQI
4. ACE



All applications are made online through the CAO (Central Applications Office)

Apply through the CAO by **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2026** – **CAO Code CK114** and get **CAO number** – [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)



# Entry Requirements (all applicants)

- All applicants must have relevant and verifiable experience, either paid or voluntary in the youth/community/voluntary sector. This can include experience as a participant.
- All applicants will be required to submit a statement of interest/personal statement with their CAO application.
- Knowledge of social issues and Youth and Community Work and a readiness to undertake professional training in Youth and Community Work.
- Interviews are used as a selection method.



Study of Social Science  
combined with Youth  
and Community Work

## Leaving Cert CAO process:

- **Personal Statement**
- **Interview – looking for knowledge of youth and community work, knowledge of social issues and relevant experience.**

# Leaving Cert Applicants

- Minimum NUI requirements of 6 subjects at Leaving Certificate, with minimum grades of 2H5 and 4 O6/H7.
- English, Irish and another language must be presented.

# QQI Entry Route

- Exemption from the MSE test
- Successful applicants must achieve Distinctions\* (i.e. 80% or greater) in 4 modules in their final results (8 modules successfully completed)
- List of eligible QQI Programmes here  
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/undergrad/fetac/acsss/>



# Mature Entry Route

**MATURE:** As a mature applicant you must be **over 23 years by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

Provide a Statement of Interest

MSE – Mature Student Evaluation

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace/mastudentevaluationapp/>

# ACE Entry Route

- Exemption from the MSE
- Successful applicants must have successfully completed an ACE Diploma from the approved list here <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck114/#section4>
- Applicants who are successful in gaining a place on the course through the ACE route (DYCW) may also qualify to be exempted from one 10 credit module on the programme (SS1101 – An Introduction to Youth & Community Work)

# CAREERS

- Mainstream Youth Work e.g. Foróige
- Special Project Youth Work
- Garda Youth Diversion Projects
- Community Development
- Community Based Drug and Alcohol Projects e.g. Tabor Lodge
- Schools Completion Programmes
- Family Resource Centres
- Community Arts
- Youth/Community
- Mental Health e.g. Jigsaw
- HSE Health Promotion
- Homeless Agencies e.g. SIMON, Vincent de Paul
- SOLAS Local Training Initiatives
- Sustainability and Environmental Awareness related projects
- Local government



# Postgraduate Routes



## **Within the School**

Masters in Planning (Planning & Sustainable Development)

Masters in Social Policy (MSocSc)

Master of Social Science in Research (by Portfolio) (MSocSc)

Masters of Social Work

Masters in Voluntary and Community Sector Management (MSocSc)

## **Outside the School**

BYCW graduates have gone on to undertake postgraduate study in areas such as social policy, law, counselling, criminology, sociology, migration studies, women's studies, media studies, psychology and life coaching.



# Mature Student Testimonial

- [Ger Interview 1 with UCC Students – YouTube](#)



# Graduate Testimonials

**What did you find most rewarding about doing the degree?**



Darcy

I love the fact that it's both placement and lectures weekly. The classes are engaging and there's room for plenty of discussions, your life experience is highly valued in UCC.

Liz

Working with different groups of people for each of the placements was particularly rewarding and allowed me the opportunity to apply what I was learning academically to how I engaged with people and their organisations.

# Graduate Testimonials

## Where are they now?

Megan

I am working in my dream job where I get to work with the most amazing and inspiring young people and children every day. I love getting to know the children and young people I work with and learn something new from them every day.



Cian

Coming from a family that has fostered for the past number of years has also driven me towards this kind of a career. The staff on the course have helped me to overcome the barrier of working with young people around my own age and use it to my advantage. The lecturers and tutors have been a great help

# Any Questions?

Programme Queries to:

[youthandcommunitywork@ucc.ie](mailto:youthandcommunitywork@ucc.ie)

Webpage:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ck114/>

X: [@BsocscW](#)

**Thank you!**