



Courses

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Sociology (JH)

B.A. Honours Bachelor Degree (NFQ Level 8)

4 Years Full-Time

87 Places

CAO Points 481-583 (2025)

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What is Sociology?

Sociology studies the interaction of people within social groups like families, schools, communities and companies and how this shapes their behaviours and life chances. It explores questions such as: why do migrants develop their cultural identities in different ways? How does a child's family of origin shape their chances of educational success and job prospects? Do state rules and regulations represent and protect elite power? Sociology is foremost among the social sciences in its understanding of social change.

Do you enjoy:

- Debating how globalisation impacts on work conditions in the developed and developing world?
- Finding out how changes in gender roles are reshaping developed and developing societies alike?
- Learning the facts about why some societies are more unequal than

others and the consequences of this?

Sociology: The course for you?

If you are curious about people and societies and want to understand the social changes taking place in the world today, then Sociology is for you. You will also gain the ability to understand topical issues and to communicate complex information and thoughts coherently. In addition, you will learn invaluable analytical, communication, research and presentation skills – transferable skills which can be applied to a wide range of careers and postgraduate programmes.

Sociology at Trinity

There has been a rich tradition of sociological education at Trinity since the 1960s. The department is committed to advancing the understanding of society and to igniting the passion of our students through exceptional teaching and research. The Department of Sociology is internationally known for its work on education and employment, migration, identities, social inequalities, conflict and digital lives. The department has won several teaching awards—both for postgraduates and staff—for outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence.

As a recent graduate put it, Sociology explains how the great thinkers predicted the ills of modern society from social isolation to empty hospital wards. It questions the future of whether India can and will become the next China, and whether the internet will undermine traditional communities. It explains the underlying reasons why European societies are culturally so different. It tackles the big social issues of conflict, race, migration, gender and popular culture. It teaches you how to understand, research and explain all of these topics in a logical, organised fashion.

Graduate skills and career opportunities

Sociology graduates find that their broad training and understanding of how society and people work means they can thrive in careers in academia and teaching, consulting, non-governmental organisations, policy analysis, media and journalism, as well as management and advisory roles in the public service.

Graduates are working for organisations as diverse as Goodbody Stockbrokers, the ESRI, the European Parliament, Citibank, RTÉ, Google, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Enterprise Ireland.

Your degree and what you'll study

Our modules cover Ireland, the wider European context, as well as the global arena. The first two years are more general and foundational in nature while the

third and fourth years are characterised by smaller, more intimate classes that attempt to challenge you intellectually and encourage problem solving and critical thinking skills.

First and second year

Sociology teaching in the first and second years emphasises the understanding of the basic principles of sociology and the acquisition of both quantitative and qualitative research skills necessary for in-depth study. In first year, you are introduced to the distinctive questions that sociologists ask about human society, and the theories and concepts used in the search for answers. You have approximately six hours of lectures and three hours of tutorials per week in Sociology.

In the second year, you study issues around gender, work and family; power, state and social movements, and are introduced to sociological research methods and theory.

Third and fourth year

Specialisation in sociological topic areas, and more advanced analysis, research and presentation skills are provided in the third and fourth years. In your third year, you learn from modules in: Globalisation and Development; Comparative Sociology; Race, Ethnicity and Identity; and Social Stratification and Inequalities. You also carry out research projects involving analysis of both numerical data from surveys, and verbal data that are the outcomes of recorded interviews and focus groups.

The fourth year offers modules in a variety of modules, including: Sociological Data Science; Computational Social Science; Social Networks; Labour Markets; Gender and Institutions, Migration, and Conflict Studies. You have the opportunity to carry out your own independent Capstone research project from start to finish on a topic of your choice. Recent Capstone projects have included: Immigration and the Prison System, Unmarried Fathers' Participation in their Children's Lives, and The Impact of Natural Disasters on Social Change. Many students find this a great asset when talking to employers and applying for jobs.

Modules are examined by a combination of continuous assessment including essays, portfolios, individual and group presentations, and the formal end-of-semester examination. In addition, students specialising exclusively in sociology in their final year complete a Capstone project.

There are QQI/FET routes available for this course. Please see www.cao.ie for details.

[Click here](#) for further information on modules/subjects.

Study abroad

Around a third of our undergraduate students participate in Erasmus and non-EU international exchanges. You may participate in full-year or half-year exchanges with the following partner institutions: University of Barcelona (Spain), Charles University Prague (Czechia), Umea University (Sweden), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Helsinki (Finland), University of Malta (Malta), Istanbul Bogazici University (Türkiye), Utrecht University (Netherlands), Ludwig Maximilian University Munich (Germany). In addition, you can compete for a smaller number of places on university-wide non-European exchanges with partners in Australia, Singapore, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Brazil, Canada and the US in your third year. Most of these universities offer their courses through English. Further information on student exchanges can be found at: www.tcd.ie/global/mobility/outbound

Course Details

Awards

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CAO Information

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Number of Places

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Course Options

Sociology is studied as a Joint Honours subject with one of the following options:

[TR212 Economics](#)

[TR272 English Studies](#)

[TR332 Geography](#)

[TR482 History of Art and Architecture](#)

[TR592 Middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations](#)

[TR662 Philosophy](#)

[TR756 Modern Language \(Early Irish, German, Irish, Italian, Russian and Spanish\)](#)

[TR759 Social Policy](#)

Admission Requirements

English Language Requirements

All applicants to Trinity are required to provide official evidence of proficiency in the English language. Applicants to this course are required to meet **Band B (Standard Entry)** English language requirements. For more details of qualifications that meet Band B, see the English Language Requirements page [here](#).

Course Fees

For a full list of undergraduate fees, [click here](#).