



Waterford Institute *of* Technology

INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

POSTGRADUATE

MA in Social Studies

LEVEL **9**

Department of Applied Arts



The MA in Social Studies is a four semester Level 9 taught programme which aims to develop critically-minded social studies thinkers and skilled social researchers who will add value to the social sciences at local, regional and national levels.

Course Outline

The MA in Social Studies is a four semester Level 9 taught programme which aims to develop critically-minded social studies thinkers and skilled social science researchers who will add value to the social sciences at local, regional and national levels. The programme builds on the strengths developed over many years in the School of Humanities in the area of social care and social studies. It offers an interdisciplinary approach to the advanced understanding of human beings in contemporary society in relation their social, economic, political and cultural contexts. It brings together the interdisciplinary teaching strengths of lecturing staff in the social sciences at WIT: Sociology, Psychology, Social Policy, Theology and Religious Studies, and Systemic and Reflective Learning. The MA programme offers students the opportunity to gain insights into the many elements of our increasingly diverse, complex and inter-connected world.

Programme Aims

On successful completion of the programme it is anticipated that graduates will have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to:

1. engage meaningfully in contemporary debates in the social sciences
2. critically reflect on their own role and the role of others, at both personal and socio-political levels and how these roles contribute to society and community
3. successfully manage social science research
4. encourage a flexibility of mind and a willingness to engage with the world in an interdisciplinary way and from a variety of perspectives

Unique Aspects of the Programme

The philosophy and learning strategy of this programme are underpinned by three distinct aspects:

- Interdisciplinarity: an interdisciplinary focus on teaching, learning and assessment
- Reflective learning: supporting and developing students as a self directed learners and social researchers through focusing on critical self reflection and reflective learning processes
- Research informed teaching and learning: teaching and learning that is informed by current and critically engaged research in each of the subject areas.

Career Opportunities

Graduates could expect their careers to be enhanced, whether they work in policy development, social work, social care, community work or pastoral care, as they will have gained knowledge and understanding of human society at an advanced level. They will have gained skills in social research which would prove useful in organisations whose remit is in the broad area of the social services in both the statutory and non-statutory sectors.

Structure of the Programme

This 120 credit level 9 programme is offered over four semesters. Semesters 1 and 2 comprise of taught modules including specific research modules. Semesters 3 and 4 allow for greater student centred learning by focusing on the dissertation and wider choices in elective modules.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Social Policy and Justice in a Globalised World (10 credits) Constructing Identities: Transition, Difference & Belonging (10 credits) Advanced Social Research (5 credits) Critical & Reflective Learning (5 credits)	Gender, Work & Parenting (10 credits) Policy making processes: inclusive practices (5 credits) Philosophy of Social Research (5 credits) Professionalism & Social Change (5 credits) One elective from: Sociology of Religion (elective) (5 credits) Children in Society (elective) (5 credits)	Dissertation Proposal & Literature Review (10 credits) Research Methods: Qualitative & Quantitative (10 credits) Two electives from: Contemporary Spirituality (5 credits) Faith, Community & Society (5 credits) Learning Organisations (5 credits) Men & Masculinities (5 credits)	Dissertation (30 credits)

Entry Details

Students wishing to apply for this course will normally require a minimum of a second class honours degree or equivalent in Social Science or Humanities related areas.

International Applicants

In addition to the above, direct international applicants whose first language is not English must hold TOEFL (600)/IELTS (6.5 - 7.5) English Language requirement standard or equivalent.

Fees

For information on fees please visit our web page at www.wit.ie/pg

Contacts

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