



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

MA IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Programme Description

Community development has quite a long history in Ireland and its evolution over time has seen it emerge as a mainstream activity in redressing contemporary socio-economic problems. In this context, professional community development workers play a critical role in mobilising and supporting communities to play an active part in this process. The two-year full-time MA (Community Development) programme has been in existence since 1989 and is delivered through the School of Political Science and Sociology. It links with three other taught MA Programmes offered within the School.

Programme Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to impart specialist knowledge of the practical, organisational, managerial, and developmental skills required for the practice of community work and to increase analytical and evaluative understandings of the policy contexts within which community development practice takes place. The programme provides an understanding of the working principles and methods that underpin professional community work practice. More specifically, the overall programme objective is to educate and train you to become an effective development worker, who, with a professional approach, can make a direct and valuable contribution to affecting change at community level.

ECTS Weighting

Year 1 - 60 ECTS.

Year 2 - 60 ECTS.

Programme Fee, Academic Year 2009 -10

E.U. students: €5,115

Non-E.U. students: €12,500 *

*Subject to ratification

Please note: fees are correct at the time of online publication, but are subject to change (E&OE); non-E.U. fees must be paid in full prior to registration.

Application

Applications to this programme are made online via **The Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC)**.

Minimum Entry Requirements

At least a Second Class Honours, Grade 2 degree in a social science or related discipline or equivalent. Development work experience is not a requirement for entry into the Programme, although accumulated work experience will be taken into account.

Selection Criteria

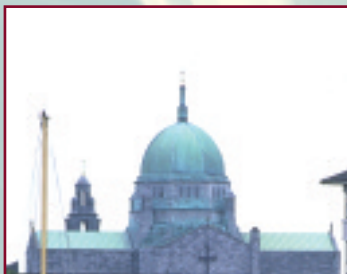
A maximum of fourteen participants are admitted each year and the places are filled on the basis of completing a postgraduate application form and a short interview procedure. The selection of candidates places emphasis on the applicants' enthusiasm, commitment and motivation for community development, as well as their academic achievement.

Examination Arrangements

Participants will be assessed throughout the programme by a combination of project assignments, case-study reports, seminar presentations, thesis research, and written examinations.

Professional Experience Programme

In Semester 3 of Year 2, students must complete a placement for a minimum four-month period in a practical community work environment, during which time participants' knowledge and skills of community work practice is reinforced and their ability to apply practical work practices in innovative development processes is enhanced. Participants are encouraged to select work placement settings relevant to their own particular area of interest but are advised and facilitated in establishing and developing an identified project work task for the placement period.





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Career Opportunities

The MA programme will be of particular interest to persons who wish to seek employment in voluntary, public, and private sector development initiatives, partnership companies, overseas development work, development education, group work, community care, youth work and development, policy research, evaluation and analysis.

THE CURRICULUM OF THE MA PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW OF MODULES
Year 1
Module title
Semester 1
Community Development Theory
Community Development Practice – Contemporary issues and debates
Social Policy 1
Group Work 1/Working with Groups
Introduction to Business
Techniques of Policy, Research and Analysis
Semester 2
Development in International Context
Gender, Development & Human Rights
Sustainable Development in Ireland
Understanding communities
Working with vulnerable populations
Social support, family & community
Year 2
Semester 3
Placement in Development Agency
Semester 4
Issues in Community Development Practice
Local Government
Social Policy 2
Group Work 2
Dissertation

For more information, contact:

Dr Brian McGrath, School of Political Science & Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Phone: +353 91 493405; **Fax:** +353 91 494564

Email: brian.mcgrath@nuigalway.ie; **Web:** www.nuigalway.ie/go4th/