

Postgraduate Study in Economics at UCD

Professor Karl Whelan

Why Undertake Further Studies in Economics?

Post-graduate training in economics can prepare you for a wide range of careers:

1. **Academic:** Preparation for PhD and a career in lecturing and research.
2. **Government:** Examples in Ireland of state agencies that employ people with MA in Economics are the Central Bank, the Competition Authority, and the Industrial Agencies (Forfas, IDA, Enterprise Ireland).
3. **Consultancy:** Specialized economics consultancy is a growing business and an MA is also a good preparation for more general consultancy.
4. **Financial:** Banks and stockbrokers employ economists to analyze trends in the macroeconomy and in various sectors.

Why UCD?

- UCD has the best Economics department in Ireland.
- UCD is ranked 21st in Europe among universities for research in economics (Source: REPEC).
- Half of the 36 staff listed by REPEC as Ireland's top 25% researchers in economics are affiliated with UCD (TCD has five staff on this list.)
- For post-graduate study the quality of researchers is critical!
- UCD has internationally recognized strengths in areas such as Macroeconomics, Applied Microeconomics and International Trade.

Structure of the MA Degree

- *Semester 1*: All students take a common set of courses in Micro, Macro, Econometrics, Quantitative Methods and Research Skills.
- *Semester 2*: Students take four courses from a wide range of choices tailored to suit a variety of interests and potential future career paths.
- *Summer*: Dissertation.

Research Component of MA Degree

- We provide extensive assistance to students with the research component of their MA degree.
- Each student does a supervised thesis.
- *Semester 1*: Weekly sessions on research skills, research seminars. Students do a short data project and write short reports on seminars.
- *Semester 2*: Sessions on presentation skills and student presentations of research proposals.
- MA students are an integral part of the very vibrant research community in Economics at UCD.

Academic and Non-Academic Tracks

- In second semester, students can either choose academic pre-PhD courses or more general “field options” that prepare students for the range of jobs outlined above.
- *Academic Track:*
 - Second semester courses will be offered in Advanced Micro, Macro and Econometrics.
 - Students on this track will be taking the same material as the first year in major PhD Programs and those who achieve at least a B in each of these courses will be considered eligible for admission to our PhD program.
- *Non-Academic Track:*
 - Second semester options include Public Sector Economics, Labour Economics, Industrial Organisation, Health Economics, Climate Change and Energy Economics and other courses.

PhD Program

Our PhD program has two components:

1. *Coursework*: 30 ECTS of modules. 10 ECTS of core research skills and 20 ECTS of field options taught in co-operation with Trinity College and NUIM. This is a new development in Irish economics and we believe our combined post-graduate program compares well with leading foreign programs.
2. *Thesis*: Done under the supervision of a lead adviser along with a doctoral studies panel.

Entry Requirements

- Should normally hold primary degree with at least 2.1 (B-, or 3.08 GPA) in Economics
- 2.1 in Higher Diploma in Economic Science
- Applicants from other programmes with strong quantitative content may also be considered

Next Stage?

- Don't worry, closing date for applications not until after your BA exam results
- Check out information on the website and think about it
- Queries: Nic Clifton (for admin related issues), Karl Whelan (for academic issues).