



UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy
Scoil Stair na hEalaíne agus an Pholasáí
Chultúrtha UCD

MA & GRADUATE DIPLOMA CULTURAL POLICY & ARTS MANAGEMENT

Overview

The programme equips those wishing to pursue a career in the professional arts and cultural sector with the skills and competencies to be effective managers, and the confidence and competency to lead and influence change in cultural policies at national and local levels. The strong vocational nature of the programme provides students with a realistic pathway towards employment, career, and further research opportunities in the cultural field.

Why this programme?

This is the longest running programme of its kind in Ireland. Established in 1986, we have nearly 1000 alumni working in various capacities all over the world. We offer a dynamic learning environment in which a diverse group of fellow students (from different countries and art form backgrounds) pursue their shared goal of becoming effective managers and thinkers in the cultural field.

The competencies acquired on the programme provide graduates with an excellent multi-disciplinary qualification highly regarded among sectoral employers, in Ireland and internationally. A wide range of top cultural sector managers in Ireland contribute to the course as guest lecturers, in addition to modules that offer a rich mix of theoretical approaches to culture and the practical skills to be an effective manager.

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TESTIMONIALS

"It's a very supportive learning environment... It's just really apparent that everybody wants you to do really well."

Amanda Esposito, Development Officer, Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (Class of 2021)

"I'm where I want to be and doing what I want to do and it's because of UCD."

Katherine Reller, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, Colorado Ballet (Class of 2021)

"When you're running an institution like Project, which has many different stakeholders from artists to funders to audience, you are using lots of different skills during a day. The course really helped me prepare for that... I loved this course. I had a great time and I would not be doing what I'm doing without this course."

Cian O'Brien, Director, Project Arts Centre (Class of 2004)

"You actually got the opportunity to sit in the room with the directors, the leaders, the senior management who are actually leading the sector today. Being given access to genuine experience at that stage in my career and learning from some of the best in the industry was invaluable."

Sarah Clancy, CEO, Little Museum of Dublin (Class of 2012)

Programme Highlights

- As part of the longest running programme in Ireland, you will join a close and extensive network of arts and cultural professionals with c. 1000 alumni in Ireland and abroad.
- Our staff have significant international industry experience and support students to be reflective managers across a range of disciplines and areas of practice.
- Our starting point is you. Our teaching changes every year to respond to the unique cohort of students.
- Lessons, assessments and work placements are focused on how theory applies to practice, with inter-disciplinarity and practice-based learning at the heart of our programme.
- Work placements or sector-based training is a core component of learning and many of our students go on to develop careers based on those experiences.
- UCD degrees have high employability and the university offers dedicated careers support. International students are eligible to apply for a 'stay-back' visa of 12-24 months and remain working in Ireland after graduation.

Careers and employability

The programme's emphasis on vocational skills, practitioner input, and networking (through work placements) provides graduates with transferable business skills that will enhance their employability. Graduates will have the capacity to negotiate, research, and think strategically about policy issues, and apply practical management skills (acquired primarily through modules in marketing, management, finance, law and strategic planning) in running arts and cultural organisations on both a strategic and day-to-day basis.

What does the industry say?

- This programme is "best in class."
Willie White, Director, Dublin Theatre Festival
- "Having internships from this course has been really important to the Irish Museum of Modern Art. The skill base that the course offers a student is really vital."
Helen O'Donoghue, former Senior Curator, Head of Education and Community Programmes, Irish Museum of Modern Art

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<https://www.ucd.ie/arthistory/study/graduateprogrammes/>