

MSc Applied Social Science - Civil Society and Public Affairs

In an area of rapid social change, with the on-going restructuring of public services there is a high demand for qualified graduates with an advanced understanding of the relationship between civil society, the institutions of multi-level governance and the policymaking environment. The MSc in Applied Social Science (Civil Society and Public Affairs) will provide you with the skills to research and make sense of this complex environment.

About the Course:

- Offered at our Cyprus-Nicosia campus, the course begins in September and takes 12 months to complete (full-time) or 24 months (part-time).
- Teaching is organised around intensive workshops delivered primarily by academic experts, with input from expert practitioners and specialists drawn from esteemed organizations and action groups.

Modules:

- **Contemporary Social Issues** – in this interdisciplinary module which draws from research across the social sciences, you will learn about the complex interrelationships between policymakers, key stakeholders and social groups in the formation of social and public policy.
- **Policy and Practice** – you will gain experience of using different theoretical approaches to understand civil society and public affairs in complex and real policy environments. There are opportunities to undertake placement in partnership with a civil society organisation.
- **Power, Politics and Civil Society** – you will examine the interaction between civil society and key governance actors and institutions ranging from the sub-national to the global level.
- **Research Methods** – you will learn about principles of research design and how to use quantitative and qualitative methods to analyse data in a rigorous manner.
- **Social Research Today** – provides an introduction to the complexity of contemporary research. This includes key debates such as the role of interpretation in social research, ethics and how to get your ideas across to a range of research users.

- **Theories of State and Civil Society** – develop a critical understanding of major theories of the state and civil society. The focus will be on the role of civil society in the making and implementation of public policy and governance.
- You will also complete a **dissertation** in which you design and carry out an extended piece of research under expert supervision.

Work experience and exchange opportunities:

During the course you may have the opportunity to work with selected non-academic organisations on research, advocacy and evaluation projects to provide you with experience of grounding academic study in an applied and real-world context. There will also be opportunities for international exchange during the course and, subject to the topic and supervision, during the dissertation.

Career Prospects:

This course offers applied training that prepares graduates for employment in a range of roles – particularly related to research, campaigning and advocacy across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Entry Requirements:

Applicants should hold a degree in any social science or related field (any social science; e.g. communications, public relations, international relations, political science, business studies, medicine; health; law; social work). Applications will also be considered from those with other professional training or experience relevant to programme specialisms (accredited or recognised prior experiential, learning related to civil society, public affairs, criminal justice, applied psychology, social work or social policy). Such applicants will be required to complete written work in order to demonstrate their academic ability, and may be invited to attend an interview prior to acceptance onto the course.

Fee waivers and scholarships:

A limited number of partial fee waivers are available for Cypriot/EU students and those students with proven exceptional academic and/or practical background-Scholarships are also available for international students.

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