

School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy
Trinity Business School

BESS – The Business, Economic and Social Studies Programme (TR081)



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.tcd.ie/bess

Trinity College Dublin

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the top universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a vibrant and cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education. Students learn from inspiring academics who are world leaders in their field. And to help ensure students get the most out of their time at Trinity they are assigned a tutor to provide personal and academic support.

Student life at Trinity College is about so much more than education - with over 200 sports clubs and societies ranging from athletics to tennis, debating to investing and from drama to science fiction there is something to suit every interest.

Why Choose the BESS Programme?

Trinity's BESS programme is the only university degree in Ireland where students can combine the study of Business, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. The BESS programme offers students a broad-based education in these subjects in the first year and then in the second year asks them to consider what the best combination of disciplines and subjects would be for them. This unique aspect of the programme gives students the time to engage with all four areas and then the opportunity to specialise to a high level in either one (single honor) or two (joint honors/major with minor) chosen subjects or disciplines.

Degree Options in BESS

BESS is an uniquely flexible programme offering ten different degree options: Business (B.B.S.) and nine other single or joint honor/major with minor possibilities in the disciplines of Business, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. Students have a great deal of choice and flexibility in shaping their degree pathway. For example in second year one student could opt to take Economics only while another student could opt to take Business and Sociology, while a third student could opt to take Political Science and Economics. Any combination of disciplines is allowed as per the box to the right.

Single Honors

- Business
- Economics
- Political Science
- Sociology

Joint Honors/Major with Minor

- Economics and Political Science
- Economics and Sociology
- Political Science and Sociology
- Business and Economics
- Business and Political Science
- Business and Sociology

Course Structure and Assessment

Most BESS modules involve a system of continuous assessment which can include research-based essays, projects and/or presentations, contributing up to 50% of the grade for the year. The remainder is based on the results of written examinations.

Within BESS all students take the same modules in first year giving all students the same core grounding in the four disciplines. After this students can adjust their course options to reflect their academic strengths, interests and emerging career aspirations. The BESS programme provides students with a broad-based education while offering a high-level of flexibility in two very important ways: (1) in choosing the specific degree they wish to study for; and, (2) in choosing individual modules

year 1

In the common first year of the programme students are introduced to a wide range of subjects giving them the opportunity to explore new interests without committing to a particular area at this early stage.

year 2

Students choose to study one or two or three of the BESS disciplines, Business, Economics, Political Science and Sociology. Students are also free to choose from a range of open modules or Trinity Electives.

year 3

Students specialise in the areas of their chosen disciplines that interest them, selecting from a wide range of modules. In third year, many students have the opportunity to study abroad at distinguished universities around the world such as the ESSEC Business School in Paris, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Berkeley University in California.

year 4

Students now focus on the research based development of their core topics as they prepare for their final degree grade. Students are required to complete a piece of independent research as part of their Trinity degree known as the Capstone Project. This provides an excellent opportunity to position themselves for a career in a specific sector or for postgraduate study.

BESS Graduates

Many former BESS students are now leading figures in the fields of business, entrepreneurship, government and public service:



Paschal Donohoe, TD
Minister for Finance, Public
Expenditure & Reform



Michael O'Leary
CEO, Ryanair



Nichola Mallon
SDLP Deputy Leader



Iseult Ward
FoodCloud,
Co-Founder & CEO



Mario Rosenstock
Actor and Comedian



David O'Sullivan
EU Ambassador to the US



Business

We have a host of top international professors and leading business people who engage with the students, challenge them and guide them into top roles in the global business world. Past Trinity Business school students are now leaders in the world of business, government, entertainment, technology, innovation and non-profit businesses, both in Ireland and internationally.

Economics

Many of the issues which dominate the headlines are economic problems. Why do a small number of countries enjoy high growth rates? What are the best ways to reduce poverty? Is it possible to pursue economic growth and still protect the environment? Economics blends together theory, data and statistical techniques to help understand economic problems and to make policy recommendations which will hopefully improve the welfare and living standards of our society.

Political Science

Politics affects us all in our daily lives. It's easy to think of issues that we all have opinions about. Should government tax the rich to try to achieve greater equality? Should the amount of money the EU spends on the agriculture be cut? How high a priority should third world aid be? Questions such as these, along with analysis of political systems and how democracy works, are at the heart of the study of politics.

Sociology

Ireland and the world are experiencing rapid social change. The old world is changing, but what will the new world be like, and how can we participate in its development? Sociology is foremost among the social sciences in studying social change and the consequences of human behaviour. When you study Sociology you will get the opportunity to analyse people and societies, exploring areas as diverse as digitalisation, education, employment, migration and conflict.

“ As is the case with many students I was by no means certain which direction I wished to follow when I filled out my CAO form, but by choosing BESS I ensured that my options were left open as the course splits into 10 different degree options.”

Nick Fitzpatrick,
BESS graduate

“ I really enjoyed my time in BESS. I loved studying the various subjects in first year and then found that Business was my favourite one. In third year I founded a company FoodCloud. I was able to shape my final year courses to keep them relevant to my ‘new business’, receiving great support from lecturers.”

Iseult Ward,
BESS graduate

“ I found there to be a great rapport between students and staff, who were always encouraging and supportive of new ideas and entrepreneurial endeavours. The interactive class structures enable students to learn from one another and to develop invaluable organisational, teamwork and leadership skills.”

Donna Hogan,
BESS graduate

Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

From a career perspective BESS is an extremely flexible and practical degree programme. Many BESS graduates have gone on to postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and at other leading universities around the world such as the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, the University of Amsterdam, Lund University Sweden and the University of Melbourne.

Graduates are highly sought after by employers, in a range of fields, such as in finance and banking, research, management consulting, teaching, public service, journalism, politics and non-governmental organisations. Graduates have gone on to successful and rewarding careers in varied roles both nationally and around the globe. The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations that have recruited BESS graduates over recent years:



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for the BESS programme please visit: www.tcd.ie/study

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