Aims and Objectives

This module aims to examine the nature and impact of Ireland’s membership of the EU

- to systematically investigate the impact Europeanisation has had on selected policy domains in Ireland
- to explore the theoretical interpretations of Europeanisation
- to identify the domestic and global factors which have influenced Ireland’s relationship with the EU and to assess the learning and adaptation which has led to changes in Ireland’s political and policy processes

Contents

This module examines how Europeanisation has affected Irish policy-making and implementation and how over time Ireland maximised the policy opportunities arising from membership of the EU while preserving embedded patterns of political behaviour. The module focuses on the interplay of European, domestic and global factors as the explanation for changing patterns of governance in Ireland.

The course content explores historical and contemporary interpretations of the relationship between Ireland the European Union, including the road to the EEC, current attitudes and discourse surrounding EU membership, and the impact of the EU on the political system. The impact of Europe on several policy domains is examined, including economic policy, foreign policy, regional development, agricultural and rural policy, environmental policy, language policy and social policy issues. Europeanisation as a broker of change between Northern and Southern Ireland is also explored.

Core Readings