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# Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution

## KEY INFORMATION

<b>Course Type:</b>	Postgraduate Full-Time
<b>Delivery:</b>	In-Class
<b>NFQ:</b>	Level 9
<b>Accredited:</b>	QQI
<b>Duration:</b>	1 Year*



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



**Independent  
College**

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The MA in Dispute Resolution is a unique and innovative interdisciplinary programme which provides students with the academic knowledge and practical skills to resolve disputes between parties in a non-adversarial manner.

The MA in Dispute Resolution focuses on a wide range of dispute resolution processes including arbitration, mediation and negotiation, across a number of different sectors, including family, commercial, community, and workplace. The curriculum is interdisciplinary, combining concepts from law, business management, international relations, policy studies, sociology, psychology and organisational development.

The mixture of experience-based learning through role plays and formal lectures provides students with a hands-on understanding of this exciting and fast-growing sector. Our teaching team consists of mediators, lawyers, authors and arbitrators.

## WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This MA in Dispute Resolution is suitable for graduates of law, business or related disciplines, or those who have relevant work experience and who wish to develop their knowledge of this increasingly important field. It is designed for individuals who wish to enhance their capabilities and skills in management, HR, negotiation skills, community relations, public affairs and higher-level customer service.

## ACCREDITATION

This is an academic one-year postgraduate Master's programme that is QQI accredited at Level 9. Students will graduate with an internationally recognised Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should have an upper second-class honours degree in Law, Business or Human Resources at Level 8 (or equivalent). Students with a lower second-class honours degree will be considered. Qualifications from candidates based outside of Ireland will be assessed using the NARIC International Comparison System. This ensures that there are equal opportunities for overseas students.

Candidates should have a minimum of two years of relevant professional experience. Such professional experience will be assessed on the basis of the College's Regulations on Accredited Experiential Learning. If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence that you will be able to study at degree level English. You will be required to show that your level of English is equivalent to at least IELTS 6.5.

\* Students who commence in the Autumn Semester should complete in 12 months  
Students who commence in the Spring Semester should complete in 14 months.

\*\* Number dependent

Candidates who do not hold an honours degree (or equivalent) may be accepted under the College's Academic Regulations on the basis of Accredited Experiential Learning, which may be defined as learning achieved through experience gained by an individual outside formalised learning arrangements, where the learning outcomes are open to assessment by the College.

Candidates will be required to complete a 'bridging course' which takes place in the week prior to the commencement of the programme. The focus of the bridging course is to provide students with a grounding in some of the basic concepts of the Irish legal system. Attendance at the bridging course is compulsory.

## COURSE STRUCTURE:

### Semester 1

- Understanding Conflict, Causes, Analysis & Dynamics
- Principles of Mediation Theory
- Principles of Mediation Practice
- Principles of Negotiation Theory
- Applied Negotiation Practice
- Theory & Practice of Arbitration

### Semester 2

- Advanced Mediation Theory
- Advanced Mediation Practice
- Restorative Practice
- Research Methods

#### Elective Stream 1\*\*:

- The Role & Application of Mediation in the Community
- The Role & Application of Mediation in the Family

#### Elective Stream 2\*\*:

- Theory and Practice of Workplace Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Dispute Resolution

### Semester 3

- Students must complete a dissertation on the topic of dispute resolution.

## TUITION FEES:

The February 2025 intake annual tuition fee for applicants legally residing in Ireland or holding a European Union passport is €7,100.

The annual tuition fee for Non-EU/EEA applicants is €9,200.

The September 2025 intake, annual tuition fee for applicants legally residing in Ireland or holding a European Union passport is €7,800.

The annual tuition fee for Non-EU/EEA applicants is €10,200.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- Public Sector Managerial level positions
- HR / Mediation / Management
- Membership of Professional Bodies
- Third Level Education sector
- Consulting, change management, workplace dispute resolution

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
**[independentcollege.ie/courses/](https://independentcollege.ie/courses/)**

Independent College, The Steelworks, Foley Street, Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 X997

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