

# Bachelor of Arts in Housing and Community Studies (part-time)



**Respond!**  
College

Transformation Through Education





# Respond! College

## About Respond!

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**Respond! Housing Association** is Ireland's leading not-for-profit housing provider. It seeks to create a positive future for people by alleviating poverty and creating vibrant, socially integrated communities.

It does so by providing access to education, childcare, community development programmes, housing and other infrastructural supports.

**Respond! Housing** was established in 1982 in Waterford City. It has grown over the past 30 years and has designed and built more than 5,200 homes nationwide for a range of people in housing need: young families, older persons, homeless people, those with special needs.

**Respond! College** is an operating unit of **Respond! Housing Association**. It has HETAC institutional Validation and QQI-HETAC Certificate and Degree Programme Validation for Levels 6, 7 and 8 on the NFQ: National Framework of Qualifications.

**Respond! Voluntary Housing Association** is a company limited by guarantee and registered in Dublin, Ireland. Reg. No. 90576. Charity No. 6629. Registered Office: Airmount, Dominick Place, Waterford, Ireland.

**Directors:** Michael O'Doherty, Brian Hennebry, Tom Dilleen, Patrick Cogan, ofm, Deirdre Keogh, Joe Horan.

# Bachelor of Arts in Housing and Community Studies

(part-time)

## Course Description

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The Bachelor of Arts in Housing & Community Studies (BAHCS) is a new and exciting degree delivered by Respond! College and validated by QQI-HETAC.

It is the only BA degree in the ROI informed by both academics and practitioners with a 30 year track record of pioneering design and practice in delivering housing and community services with the academic and theoretical base to support this.

## Why Choose the BA in Housing & Community Studies?

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The BAHCS degree offers you: -

- A **progressive route** into education (mature entry).
- **Flexibility of study** (part-time mode).
- **Paced workload** (select the number of modules p.a., you find compatible with work/other commitments).
- **Participative** and engaging pedagogy (varied teaching styles to suit the range of learning styles).
- Integrated academic and professional learning
- A **professional focus** (housing and community)
- **Career prospects: - vocational recognition** (those who successfully complete the BAHCS can apply to become full members of the CIH: Chartered Institute of Housing (UK and N. Ireland professional housing body)).

The course offers you flexibility of study in a friendly environment.

Respond! College is excellently placed to deliver this degree drawing on its partner body: Respond! Housing Association, which has a 30 year track record as a housing practitioner pioneering community-based, integrated and vibrant housing development and related education programmes.

## For whom is the Course intended?

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- **Local authority** and local government officials; public sector personnel.
- **Elected representatives** (e.g., Councillors, members of SPSs: Strategic Policy Committees, Corporate Development Groups, and Community Enterprise groups).
- **Tenants / residents** engaged in community work.
- **Voluntary Housing Association** or AHBs: Approved Housing Body Staff and Board Members, & Volunteers.
- **Community activists** .
- **Interested others** (over 23 years – as of 01/09/1990).

## Course Overview

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The goal of the BAHCS is to provide BAHCS graduate with the knowledge, skills and competence needed to be effective practitioners in the areas of housing and community studies.

The BAHCS will enable learners to demonstrate identified learning outcomes. The programme learning outcomes have been set out in accordance with the requirements of the NQAI framework for Bachelor Degree awards. Graduates of the BAHCS will have a level of theoretical knowledge and practice, with developed reflection capabilities, innovation, practical skills and competence to enable them to work and contribute in the housing and community sectors.

The overall **learning outcomes** of the BAHCS are to:

- Explore the relationship between housing and community
- Encourage critical analysis of community work policy and practice.
- Develop the skills required for housing and community work and to critique personal performance.
- Nurture learners towards the development of reflective skills (particularly through journaling)
- Encourage active citizenship and professional practice towards egalitarian change.

These learning outcomes can be further divided into knowledge and competence areas per module.

# BA in Housing and Community Studies

BAHCS: Level 7 Ordinary Degree (Part-time)

## COURSE MODULES 2013 - 2017

(Subject to minor change)

Part-time students usually take 40 credits per year, from a total of 180 credits for a BAHCS Level 7 degree.

### Level 1 60 Credits Credits

1.1	Community Studies 1	10
1.2	Introduction to Sociology	10
1.3	Housing 1: Foundations of Housing in Ireland	10
1.4	Personal Development	10
1.5	Intro to Social Research & Evaluation	10
1.6	Intro to Social Policy & the Welfare State	10

### Level 2 60 Credits Credits

2.1	Introduction to Economics	5
2.2	Housing 2: Housing Finance	5
2.3	Built Environment 1: Planning	5
2.4	Built Environment 2: Design	5
2.5	Management Theory & Practice	10
2.6	Community Studies 2: Models of Com Development	10
2.7	Community Development Practice	5
2.8	Qualitative Research	5
2.9	Group Work & Facilitation	10

### Level 3 60 Credits Credits

3.1	Housing 3: Housing Management	10
3.1	Built Environment: Regeneration & Sustainability	10
3.2	Development & Sustainability Perspectives	10
3.4	Community Studies 3: Community Education & Com Arts	10
3.5	Equality and Inequality	5
3.6	Qualitative Research	5
3.7	Social Change and Social Movements	10

## Course Delivery

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The BAHCS is delivered on a modular (course) basis, whereby part-time students opt for 40 credits per year in line with their work and other commitments. A total of 180 credits is required to complete the BAHCS Level 7 (Ordinary) degree. This comprises 14 modules, each of 10 credit weighting and 8 modules of 5 credit weighting.

Some students may be eligible for **module exemptions** where they have already completed equivalent coursework to a similar standard, evidenced via RPL: Record of Prior Learning. (An administration fee of €100 per module exemption sought, applies).

Students who opt for and successfully complete a further 60 credits at Level 8 (i.e., who complete a total of 240 credits) will be awarded a BAHCS Level 8 (Honours) Degree.

## Entry Criteria

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No formal qualifications are needed to apply for the BAHCS. As the current programme adopts a Mature Entry Route, all applicants in 2013 must be 23 years or over, (by 01 Sept 1990). Respond! College operates an open and inclusive application process and encourages those with little or no formal education to apply along with others who may have formal qualifications. Applicants must complete the application form and attend a short, informal interview.

## Fees

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The fee for the BAHCS in 2013-14 is €500 per module, i.e., €2,000 for four modules per year, as a norm. A deposit of €100 applies (refundable only if the applicant is not offered a place, or in the unlikely event that the course does not form). In the event that course fees are being sponsored on behalf of a student (e.g., by an employer) appropriate payment arrangements will be agreed with the student involved.

## Closing Date

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The closing date for application is:  
**Friday 6th September 2013.**

For an **application form** or **further information** please contact:

**Katie Murphy**

**Respond! College**, High Park,

Grace Park Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

**E: [Katie.murphy@respond.ie](mailto:Katie.murphy@respond.ie)**

**T: 0 818 357901**

## Time Commitment

The BAHCS is offered on a part-time basis for the coming academic year, 2013-14 to help students meet the constraints of modern work and lifestyle commitments.

Students are required to attend College on two consecutive days per week, usually Thursday and Fridays, and some Saturdays, for 24 weeks per academic year (or two consecutive evenings per week, and some Saturdays; option subject to intake numbers).

The course will be delivered in **Marino Institute**, Griffith Avenue, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 and **Respond! College** High Park, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

## Progression Routes

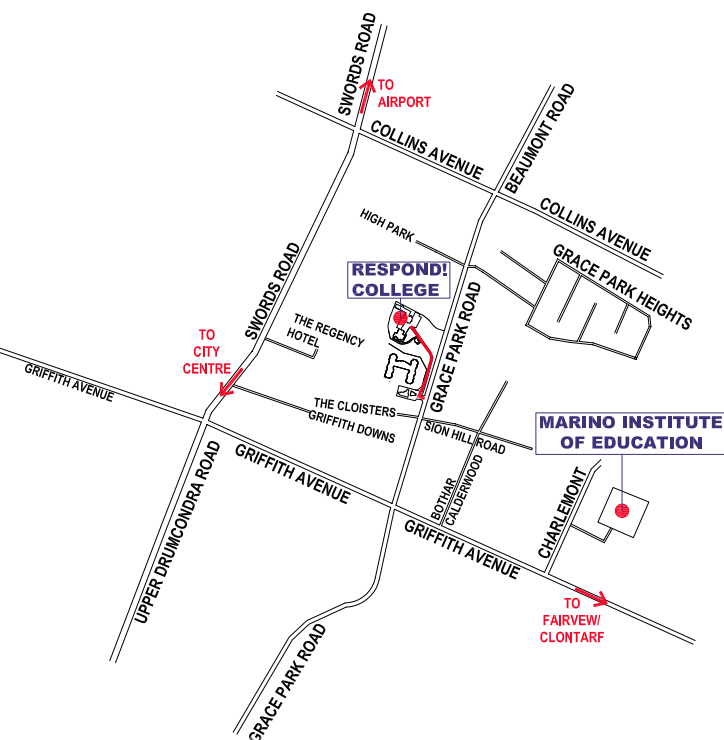
The BAHCS Level 7 (Ordinary Degree) has a 180 credit structure (60 credits per year, where offered full-time, or 40 credits per year when offered as a part-time study mode). Some may wish enrol for a further 60-credits (Level 8) in order to qualify for a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Housing & Community Studies Degree award. The BAHCS programme (Level 8) is also a foundation for postgraduate study and research.

Respond! College will offer individual career counselling to all BAHCS graduates.

## Course Location

The BAHCS lectures will be delivered at:-

**Marino Institute**, Griffith Avenue, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 and **Respond! College**, High Park, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.



**Respond! College** seeks to enable transformation through education—by offering a range of courses (tailored to the needs of local communities, local authorities, public sector and NGOs). Respond! pioneered Community Education at estate level for staff and residents alike. It has also designed a range of academic and professional courses for housing and community personnel from short bespoke courses to 3rd level Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes.

In 2009 the Respond! Board decided to formalise and consolidate the organisational structure of its Education Programmes and did so by establishing Respond! College.

In 2011 Respond! College obtained Institutional Validation from HETAC (now QQI, i.e., the new national body with responsibility for validation of educational awards).

Respond! College has since received Programme Validation for its Certificate in Community Studies (Level 6) and BA in **Housing and Community Studies Levels 7 (Ordinary)** and Level 8 (Honours) degrees (as per the 1-10 scale NFQ: National Framework of Qualifications).

### Course Validation

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The BA in **Housing & Community Studies** has both academic and professional validation:-

- **Academic:** QQI—HETAC ([www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie) / [www.hetac.ie](http://www.hetac.ie))
- **Professional:** CIH: Chartered Institute of Housing (UK).

