



Find out more

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Course Facts

CAO Code: GY117

Course level: 8

Duration: 4 years

Entry requirements: Minimum Grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O level in the Leaving Certificate including: Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes. Additionally you must meet the CAO entry points for the programme.

Additional requirements: Students taking Latin American Studies must also take Spanish as one of their degree subjects from first year to final year (see subject groupings).*

Minimum entry points 2011: 350

Average intake: 15

Course Overview

The BA with Latin American Studies offered in the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies is unique to NUI Galway. This four-year programme affords you the opportunity to study and gain an in-depth knowledge of Latin American Studies including Latin American literature, visual arts and culture, history, society and politics, while studying an arts degree in NUI Galway.

In the first and second year of the BA *CONNECT* in Latin American Studies programme, students will explore Latin American Culture, History, Politics and Society.

Third year offers students the unique opportunity of studying or gaining work experience (or a combination of both) in Latin America. This will give students an insight into Latin American life and society, and they will gain invaluable life experience and develop skills necessary to pursue a career in their chosen field or further education.

In fourth year, students will return to college and continue their studies in their two other degree subjects, incorporating the knowledge gained in their specialist subject in the previous three years.

What other arts subjects should I take with Latin American Studies?

Students are required to take Spanish with the Latin American Studies specialism, which will carry with it modern language* requirements. However students may also choose another subject across the broad spectrum of Arts subjects (see subject groupings). The recommended choices of degree subjects for those studying Latin American Studies include: any other Language, Sociological and Political Studies, Geography, English or Economics.

Course Outline:

Year One

Introduction to Latin American Culture

Representations of Latin America

Latin American Society and Politics

Year Two

Latin American History and Society

Cultural Debates in Latin America

Year Three

Work Placement/Study Abroad

Year Four

You will complete your studies in your two core degree subjects and may incorporate in your final year projects the specialist skills and knowledge you have gained in Latin American Studies over your previous three years.

Placement

In the third year of the programme, students undertake a period of study or a work placement, or a combination of both, ideally in Latin America. They will take modules on literature and culture of their chosen region and on wider Latin American history and society. Work placements, where appropriate, will give students practical experience within a Latin American context. In both cases, living and studying/working through Spanish in Latin America will give students valuable insight into the societies and cultures they are studying in their specialism and will also help to develop language skills.

Career opportunities

Students graduating with a BA with Latin American Studies, in addition to having a regular Arts Degree, will have a range of skills which are widely valued in the workplace. In addition to their linguistic abilities they will have developed a broad socio-cultural understanding of Latin America and more specialist knowledge of the country in which they spent their third year.

Career options will include teaching, translation, media and communications, arts and culture, positions in international agencies or Non-Governmental Organisations.

Further education

Students will be in a position to consider undertaking further studies in Latin American Studies at MA or PhD levels.

* For the implications of studying a modern European language please see paragraph titled "Requirements on choosing a Modern Language" on page 3

What students say

"I have always wanted to take Latin American Studies and was delighted to have the opportunity to do so at NUI, Galway. Here I can fulfil this ambition while also studying three other subjects in First Year Arts. The lecturers and other teaching staff involved deliver a high quality course which provides a great insight into Latin American history, politics, art and literature.



Taking Spanish is a requirement of the course and the combination makes everything more interesting. I have developed new skills in interpreting literature, my writing skills have improved a lot, as has my speaking ability in Spanish. I am looking forward to my year abroad in 2012 where I will be able to apply and expand the knowledge I have gained this year, and will gain in my second year. Anyone who is fascinated by Latin America will enjoy this CONNECT programme as much as I do."

Kamila Polchowska, First year student

