



National University of Ireland, Galway

The National University of Ireland, Galway is a student-centred and research intensive university of international standing committed to academic excellence and providing leadership at national, regional and local levels. Our programmes provide students with opportunities for personal and academic development, as well as equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to embark on successful careers. Faced by the challenges presented by an era of change, we are committed to responding imaginatively and effectively to the needs of students and of society in the 21st century.

New BA Degrees at NUI, Galway

The Faculty of Arts at NUI Galway will offer seven new undergraduate options from 2008. These new BA programmes require four years of study and provide students with carefully structured opportunities to link their studies with a specialism of their choice. Each programme will be open to a small number of students who will have dedicated contact with an expert programme director who will mentor their progress, organise on-campus seminars and facilitate off-campus learning opportunities. These new degree programmes are designed to increase the employability of graduates by developing distinctive skills and creating connections with life beyond the campus.

For further details of the BA with Irish Studies, contact



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National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh

GY114

BA with Irish Studies





Why Irish Studies?

What does it mean to be Irish? Who are the 'new Irish' and how do they challenge our sense of identity and nationhood? How do we construct a sense of Irishness for ourselves and for others and how has that changed over time, from the thatched cottages of de Valera's Ireland to the self-confident multiculturalism of Riverdance and the tiger economy? To what extent are writers, film-makers, and musicians involved in creating and critiquing stereotypes of Ireland and Irishness?

The new BA with Irish Studies will explore the dynamic changes in Irish identities that have taken place from the cultural revivals of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through to the era of the Celtic Tiger. Students will study aspects of Irish culture including literature, television and film, and traditional music and dance.

All classes will be taught through English; Irish language material will be studied in translation.

Student experience

The student experience will be enhanced through small-group teaching designed to encourage dialogue and discussion, and the development of advanced research and writing skills. In the course of your studies, you will acquire a critical understanding of the ways in which competing definitions of Ireland and Irishness have been developed and how writers, film makers and musicians have participated in the construction and deconstruction of modern Irish identities.

Study abroad

The Centre for Irish Studies at NUI, Galway has developed strong partnerships with universities in Europe and North America. During your third year, you will have the opportunity to study at one of these universities.

Career opportunities

This BA with Irish Studies will be of particular interest to students considering History, English, Gaelige, Archaeology, Celtic Civilization, Sociological and Political Studies, as degree subjects. The knowledge and skills acquired in this programme are relevant to a broad range of career options including education, journalism and communications, arts and heritage, publishing, and the public service.

GY114 New BA with Irish Studies at NUI Galway

How does the new BA with Irish Studies differ from the traditional BA?

The new BA with Irish Studies consists of a traditional two subject BA in addition to a specialised programme of Irish Studies. For example, a student who chooses English and History for his/her degree will graduate with a BA in English and History with an additional specialism in Irish Studies.

What exactly will we be studying?

The BA in Irish Studies will explore the dramatic changes in Irish society from the famines of the 1840s through to the current period of economic prosperity. We will consider how these changes have affected the way we see ourselves through a close study of literature, film, music, sport and other forms of cultural expression.

Core elements of the programme will include the following:

Writing Ireland: A study of modern Irish literature with its dual traditions of poetry, prose and drama

Performing Ireland: An exploration of Irish music and dance traditions, film and television, sports and popular culture

What other advantages does the new BA in Irish Studies offer?

In addition to the full range of courses and resources available to students taking the traditional BA, students on the new BA with Irish Studies will benefit from the following opportunities

Small group teaching, with classes limited to fifteen students

Study abroad at international universities

Development of oral and written presentation skills

Access to online learning

Enhanced career opportunities

Irish Studies is a designated Area of Excellence at NUI Galway.