



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

# Galway Diploma Series 2010

**Adult & Continuing Education Office**

Archaeology | English Literature | French | Gemmology | General Studies | Geology  
German | Irish Music Studies | Italian | Spanish | Social Gerontology

**Take a new Path**



At NUI Galway, we offer a wide variety of courses as part of our Diploma Series which commences in September 2010. This year the Adult & Continuing Education Office in conjunction with the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, the College of Science and the School of Business & Economics is offering twelve part-time diplomas in the Humanities, Economics and Scientific Studies areas.

A range of modern language options in French, German, Italian and Spanish are available to those interested in developing their language skills. For those with a passion for literature and Irish heritage, the English Literature and Irish Music Studies diplomas offer students an opportunity to study these subject areas at a deeper level and explore their historical development.

The Diplomas in Geology and Gemmology are fascinating subjects with enormous scope for learning about the world we live in, while the Diploma in Social Gerontology provides students with an opportunity to study issues relating to older people and the socio-economic aspects of aging. Similarly, the Certificate and Diploma in General Studies offer students a choice of modules in Humanities, Engineering, Science or Business and allows them to explore these subjects at introductory level.

So whether you want to improve your career prospects, or simply follow a course for your own interest and enjoyment, take a new path, we have a programme to suit you.

#### How to Apply

Application Forms are available from:  
**Admissions Office, NUI Galway**  
Tel: 091 492199/492137 or  
Email: [admissions@nuigalway.ie](mailto:admissions@nuigalway.ie)

**Adult & Continuing Education Office**  
Tel: 091 492062 or  
Email: [adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie](mailto:adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie)

You can also download an application form from [www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation)

Send your completed application form, along with the €30 application fee (Postal Order or Bank Draft only, which is non-refundable), a copy of your Birth Certificate, Leaving Certificate (where applicable) to the Admissions Office, NUI Galway.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday, 16 July 2010**. A limited number of places will be offered after this date up to August 30th, subject to availability.

#### Tuition Fees

The fee for each programme in 2010/11 will be €970. The non-EU fee will be €1,470. A number of scholarships will be available for applicants who have become unemployed (since January 2008), and wish to update their skills and knowledge by participating in one of the listed programmes. Scholarships will constitute a 50% contribution to programme fees. A separate application process will be required.

**For further information about any of the Diploma Series programmes, please contact:**

Ms. Martha Higgins  
Adult and Continuing Education Office  
NUI Galway  
Tel: 091 492062  
Email: [adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie](mailto:adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie)  
[www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation)

## Diploma in Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human societies. The discipline covers a remarkable span of time and investigates some of the most profoundly important developments of the past. The wide scope of archaeology, in time, space and methodology, is one of the reasons why this subject is so attractive to professional and amateur alike.

This course has something for everyone; whether your interests lie in outdoor fieldwork and exploring ancient monuments, the study of artifacts, the history of technology, local studies, or simply in the rich heritage of Ireland's past.

Archaeology is a constantly changing discipline, fed by new discoveries, new theoretical approaches and new analytical methods. These discoveries continue to revolutionise the subject's potential to inform us about the past and to give us a valuable perspective on how it has shaped our present. Exciting aspects of the practical side of archaeology such as excavation are familiar to everyone, but excavation is only one aspect of a discipline which combines human interest with scientific method.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The diploma programme is of particular interest to first and second level teachers and others interested in the contribution of archaeology to education, local studies, heritage studies and tourism. No previous knowledge of archaeology is required.

#### Programme content - Year 1

- Introduction to Archaeology
- The Archaeology of Prehistoric Ireland
- The Archaeology of Historic Ireland

#### Programme content - Year 2

- Approaching the Past
- Prehistoric Landscapes
- Historic Landscapes

A number of field trips are scheduled throughout both years. These excursions will be relevant in content, to directly complement the taught modules.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Michelle Comber  
Department of Archaeology  
Tel: 091 492887  
Email: michelle.comber@nuigalway.ie

Check the department of Archaeology web page at [www.nuigalway.ie/archaeology](http://www.nuigalway.ie/archaeology)

## Diploma in English Literature

The Diploma in English Literature aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of literary analysis. Students learn to deal with issues of genre and style, to apply diverse critical perspectives and to recognise the ways in which literature functions in society.

Through a detailed study of selected poets, the programme explores relations between form, content and culture in poetic art. In its focus on drama, the programme analyses selected plays paying close attention to issues such as theatrical practice, spectatorship and the social function of theatre. The diploma programme also introduces students to the world of fiction, to its formal and thematic properties and looks at facets of fiction writing such as characterisation, plot, setting and diction.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The diploma programme is intended for adult learners who are interested in English literature and is equally attractive to graduates and non-graduates alike. Students graduating with this diploma should have acquired an appreciation of the cultural and expressive resources of literature and an ability to think critically about literary text. It could be seen as a first step towards degree-level studies or to work in related arts and education fields.

#### Programme content - Year 1

- Introduction to Poetry
- Introduction to Drama
- Introduction to Fiction

#### Programme content - Year 2

- Studies in Contemporary Literature in English
- Literary Periods and Literary History
- The Fiction of Adolescence

Alternative modules may be on offer in year 1 or year 2 due to the variety of specialisms on offer in each Diploma cycle.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Prof. Hubert Mc Dermott  
Department of English  
Tel: 091 492565  
Email: hubert.mcdermott@nuigalway.ie

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation)



## Certificate in General Studies

The Certificate in General Studies consists of a range of modules within the humanities area including subjects such as English Literature, Philosophy, Archaeology, History, French and many others. This certificate programme provides an introduction to a number of subjects that students may wish to study further at diploma or degree level and provides a guide to them as to topics and themes which are included in these areas.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The course is suitable for those who have an interest in the humanities area or for students who are considering a more substantial programme of study such as a Bachelor of Arts, but are uncertain as to what area they wish to pursue.

### Programme content and structure

Each module offered represents five credits which may be taken on its own or in conjunction with other modules from the programme menu to make up 15 credits (i.e. three courses) for the award of a Certificate in General Studies. Students who wish to pursue the Certificate award must register for one-two credit courses each semester to gather 15 credits on completion of their studies. Modules are available in either semester one or two with classes taking place on a series of evenings each week from 6.30 – 9.30pm depending on module choice. A small number of modules are delivered via blended learning and are noted in the following list. Modules are assessed by a combination of written assignments and by examination during or at the end of each semester.

### Students may select up to three modules from the following courses:

- Exploring English Literature – An Introduction
- Introduction to the History of Western Philosophy
- Introduction to Archaeology
- Introduction to Local History
- Introduction to Italian
- Introduction to French
- Introduction to Spanish
- Life Skills for Success
- Introduction to Information Technology (via blended learning)
- Maths (via blended learning)

### Programme delivery

Monday to Thursday evening (for specific evenings/modules, contact the Adult Education Office).

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Ms. Martha Higgins  
Adult and Continuing Education Office  
Tel: 091 492062  
Email: [adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie](mailto:adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie)

## Diploma in French

The aim of this programme is to enable students with an interest in French to acquire a high level of written and oral communication skills in the language, through a variety of practical language exercises. Students will also study major cultural issues in the contemporary French-speaking world and in their second year, students will be introduced to the world of French literature.

As the programme progresses, students should be able to converse and comprehend a variety of topics and situations that are encountered in everyday situations in a contemporary French cultural environment.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The Diploma caters for all levels of language ability.

### Programme content - Year 1

- Introduction to French language – *written and spoken*
- French Language – *written, spoken and comprehension*
- Introduction to civilisation, culture and society in France - *Connaitre le monde francophone 1*
- Oral French - *Parlons Français*

### Programme content - Year 2

- Improvers' French 1 – *On écoute, on écrit et on parle 1*
- Improvers' French 2 – *On écoute, on écrit et on parle 2*
- French Culture – *Connaitre le monde francophone 2*
- Oral French - *Parlons Français 2*

Classes will be held on Monday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Máire-Áine Ni Mhainín  
Department of French  
Tel: 091 493397  
Email: [mary.mannion@nuigalway.ie](mailto:mary.mannion@nuigalway.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation)

## Diploma in Gemmology

The Diploma in Gemmology provides an introduction to the science of gemmology for people with a general interest in gemstones. The programme aims to provide the student with a broad introduction to the study of gemstones. It covers a range of laboratory-based techniques used to identify gemstones and provides the student with hands-on experience in gemstone identification protocols. The programme also covers the typical geological settings of gemstones in the field.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The course is open to everyone and is designed for people with no previous training in gemmology. It is suitable as an introductory course for people with a general interest in gemstones, as well as for those working in the jewellery and related trades.

### Programme content

The programme consists of lectures, laboratory demonstrations and practicals, including tuition on good microscope practice in the identification of gemstones (teaching collection comprises some 200 cut stones including diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds), examination of gemstones using a range of laboratory instruments including binocular microscope, refractometer, spectroscope, polariscope, dichroscope and conoscope.

### The programme includes the following topics:

- The Dynamic Earth
- Earth History
- Earth Materials
- The Formation and Geological Settings of Gemstones
- Global Distribution of Gemstones
- The Crystallography and Mineralogy of Gemstones
- The Optical Properties of Crystals and Gemstones
- Properties and Instrumentation
- Recording Gemstone Properties/ Identification Protocols
- Fashioning of Gemstones
- Synthetic Gemstones (Enhancements and Imitations)
- Systematic Recording of the Physical and Optical
- Properties of Gemstones

There are also two, one-day field trips to Connemara to study crystals and minerals in their natural settings included as part of the programme.

The programme is delivered on Wednesday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Martin Feely  
Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences  
Tel: 091 492129  
Email: martin.feely@nuigalway.ie

## Diploma in Geology

The Diploma in Geology provides an introduction to the science of geology for people with a general interest in the natural environment. The course examines questions such as: How did the earth form? What are geological materials? How is the earth exploited and what effect does that have?

The programme aims to provide the student with a broad introduction to the study of the earth and hands-on practical experience of the techniques employed within the field of geology. The principles of geology are covered using case studies and physical materials from around the world and the course includes field trips to see in-situ geology in an Irish context.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The course is open to everyone and is designed for people with no previous training in geology. It is also suitable for all people with a general interest in the natural environment and also those who appreciate the outdoors. It is suitable for those with or without a general scientific background.

### Programme content

The programme consists of lectures and practicals about the structure of the earth from the atomic to the planetary level, internal and external earth processes and materials, and the interaction between people and the planet they inhabit.

### The programme includes the following topics:

- Planet Earth
- Structural Geology and Geological Maps
- Building Blocks of the Earth
- Crystallography, Mineralogy and Microscopy
- Global Geology
- Virtual Geology Tours
- Evolution of the Earth
- Palaeontology
- Economic Geology
- Earth's Physical Resources
- The Human Perspective
- Hazards and the Environment

There are also two field trips available per semester, usually from half a day to one day in duration. These are all located in the west of Ireland, in Counties Mayo, Galway, Clare and Kerry and are designed to complement the course material.

The programme is delivered on Thursday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Kathryn Moore  
Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences  
Tel: 091 493682  
Email: kathryn.moore@nuigalway.ie

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation)



## Diploma in General Studies

The Diploma in General Studies is an interdisciplinary programme which provides a broad educational experience for students who may wish to choose from modules in the areas of Science, Engineering, Humanities and Business in accordance with their professional requirements and personal goals. The Diploma comprises a range of individual modules which on completion of the required 30 credits, will lead to the award of a Diploma in General Studies.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The Diploma programme may be seen as a stepping stone for students who wish to explore a number of introductory level modules within the Humanities, Science, Engineering and Business areas. It provides a guide for students as they make informed decisions in relation to which specialism they may pursue at diploma or degree level should they so desire. The diploma programme may equally be attractive for students wishing to enter/re-enter the job market as, through their engagement in programme modules, they develop key professional skills such as written and oral communication, decision making, critical thinking and technical skills required by today's employers.

### Programme content and structure

The programme structure includes two core modules - Life Skills for Success covering communication skills, applied writing and presentation skills and an Information Technology module. Students are also required to take a further four modules in an area of their choice (ie. Science, Business, Engineering or Humanities). The modules as set out in each of the specialist streams are recommended for students who may wish to pursue a professional career in that specialism or for those who may wish to undertake further study at a later date.

As the programme intends to provide a broad, liberal education students can equally pick and choose modules from among these streams to a total of four, according to their particular interest and/or professional requirements.

### Core Modules

- Life Skills for Success
- Introduction to Information Technology

### Elective Modules

Students are required to complete four modules from either stream in an area of their choice.

#### A. Science

Maths (BL)  
Chemistry (BL)  
Physics (BL)  
Biology & Biotechnology (BL)

#### B. Engineering

Maths (BL)  
Physics (BL)  
Introduction to Electro-Mechanical Engineering  
Introduction to Environmental Science (BL)

#### C. Business Studies

Introduction to Management (BL)  
Enterprise Development  
Organisational Behaviour (BL)  
Applied Innovation Management (BL)

#### D. Humanities

Exploring English Literature – An Introduction  
Introduction to Archaeology  
Introduction to Local History  
Introduction to the History of Western Philosophy

Modules with the notation of (BL) in the above list are delivered via blended learning providing flexibility to students who may not be available to attend classes on a weekly basis.

### Programme delivery

The diploma programme will be delivered on a part-time basis over one year (six modules) or two years (three modules per year). Modules will be delivered either on a classroom-basis (Monday to Thursday), where students will be required to attend classes on one evening per week over an eight week period per module. Alternatively, a number of modules may be delivered via blended learning where students can study at their own pace using online learning materials as well as attending regular, face-to-face seminars which take place on Saturdays.

### Tuition fees 2010/2011

Three modules: €970.  
Six modules: €1,940.  
The non-EU is €1,470 and €2,440 respectively.

For further enquiries on programme content and structure, please contact:

Ms. Martha Higgins  
Adult and Continuing Education Office  
Tel: 091 492062  
Email: [adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie](mailto:adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie)



Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulthoodeducation)

## Diploma in German

Whether your interest in German has a business focus or you want to get to know interesting and exciting regions such as the Austrian Alps, the Diploma in German can get you started. This two-year course will help you develop the skills to communicate successfully in the German-speaking world while exciting your curiosity about other cultures.

As the programme aims to equip students with appropriate written and oral skills in German, great emphasis is placed on teacher-student interaction, continuous assessment, written assignments and feedback to students. Students will begin with the basic elements of German grammar and vocabulary and will progress to the study of a selection of social and cultural issues in the contemporary German-speaking world. By the end of each term, students will have learned to converse on and comprehend, a variety of topics in situations that are normally encountered in a modern German-speaking environment.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The Diploma in German introduces students to the basic elements of the German language and is designed for those who have no previous knowledge of the language.

#### Programme content – Year 1

- Introduction to Beginners' German  
– *written and spoken*
- Beginners' German continued  
– *written, spoken and comprehension*
- Introduction to aspects of 20th Century German and Austrian culture

#### Programme content – Year 2

- Intermediate German – *written, spoken, and oral comprehension 1*
- Intermediate German – *written, spoken, and oral comprehension 2*
- Contemporary German, Austrian and Swiss Society
- German conversation

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Ms. Gabriele Behrens  
Department of German  
Tel: 091 493396  
Email: [gabriele.behrens@nuigalway.ie](mailto:gabriele.behrens@nuigalway.ie)

## Diploma in Irish Music Studies

The Diploma in Irish Music Studies provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the ways in which music and literature have contributed to the creation of identity among Irish communities on the island of Ireland and beyond.

The course investigates the ways in which Irish writers and those involved in the revival of Irish traditional music and dance were actively involved in the formation and reformation of modern Irish identities. It provides insights from music, dance, poetry, television and film of the ways in which Irish performers and writers have been actively involved in imagining and re-imagining Ireland from the eighteenth century through to the present.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The programme is of particular interest to anyone with an interest in modern Irish culture and traditional music. No previous knowledge of the Irish language or of Irish music is necessary for entry to the programme.

#### Programme content - Year 1

- Transmission of Irish traditional music and dance
- Irish Roots and World Rhythms: The Journey and Influence of Irish Music 1750-2006

#### Programme content - Year 2

- Negotiating Identity through Irish traditional music and dance
- Traditional Music and Commodification: 'The Pure Drop' or 'Pure Product'?

Classes will be delivered on Wednesday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Ms. Samantha Williams  
Centre for Irish Studies  
Tel: 091 492051  
Email: [samantha.williams@nuigalway.ie](mailto:samantha.williams@nuigalway.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation)



## Diploma in Italian

Students will be introduced to the basics of the Italian language in order to develop competence in relation to the common situations of everyday life. The course concentrates on all four main language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and uses authentic material, carefully selected, to provide a gradual introduction to the structures and functions of the language. In addition, a cultural module will introduce students to the main trends in Italian art, cinema, history and culture.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The Diploma in Italian is open to everybody and is designed for those who have no previous knowledge of the language.

#### Programme content - Year 1

- Italian Language Level 1 - *Part 1*
- Italian Language Level 1 - *Part 2*
- Italian Culture and Language Level 1

#### Programme content - Year 2

- Italian Language Level 2 - *Part 1*
- Italian Language Level 2 - *Part 2*
- Italian Culture and Language Level 2

The teachers – including a native speaker – will use the direct method of modern language instruction. Students will be gradually introduced to the relevant points of grammar and how these are applied to written and oral structures. By the end of each week/semester/and year students should be able to converse and comprehend a variety of topics and situations that are normally encountered in everyday life at home or abroad. Each session will be divided between language tuition, grammar, comprehension and oral skills. Audiovisual material will be used in order to improve oral and comprehension ability.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Olga Walsh  
Department of Italian  
Tel: 091 493794  
Email: [olga.walsh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:olga.walsh@nuigalway.ie)

## Diploma in Spanish

The Diploma in Spanish aims to equip students with written, oral and comprehension skills in the Spanish language. On completion of the programme, students should be able to engage in conversation on a variety of topics and deal in Spanish with a range of situations encountered in everyday life in Spain and in the Spanish-speaking nations.

The course will include a series of lectures on aspects of the history, culture and contemporary society not only of Spain, but also of the countries of Spanish America (Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, etc). Student participation and active learning will be key features in programme delivery.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The Diploma in Spanish introduces students to the basic elements of the Spanish language and is designed for those who have little or no previous knowledge of the language.

#### Programme content - Year 1

- Introduction to Beginners' Spanish – *written and spoken*
- Beginners' Spanish – *written, spoken and comprehension*
- Introduction to Spain and Oral Spanish

#### Programme content - Year 2

- Improvers' Spanish 1 – *written, spoken and oral comprehension*
- Improvers' Spanish 2 – *written, spoken and oral comprehension*
- Introduction to Latin America and Oral Spanish

Classes will be held on Monday evenings.

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Dr. Lorna Shaughnessy  
Department of Spanish  
Tel: 091 492229  
Email: [lorna.shaughnessy@nuigalway.ie](mailto:lorna.shaughnessy@nuigalway.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation)

## Diploma in Social Gerontology

The Diploma in Social Gerontology covers a broad range of economic, social and political theories relating to age and ageing. The aim of the programme is to examine the impact of social, socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions on the process of ageing as well as exploring the broad social and economic consequences of this process for older people and society.

The programme will enable students to increase and update their knowledge and information of age and ageing in society. It will assist them in developing their understanding of economic and social issues related to older people, along with improving their scientific and professional knowledge of planning and provision of services for older people in a range of areas.

### Who is the programme designed for?

The programme is of interest to health and social care professionals who work with older people including those working in government, non-government and voluntary organisations. It will also appeal to those in active retirement groups and to older volunteers or anyone who wishes to study issues related to older people for their own interest and enjoyment. Participants coming from a variety of backgrounds all bring the rich tapestry of their own life experiences to bear on the programme.

### Programme content - Year 1

- Introduction to Social Gerontology
- Economics of Ageing
- Social Perspectives on Ageing

### Programme content - Year 2

- Rural Gerontology
- Public Policy for Dependent Older People
- Research Skills and Research Paper

Classes will be held on Saturdays from 9.00am until 4.00pm on the first and third Saturday of each month (subject to timetabling).

### Tuition fees

The EU fee for 2010/11 will be €970.  
The non-EU fee will be €1,470.

For further enquiries on programme content, please contact:

Aine Ni Leime  
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology  
Programme Coordinator  
Tel: 091 495458  
Email: [icsg@nuigalway.ie](mailto:icsg@nuigalway.ie)

or

Christine De Largy  
Development Officer  
Tel: 091 495461  
Email: [icsg@nuigalway.ie](mailto:icsg@nuigalway.ie)



Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 16 July 2010. A limited number of places will be offered after this date, up to August 30th, subject to availability. For further information check out: [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation)





### Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for any of the diploma or certificate programmes. Students who are aged 21 or over by January 1st of the year of admission are classified as mature students and gain entry on this basis. For the Science/Engineering stream on the Diploma in General Studies, a pass standard in Leaving Certificate Maths or equivalent is desirable.

Students applying to complete a part-time course at NUI Galway under the age of 21 may, in certain circumstances, be asked to fulfill the Matriculation requirements of the University. If you are under 21, please log onto [www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/adulteducation) where you will find a list of the matriculation entry requirements in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section.

### How the Diplomas are Structured

The Diploma programmes are delivered part-time (in the evening), over two years. The academic year is divided into two semesters and each semester consists of twelve teaching weeks, followed by a study week and written examinations. The first semester begins in early September and the second in mid-January of each academic year.

A Diploma is made up of a series of courses or 'modules'. Students can complete three modules over two semesters during each academic year. Each module is worth five credits (these credits represent class contact hours and average workload). Having successfully completed six modules over the two-year period, students will have earned the 30 credits necessary to be awarded their Diploma. These Diplomas are categorized as level seven Diplomas on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Students who have successfully completed approved Diploma programmes and decide to progress to degree level (level eight) awards, may be granted credit for their qualification (where applicable and subject to certain conditions).

### Assessment and Examinations

All modules included in the Diploma Series are individually assessed. The assessment for each module will consist of essays, written assignments or oral presentations during the semester, as well as a written exam at the end of the semester.

### Class Timetables

Students normally attend class one evening per week, each semester over two years. Lectures begin at 6.30pm each evening and continue until 9.30pm. There will also be an opportunity to talk with your tutor on an individual basis before and after class times (i.e. between 6.00–6.30pm and 9.30–10.00pm). Students will be required to attend class on a regular basis as well as allocating extra time at home for reading, preparing course work and studying for exams.

*Blended Learning:* A number of modules on the Certificate and Diploma in General Studies are taught in a blended learning mode. Course materials are provided to students in a self-instructional format and are complemented by periodic face-to-face lectures which will take place on a Saturday. In addition, students will have access to an online learning portal where supplementary programme materials are available and the continuous support of an online module facilitator who is on hand to answer any of your queries in relation to the module.

### Ongoing Student Support

We understand that many of our students registering for the Diploma Series may have been away from formal study for some time and so we provide ongoing student support throughout each programme. This includes workshops on study skills, applied writing, memory and examination techniques. These workshops will be provided outside regular class hours to give students any additional support they may need when writing course assignments and studying for end of semester exams.

### The Next Step

Following completion of the application form (overleaf), eligible students will receive their offer of a course place in late July, at which point students interested in accepting this offer will be required to return their acceptance form along with a payment of €500 (Postal Order or Bank Draft), which covers half of programme fees.

