



Find out more

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies
t + 353 91 493 958
f + 353 91 495 508
www.nuigalway.ie/arts
collegearts@nuigalway.ie or irishstudies@nuigalway.ie

Course Facts

CAO Code: GY114

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.

Minimum CAO entry points 2011: 415

Average intake: 15 students

Course Overview

The BA with Irish Studies offered by NUI Galway is a four-year degree programme, in which students take two subjects to degree level in addition to their Irish Studies specialism.

Students will study what it means to be Irish through aspects of Irish culture, including literature in Irish and in English, traditional music and dance, and television and film. How has Irish identity and Ireland's self-image changed over the past two centuries, from the thatched cottages of de Valera's Ireland to the self-confident multiculturalism of *Riverdance* and the tiger economy, and the economic and cultural anxieties of post tiger recession? Who are the 'new Irish' and how do they challenge our sense of identity and nationhood? Students will explore the extent to which writers, film-makers and musicians create and critique stereotypes of Ireland and Irishness, and how we construct a sense of Irishness for ourselves and for others.

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

What other arts subjects should I take with Irish Studies?

The BA with Irish Studies will be of particular interest to students considering History, English and Gaelge as degree subjects, in addition to Archaeology, Celtic Civilisation and Sociological and Political Studies.

Study abroad

During the third year of the BA with Irish Studies, students are required to spend the first semester at any one of the universities with which the Centre for Irish Studies has established links for international student mobility. Irish Studies currently has links in France, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Belgium and the United States.

What students say

"The BA with Irish Studies was my first choice on my CAO form and I'm absolutely delighted that I got it. I was promised that the specialism in Irish Studies would tie in with my other subjects English and History and as the months went on this promise rang true. The thought of the course excited from the start because I've always been interested in Irish culture and the fact that Irish Studies encompassed Irish Literature as Gaelge and as Béarla and Irish Music and Dance was brilliant.

I think the fact that the classes are capped at 15-20 is brilliant as we all get to really know each other, which is practically impossible in the larger lectures. All the lecturers are very personable and the frequent feedback and criticism has really improved my writing across all my subjects. Even though the classes are small you're not in competition with anyone but yourself and the lecturers try to help you improve with each assignment.

I'm really excited for next year and the opportunity to go abroad and hopefully my experience of Irish Studies will be just as great in Prague."

Leah Duffy, BA CONNECT with Irish Studies



Career opportunities

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.

Further education

The BA with Irish Studies provides a strong basis for further studies in the areas of literature, history, ethnomusicology, social and political science and other related disciplines. In addition to the Masters programmes offered in Gaelge, History, English at NUI Galway, the Centre for Irish Studies has its own interdisciplinary MA in Irish Studies. Additionally, the BA Irish Studies provides an excellent primary degree for those wishing to pursue postgraduate studies in education and teaching fields.

Course Outline:

Year One

Writing Ireland 1: An introduction to twentieth century Irish writing

Writing Ireland 2: The migrant experience in modern and contemporary Irish writing

Performing Ireland 1: An introduction to traditional Irish music and dance since 1893/Music in the Diaspora

Year Two

Writing Ireland 3: A sense of place: location and dislocation in modern Irish writing

Performing Ireland 2: Tunes and Texts: Constructing identities in Irish music and dance

Year Three

Semester 1: Irish Studies abroad: students will spend this semester abroad at an international partner university

Semester 2: Irish Studies independent research project: students will spend this semester conducting an independent research project, which may involve placement, archive research and/or fieldwork. This project will be customised to meet the individual student's own research ambitions and supported through seminars, tutorials and other forms of mentoring and supervision.

Year Four

Completion of the two traditional Arts subjects

What students say

"I choose to study Irish Studies at NUI Galway as I have an interest in all things Irish. The course offers a tremendous insight into Irish culture from different perspectives. The lecturers are friendly and approachable and the small class size offers an intimate learning environment where all students have a platform to engage with the subject matter. The Mature Student Programme, a wonderful programme, enabled me to return to education with the added benefit of life experience. The facilities at NUI Galway are first class as is the warm friendly atmosphere that Galway is renowned for."



**Marcus Byrne, BA CONNECT
with Irish Studies**