EDUCATION IN IRELAND 2020
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Welcome

Welcome to the NUI Galway International Summer School, Education in Ireland. We hope that your learning experiences here in NUI Galway bring you both personal and professional enhancement. The Summer School programme aims to bring you a rich and diverse perspective on the development and history of education in Ireland. Lecturers and educational professionals who have a vast range of knowledge of the Irish educational system will facilitate your grasping the scope and nuances of education in Ireland. We hope to spark your curiosity, challenge your assumptions, stir your creativity and generally get you thinking about the wonderful possibilities and struggles that characterise education in Ireland. We look forward to a learning community that brings mutual understanding of how education is practised.

We wish you a wonderful time in NUI Galway. We are here to facilitate your learning and to help you experience student life in a different educational system. I hope that our combined efforts bring you the success that you desire for your personal and professional development.

Jacqueline Murphy
Programme Director

Ms. Nuala McGuinn
Director, Lifelong Learning
NUI Galway

NUI Galway is located on the banks of the River Corrib, a 10 minute walk from the centre of Galway City. From Queen's College to National University of Ireland, the University's past is intertwined with the history of Galway and Ireland. Founded in 1845 with an initial intake of 63 students, NUI Galway is now a thriving institution with over 17,500 full and part-time students, of whom 2,758 are international students representing over 115 countries across the globe and making up over 16% of the student population.

NUI Galway is comprised of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies; College of Engineering and Informatics; College of Business, Law and Public Policy; College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences; and College of Science. The University offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and diplomas of international standard, providing students with opportunities for personal and academic development, as well as giving them the knowledge and skills needed to pursue successful careers. The University's approach to innovative programme development means that courses are developed to reflect the ever-changing needs of society, the labour market and the economy.

In tandem with its extensive range of programme, the University campus has expanded and developed. Over recent years, NUI Galway has embarked on a visionary development programme aimed at improving the University's campus facilities and student amenities. This major investment programme includes planning for new buildings, as well as extensions and renovations of existing facilities. The University is well on the way to creating the Campus of the Future, welcoming more students each year and developing a prestigious and innovative University.

Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development

The Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development Office at NUI Galway runs a series of part-time, flexible learning programmes for adult learners. Flexible learning options are available in Humanities and Social Sciences, Engineering, Science and Technology Studies. The International Summer School Office operates under the auspices of Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development.

International Summer School

The International Summer School at NUI Galway offers programmes in

- Irish Studies
- Education in Ireland
- Irish Language
- Geology
- Ecology
- Archaeology
Academic Information

Programme Structure and Teaching Methods

The programme consists of two inter-related units:
- The Education System of Ireland
- History, Literature and Culture of Ireland

Teaching will be by means of lectures, seminars, meetings with Irish educators and visits to educational institutions. Guided cultural tours will facilitate contact with the music, language and people of Ireland. Students will be provided with informal opportunities to view and study relevant videotapes from the University library. Facilities and time for private study as well as touring and sightseeing at weekends have been incorporated into the programme.

Course Module

SS123 THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF IRELAND

A review and analysis of the Irish educational system — its origins, development, structure and organisation — from early childhood to adult provision. The programme includes consideration of elementary, secondary and tertiary education; adult and continuing education; special education and vocational training. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with Irish educators during seminars and during visits to educational and social institutions in urban and rural settings.

Special arrangements for informal meetings between individual participants and their counterparts in Ireland will be facilitated during the programme.

Credits

In order to quantify learning and to place a value on it, courses are allocated credit units. Credits may vary, however they represent a standard number of class contact hours and average workload for a programme. This workload includes lectures, practical work, seminars, private work and examinations. The use of the term credits is common among the third level sector and provides a “currency” with which students may transfer from one course to another or gain exemption from elements of a particular programme.

The course above carries 6 Semester Credits/12 ECTS Credits at graduate level.

Programme Aim

The aim of the programme is to provide you with awareness of and insights into the Irish education system. You will study how primary, secondary, further and third level education in Ireland is structured. The functions of the different levels of education are explored to allow you to reflectively compare and contrast educational purposes, pedagogical approaches and philosophies against known fields of practice. The Irish education system is contextualised within a historical and contemporary framework to provide a backdrop against which the development of the education system in Ireland may be explained. Such an approach helps you understand how the evolving nature of education has been and continues to be shaped by political, societal, cultural and economic concerns.

Module Learning Outcomes being assessed

Assignments are assessing your ability to:
- Complete a Teaching Philosophy based on your conceptual and practical ideas of teaching and its practice;
- Work in groups to prepare and deliver an oral presentation on specified aspects of Irish education;
- Work in groups to prepare and deliver a group research project on a specified aspect of education or teaching;
- Reflect on your participation in Summer School lectures and groups;
- Reconceptualise your teaching philosophy statement as related to your professional practice in light of new learning and understanding;
- Reflectively discuss how insights into the Irish education system may have reshaped your educational perspectives and practices.
Assessment

Assessment for those requiring credits will be carried out on a continuous basis.

Assessment Weighting

The programme will be assessed and graded on the following basis:

- Participation Self-assessment 10%
- Oral presentation 10%
- Group research project 10%
- Teaching Philosophy Statement 20%
- Reflective Essay 50%

- Lecture attendance and self-assessment will be monitored continuously
- Oral presentations take place regularly throughout the programme and will be assessed by observation
- Group research projects will be presented on the final day of the programme
- The Teaching Philosophy statement will be assessed according to stated criteria.
- The Reflective Essay will be assessed according to stated criteria
- The completed Teaching Philosophy Statement and the Reflective Essay are due on Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 23:50pm

For assessment you are asked to complete five components:

1. Pre-Summer School Teaching Philosophy Statement: to be completed before beginning the programme activities:
2. Group Presentations: to be completed during the programme
3. Group Research Projects: to be completed during the programme, presented on the final day of the programme
4. Self-assessment of participation: to be completed during the programme
5. Reflective Essay

Summary of Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Requirements</th>
<th>Activity 1</th>
<th>Activity 2</th>
<th>Activity 3</th>
<th>Activity 4</th>
<th>Activity 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS)</td>
<td>Prepare a Teaching Philosophy Statement prior to attending the Summer School</td>
<td>Five minute group presentation</td>
<td>Presentation of group research projects (10 minutes each group)</td>
<td>Attendance at lectures. Completion of Weekly Participation Self-assessment.</td>
<td>Responses to and reflections on programme topics, new learning and Teaching practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Count</td>
<td>c.300</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>c. 2500</td>
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<td>Final Submission Date</td>
<td>14 July 2020</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Final day of programme</td>
<td>14 July 2020</td>
<td>14 July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission Method</td>
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<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Via Blackboard</td>
<td>Via Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Weighting</td>
<td>20% (Post-TPS combined)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Activity 1: Pre-Summer School Activity
Teaching Philosophy Statement

You are asked to prepare a brief Teaching Philosophy Statement (c. 300 words) prior to coming to the Summer School programme.

The Teaching Philosophy Statement is the foundation on which your approach to teaching is built. Your aim here is to answer in some way one main question: Why do you do what you do as a teacher?

Reflections on this question generally include four components, which may be discussed separately or be intertwined in some way:

• Your beliefs about how student learning in your field occurs
• Given those reflections, your beliefs about how you as a teacher can best help students learn
• How you put into practice your beliefs about effective teaching and learning
• Your goals for students

You are not required to submit your statement in advance of the programme but are expected to bring it with you as you will need to review and reflect on it as part of the programme assessment.
To assist you in preparing your Statement, please read the attached guides and samples, and the material available at the following links:

• Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement
• Another approach to Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement

Activity 2: Group Presentations

During the Summer School you will be asked to work in groups to prepare an oral presentation on a specific aspect of Irish education. You will be allocated a topic during the Summer School and given time to prepare a presentation to your peers and to tutors.

When preparing your presentation consider the following questions:

• What makes this topic interesting in your overall understanding of education?
• In what way, if any, does it influence your understanding of education and learning?
• What insights have you gained on how education in Ireland was and is being shaped?
• In what way, if any, will it make a difference to your teaching practice?

Activity 3: Group Research Projects

For this activity, you are asked to prepare a group research project which illustrates a particular aspect of education or teaching. The project allows groups to delve deeper into an aspect of particular interest to their area of education/teaching. The project will involve collecting data to support the aim and thesis of the research. Data might include journal or newspaper articles, information from relevant media or information collected during conversations with educators and lecturers. Topics for study might include:

• Comparison of pedagogical approaches in between your current home country and Ireland
• Policy and practice for Special Education in Ireland
• Language learning in Ireland
• Teacher education in your current home country and Ireland
• The curriculum in Ireland and your current home country
• Topic of your choice

You will present the results of your research project to your peers on the final day of the programme.
**Activity 4: Participation Self-assessment**

For this activity you are asked to self-assess your participation in class discussions, group activities and overall participation in Summer School activities

Student Name: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>SELF-RATING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE OF BEHAVIOURS DISPLAYED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivating yourself to optimal performance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributing to class Discussions</td>
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<td>Sharing professional Experience</td>
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<td>Tackling group work Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working well with fellow Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listening attentively to Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responding to others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participating Enthusiastically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taking responsibility for your own learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognising the need for professional Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expressing information and ideas clearly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeking out others’ Perspectives</td>
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</table>

Other ways you demonstrated optimal participation

1. ________________________________________________________________

2. ________________________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________________________
Activity 5: Reflective Essay and Revised Teaching Philosophy Statement

You are asked to complete a Reflective Essay in which you reflect on your current professional practice and how your participation in and learning from the Summer School programme has informed and enhanced your professional practice perspective. When completing your essay you are encouraged to write in a reflective manner, that is to write in a way that shows you have thought about and mulled over the topics you have studied to bring about real learning. You are also asked to review the Teaching Philosophy Statement that you prepared prior to the Summer School and to refine, revise or rework it in light of what you have learned through the summer school experience and your reflections on same.

Guiding points for your reflective essay:

• Develop awareness of your current practice: how do you currently think about or practice your teaching? This segment should be aligned to your Teaching Philosophy Statement in that your practice should be consistent with your teaching philosophy.

• Clarify new thinking and how it relates to your current understanding: what have you learned that is useful to you in your professional role? Has your perspective on teaching changed? In what way? To what extent? Why? What has influenced the changes?

• Integrate new learning and current practice: what, if any, are the implications of your new learning for your professional practice? Do you now think about your current practice differently? Why? What do you do well? What can you improve? In what way do practices in your current home country and Ireland differ? Which is better or do both have merit? In what way? Why? In what way will you use some of the information and learning gained throughout the programme? How might integration facilitate effective learning?

• Anticipate or imagine the nature of improved practice: what will you do that will improve your professional practice? This segment should be aligned to your revised Teaching Philosophy Statement. Demonstrate who you are and what you do as an education professional by providing evidence that is constructively aligned to your philosophy.

• Summarise, discuss and rationalise the changes you have made to your Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS): did you add or remove anything? If so, what? Why? Did you change what you would prioritise or emphasise in your TPS? Why? This section should recap and draw together the key points of your reflective essay in order to arrive at and rationalise your conclusions regarding your TPS.

Include both your original and revised Teaching Philosophy Statements (c. 300 words each) in an appendix. Clearly indicate (for example, highlight) the differences between the two versions.

Word Count: approximately 2,500 words.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment activities will be assessed against the following criteria:

• Engagement in critical and reflective thinking that demonstrates a deep awareness of continual development of your teaching practice
• Assimilation and integration of new knowledge in the approach to professionalism
• Evidence of continued commitment to improve teaching practice
• Consistency between teaching philosophy and teaching practice reflections
International Summer School
Education in Ireland
25 June – 18 July 2020
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE
Jacqueline Murphy, Academic Director

Lecture Venue: D102, Block D

Thursday, 25 June
Arrival in Ireland (accommodation available after 12pm)
4.00 p.m. Registration, Orientation and Welcome Address
Venue: QA113 Boardroom, Quadrangle Building, NUI Galway
5.00 p.m. Reception
Venue: Student Centre, NUI Galway

Friday, 26 June
10.30 – 12.00 p.m. Introduction

Lunch Break
1.00 – 3.00 p.m. An Overview of the Irish Educational System
3:30 – 5.00 p.m. Meet a teacher! Panel Discussion
Primary School: Resource Support
Primary School
Secondary School: Extra Curricular Activity

Saturday, 27 June
11.00 a.m. Walking Tour of the City (Group 1)
(Depart from Galway Cathedral and finish at Galway Museum)

Sunday, 28 June
FREE

Week 2

Monday, 29 June
Galway Education Together National School
9.30 a.m. Depart from Friars St. Anthony’s (for School)
10.00 – 12 p.m. The Irish Education System: Primary (Elementary Education)

Lunch Break
2.00 – 3.00 pm Assignment
3.00 – 4.15 p.m. Leadership in Education

Tuesday, 30 June
St Mary’s Secondary
9.00 Depart from Quad (for school)
9.30 – 1.15 p.m. Secondary /Post Primary School Visit

Lunch Break
2.15 – 2.30pm  Overview of NUI Galway Student Services & Facilities
3.00 – 4.15 p.m.  The ‘Special Position’ of the Church in Irish Education

Wednesday, 1 July
9.00 a.m.  Tour of North West Connemara
            Depart by bus from Corrib Village

Thursday, 2 July
10.15 - 12.15 p.m.  Third Level Education in Ireland

            Break

12.15 - 1.30 p.m.  The Framework of Qualifications

            Lunch Break

2.30 – 3.30 p.m.  Vocational and Further Education in Ireland
4.00 – 5.15 p.m.  A Cultural View of Galway

Friday, 3 July
9.45 – 11.15 a.m.  Learning Difficulties in Mainstream Education
11.45 - 1.00 p.m.  Development Issues for the Travelling Community

            Lunch Break

2.00 – 4.30 p.m.  Overview of Intellectual Disability Services

Saturday, 4 July  FREE
Sunday, 5 July  FREE

Week 3

Monday, 6 July
11.15 – 12.30 p.m.  Overview of History, Literature & Culture of Ireland
12.30 – 1.15 p.m.  Group 1 Presentation

            Break

2.15 – 3.15 p.m.  Continuous Professional Development
3.30-4:15  The Writings of John McGahern

Tuesday, 7 July
9:30 – 11.30 a.m.  From Dewey to Digital: Design-Based Research for Deeper
                    Reflection Through Digital Storytelling

            Break
12:00 - 12.45 p.m. CKI: Programme for Gifted Children

**Lunch Break**

2:00 - 2.45 p.m. Group 2 Presentation

**Break**

3.00 – 3.45 p.m. Group 3 Presentation

**Wednesday, 8 July**

9.30 – 10.45 a.m. Pre-Historic Ireland

**Break**

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. The Landscape of the Galway Hooker

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Famine and Emigration in Ireland

**Lunch Break**

2.00 – 3.30 p.m. Irish Language Class

3.30 – 4.00 p.m. Assignment Q&A

**Thursday, 9 July**

11.00 – 1.00 p.m. Language Acquisition: Techniques & Skills of Language Learning

2.15 – 3.30 p.m. Designing Technology in Education

8.00 pm Evening Entertainment:
Trad on the Prom, Leisureland

**Friday, 10 July - Weekend Free**

**Sunday, 11 July**

**Week 4**

**Monday, 13 July**

7.45 a.m. Trip to Inishbofin Island
Depart by bus from Corrib Village

**Tuesday, 14 July**

9.30 – 10.45 a.m. W.B. Yeats

11.00 - 12.15 p.m. National Theatre Movement

**Lunch Break**

5.00 p.m. Deadline for assignment submission
Wednesday, 15 July

9.15 a.m.  Tour of South Galway and Clare  
(Coole Park, Archaeological/Geological Sites)  
Depart by bus from Corrib Village

Thursday, 16 July

9.30 - 10.30 a.m.  Irish Language Class

10.45 – 11.45 a.m.  Irish Traditional Music and Dance

12.15 – 1.00 p.m.  Access Education

**Lunch Break**

2.00 – 3:15 p.m.  Early Childhood Education & Care: The Irish Story

3:30 – 4.15 p.m.  Community Education

Friday, 17 July

10.00 a.m.  Group Projects Seminar

12.30 p.m.  Course Review and Close

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Field Trips & Excursions

Field trips are an integral part of the Education in Ireland Summer School and by far one of the most enjoyable and popular elements of the programme. The field trips are relevant to the material covered in class and enhance the learning experience by exposing students to the history, archaeology and culture of Ireland. Field trips also offer the opportunity to experience parts of Ireland outside of Galway City.

Preparing for Field Trips & Excursions
We organise our field trips well in advance of the summer school, but unfortunately we cannot control the weather. As Irish weather is unpredictable it is best to be prepared for rain or wind, especially on field trips which require you to be outside. Prepare to dress in layers. Ensure that you have waterproof clothing and footwear for wet days and sunscreen for hotter days. Don’t forget your camera!

In some parts of rural Ireland, you may not be able to use a debit/credit card so ensure you bring cash with you.

Field trips to Connemara, the Burren and Inishbofin will require students to do some walking; moderate fitness levels are required. Comfortable, waterproof footwear is recommended.

Walking Tour of Galway
A walking tour of Galway City will be arranged at the beginning of the programme to introduce students to Galway’s medieval past. The tour will be provided by a local historian.

Tour of North West Connemara
Students will be collected from campus by bus to drive to Connemara. After a coffee break in Clifden, the group will travel to Omey Island. This is a tidal island, accessible only at low tide by crossing a beautiful sandy beach. The group will be led by the Archaeologist Michael Gibbons on a walk around the island exploring 7000 years of Connemara history and archaeology.

The group will return to Clifden for lunch and afterward will visit Kylemore Abbey and its Victorian Walled Garden. The group will return to Galway City via the beautiful Inagh Valley.

The walking is easy to moderate on Omey Island. All walkers should bring waterproof clothing and footwear.

Field Trip to the Irish Workhouse Centre & Clonmacnoise
The group will be collected by bus from NUI Galway campus and will drive to the Irish Workhouse Centre in Portumna. The workhouse has been described as “the most feared and hated institution ever established in Ireland.” This tour will provide a glimpse into the past showing how the poor and destitute of 18th and early 19th century Ireland were treated.

After lunch at the centre, the group will travel to Clonmacnoise, an Early Christian Monastic Settlement, for a guided tour of the Monastic site and audio visual session. The Audio Visual session at Clonmacnoise will take approximately twenty minutes. The group will have time to visit the various structures associated with a Monastic Site and the ruins of the adjacent castle in your own time. A tour guide will accompany the group on this field trip.

Field Trip to Inishbofin Island
Students will be collected from campus by bus and will drive through Connemara to the village of Cleggan, where they will take the ferry to Inishbofin Island. After a coffee break at Doonmore Hotel, the group will be led by the Archaeologist Michael Gibbons on a walk around the island.

The walk will head west to see a 17th century star shaped fortress associated with Grace O’Malley and Cromwell, you will also see during the course of the afternoon the spectacular cliff edge fortress, children’s’ burial ground, best preserved bronze aged landscapes on the Irish coast with houses and field systems from 2000 BC.
There will be a break for lunch in the Doonmore Hotel during the afternoon. The group will take the ferry and then the bus back to Galway City to arrive at approximately 8.00 pm.

The walking is easy to moderate along small roads, open bogs and mountains. All walkers should bring waterproof clothing and footwear.

**Field Trip to Coole Park, South Galway and the Burren**
Students will be collected from campus by bus to drive to Coole Park accompanied by an experienced guide. After a tour of Coole Park the group will move on to Lady Gregory Hotel in Gort for lunch. After lunch, the group will visit Kilmacduagh Round Tower and Dysert O’Dea Castle. Further stops on the trip include archaeological sites at Carran and Cahar Commaun in the Burren.

The group will stop for dinner at Moran’s on the Weir before returning to Galway at approximately 9.00 pm.

**Trad on the Prom**
As part of the programme, the Education in Ireland group will attend an evening performance of Trad on the Prom in Salthill. This is an evening of traditional Irish music and dance and one of the most popular shows in Galway City.

**A Night at the Theatre**
An evening at the theatre will be arranged for the group with a play being selected from the offerings of the Galway International Arts Festival.
Travel & Visa Advice

Visas

To determine whether or not you need a visa to travel to Ireland, please visit the website of the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service. More detailed advice about study visas can be accessed on the website of the International Affairs Office at NUI Galway. As a summer school student, you will spend approximately five weeks in Ireland and therefore do not need to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau. When checked by immigration officials on arrival in Ireland, your passport will be stamped up to the end of your summer school course. Should you wish to stay for a longer period, you may need to liaise with the Garda National Immigration Bureau after arrival to facilitate an extension to your stay. The Summer School Office will be able to assist with this process.

Please ensure you bring your passport and original letter of offer with you to show to immigration officials at your point of entry to Ireland.

Travel

The major airports in Ireland are Shannon (on the west coast, approximately 55 miles from Galway) and Dublin (on the east coast, approximately 135 miles from Galway). Shannon Airport is the closest international airport to Galway City.

Shannon International Airport is approximately a 2 hour drive from Galway City. Shannon Airport is serviced by Bus Éireann.

Dublin International Airport is approximately a 3 hour drive from Galway City. A number of bus services operate connections from Dublin Airport to Galway City centre: Citylink, GoBus and Bus Éireann. A regular train service provided by Irish Rail operates from Dublin (Heuston Station) to Galway. The Airlink bus service provides regular departures from Dublin Airport to the city centre and Heuston Station. Airlink prepaid tickets can be bought at the Bus and Rail information desk at the airport. They can also be bought from the vending machines located at the bus departure points on the arrivals road. You can get a taxi from the airport to the centre of the city, but the bus is less expensive and just as quick.

Ireland West Airport is approximately 1.5 hour drive from Galway City. The airport is serviced by Bus Éireann.

Cork International Airport is approximately 3.5 hours from Galway City and is serviced by Citylink.
Arrival in Galway

Upon your arrival at Galway Coach Park/Bus & Train Station, located adjacent to Eyre Square, several taxi services are available which can take you to your accommodation where you can check in and drop off your bags. City Direct and Bus Éireann provide bus services within Galway City and operate from Eyre Square. A route map for the city bus services is available here.

Registration

Students may collect an ID Card on the 27 June, 2019 from the Alexander Anderson Boardroom, Quadrangle Building between 4.00 am – 5.00 pm. There will be signage on campus to direct you to the venue.

Tourist Information

On arrival in Galway, general information may be obtained from Ireland West Tourism Information Office, Forster Street. Tel. 091 537700.
Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided in Corrib Village Student Residence. Rooms in Corrib Village will be allocated on arrival. Corrib Village is approximately a 10 minute walk to class. Bed sheets/blankets: bed linen and towels are provided in Corrib Village.

Cost of Living Guidelines

Meals/Food: Allow approximately €25 - €30 per day, to cover snacks, lunch and light evening meal if you are eating at a cafe/restaurant. NOTE: There is no self-catering option at the home-stay residences.

As kitchen/cooking facilities are available at Corrib Village student residence, it is cost effective to buy groceries at local supermarkets and self-cater. Allow approximately €40 - €50 per week to buy groceries.

There is a small grocery store available at Corrib Village. Local supermarkets (Dunnes Stores, Eyre Square Shopping Centre and Headford Rd., Tesco, Headford Rd, Lidl, Headford Rd, Aldi, Headford Rd) are within a 15 minute walk of Corrib Village. An hourly, free shuttle bus service between Corrib Village and Galway City Centre is available throughout the summer and can be used to access shopping facilities.

- **Local transportation:** The average bus fare within the city is €2.10. Taxis cost from €8 - €12 (within the general Galway City area).
- **Books and supplies:** Approx. €60 - €80 depending on courses chosen.
- **Laundry/toiletries:** Laundry at Corrib Village is coin operated and costs €3 per wash and €2 to dry (full machine loads). Toiletries can be purchased quite reasonably at supermarkets or local pharmacies.
- **Social Activities:** Entrance to cinemas: €7 student rate applies with a valid student ID card. Theatre tickets cost slightly more. Entrance to nightclubs: €10 - €15.

Health Care

International Summer School Students who need to attend a doctor’s surgery can avail of the following General Practitioner clinics in the local area.

- **Dr. Fergil Colohans Surgery** in the Headford Road Shopping Centre (Tel 091-565664). This service is available at a discounted student rate.
- **Doctors Clinic** located at 32 Newcastle Road, (Tel 091 520340) is a General Practitioner’s Service available to students.

There is an on call, after-hours emergency medical service available to all students after 5.00 pm. This service can be accessed by calling 087-2623997. There is a charge for this service.

Emergency medical help

In the case of a serious accident, dial 112 for emergency services and request an ambulance.

An Accident & Emergency service is available at University College Hospital Galway. This facility is located on the Newcastle Rd, close to NUI Galway.

Students with ongoing medical conditions are advised to contact the International Summer School Office (summerschool@nuigalway.ie) in advance of arrival to discuss your medical support requirements. You are advised to have private health insurance in place prior to arrival.
General Advice

Time Management
One of the greatest challenges facing summer school students is time management. You will need to balance the commitments of attending class, doing course work and participating on field trips, while also making time to enjoy all that Galway City and its festivals have to offer. You may also want to visit other parts of Ireland while here. You will have a very busy schedule while in Galway so it is worth considering scheduling time before the start, or at the end of the summer school to allow time to travel and enjoy a vacation. There is also a long weekend scheduled during your stay, which will provide you with an opportunity to make travel plans.

Weather/Clothing
Ireland has a temperate climate and does not experience extremes of heat or cold. It does however, have high rainfall levels. The weather is unpredictable and can change dramatically in a short period of time.

Prepare to dress in layers and ensure that you have waterproof clothing and footwear for wet days. This is especially important if you are participating in field trips, where you will be exposed to the elements. Ensure that you have comfortable footwear for everyday wear as you will walk a lot throughout the duration of the course.

The dress code for class will be casual, but you may wish to bring something dressy for nights on the town or a visit to the theatre. Remember to leave room in your bag for souvenirs on the way home.

We recommend you include the following items on your packing list:

- Waterproof walking shoes or hiking boots
- Waterproof jacket and leggings
- A fleece
- Backpack for field trips
- Umbrella
- Camera and memory cards
- Chargers for your electrical equipment
- Power converter/adaptor*
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Prescription medicines and a copy of your prescription

*The electrical supply in Ireland is 230v 50hz. Plugs use a three-pronged formation. If your electrical devices use a different current, you will need both a power converter and a plug adaptor.
Galway Festivals

Four festivals take place during the month of July in Galway City. Galway Film Fleadh, Galway International Arts Festival and Galway Fringe Festival, bring visitors from around the world to experience the best in music, film, theatre, literature and visual art. The week long horse-racing festival, the Galway Races, at the end of July is Ireland’s most well-known racing festival.

Currency

The Euro is the single currency of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The Euro is made up of 100 cents.

Banking

A branch of the Bank of Ireland is located on campus adjacent to the lecture rooms on the Concourse. Opening hours are Monday – Friday, 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. There are ATM facilities available on campus and throughout the city. In some parts of rural Ireland, you may not be able to use a debit/credit card so ensure you bring cash with you.

Postal Services

Students may have mail addressed to them c/o Education in Ireland Programme, Summer School Office, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland. A post office is located adjacent to the Newcastle Road entrance to the University.
Galway Bucket List

1. Walk the Salthill Promenade (don’t forget to kick the wall at the end)
2. Attend a GAA football or hurling match
3. Eat fish and chips at McDonagh’s on Quay St and try curry chips from Supermacs after a night on the town
4. Attend a Rab Fulton Celtic Tales story telling session in the Crane Bar
5. Get to a Little Cinema night in the Roisin Dubh on the last Wednesday of each month
6. Attend as many events at Galway’s summer festivals as you can manage
7. Hang out in Spanish Arch (“Sparch”) on a sunny day
8. Visit Galway Market on a Saturday and try the fresh food stalls
9. Jump off the diving board in Salthill into the frigid Atlantic Ocean
10. Enjoy a traditional music session in The Crane Bar/Tigh Coili/ Taaffes Bar
11. Attend a reading in Charlie Byrne’s Book Store
12. Get to a live gig or a silent disco at the Roisin Dubh
13. Try set dancing in Monroe’s Tavern on Tuesday nights
14. Enjoy Galway City’s many buskers on Shop Street
15. Have drinks outside Tigh Neachtain’s on a sunny day and watch the world go by

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Recommended

We recommend that students join our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, once you are accepted to your summer school programme. We will be posting important information, advice and competitions prior to departure and throughout the summer.
1. Getting Started with Blackboard

Blackboard is a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). A virtual learning environment is a web-based application designed to facilitate lecturers in the management of modules for their students, especially by helping lecturers and learners with course administration. They are used to supplement face-to-face lectures and tutorials.

Blackboard is the VLE in use at NUI Galway. It allows students to download lecture notes, reading lists, assessment information and other course-related material from their Blackboard sites. It also contains functions that enable students to interact via class announcements, email, discussion boards. It’s easy to upload any materials (e.g. Word files, PowerPoint slides, PDFs, etc) and to create simple quizzes, arrange for electronic submission of course work by students, establish online discussion areas, etc.

Not all academic staff will use Blackboard to support their face-to-face teaching.

2. Logging In

Students can access Blackboard by going to https://nuigalway.blackboard.com and logging in using their CASS username (Student ID in the format 0000123) and password.

What if I have no courses after I log in?

You will automatically see any modules on which you are registered after you log in. Some may be listed as “unavailable”. This simply means that your lecturer isn’t using Blackboard for this course, or hasn’t made it available to students yet.

What if I cannot log in?

If you cannot log in, please check that you have registered for the current academic session with the university. If you are not a registered student in the current year, you will be unable to access Blackboard. Blackboard is integrated with the Student Records System (Quercus). Each evening the Student Records System sends data to Blackboard enrolling all registered students on their corresponding Blackboard courses. After this time, registered students will be able to log in to Blackboard and access the system.

If you cannot log in, please check that:
1. You have the correct username and password. To log in you will need your correct Student ID number (eight digits) and the password you would use to access your NUI Galway email and all computers on campus. If you do not know this information, contact the User Support Centre in ISS (servicedesk@nuigalway.ie or 091 495777) 2. You have registered for the current academic year with Admissions. All information concerning registration for the academic session 2011-2012 is posted on the Registration Website at www.nuigalway.ie/registration. 1.2 Navigating inside Blackboard After logging in there are two tabs on the Blackboard system. Take some time to explore these areas.
1. **Global Navigation Panel** – provides access to the users profile and communication for the entire users course portfolio
2. **Number** – displays the number of new items relevant to the entire users course portfolio, such as new posts, grade results etc
3. **Logout Icon** – click here to logout of Blackboard
4. **My NUI Galway** – the home page tab for Blackboard, click on this tab at any stage to return to this home page
5. **Courses** – tab which lists all of your courses and the instructors on each course
6. **Personalise Page** – enables you to change colour themes to Blackboard
7. **Settings** – provides options to manage courses such as: hiding old courses from your home page and grouping courses by year
8. **My Courses** – displays all the courses which you are enrolled in
9. **My Announcements** – all your course and institution announcements are displayed here
10. **Add Widget** – button to add optional “boxes” that include content, links or tools used to personalise your page.
3 The Global Navigation Panel

Click on the drop down arrow beside your name. This menu opens up the Global navigation Panel

A. The Person icon enables you to edit your profile/ upload your picture.
B. The Bb home icon expands the Bb home menu.
C. Posts Page- displays the latest posts in your courses; discussion boards, wikis blogs and journals.
D. Updates Page-lists all notifications for every course that you are enrolled in.
E. My Grades Page-only available to students displays the users’ grades.
F. The Retention Centre is an instructor only tool used to monitor student engagement. Alerts are displayed to highlight inactivity by students.
G. The Calendar tool shows events for all courses.
H. The People (Smiley) icon shows all Blackboard users.
I. The Courses menu displays all your courses.
J. The Settings menu enables you to change settings.
K. The Home icon links to your Blackboard home page.
L. The Help icon links to the Staff support page.

3.1 The Person Icon/Updating your Profile

You can update your profile by clicking on the Person Icon

This enables you to upload your picture/avatar image and set privacy options of who you would like to read your profile
3.2 The Bb Home Menu

The Bb Home menu shows the course communication for your entire course portfolio. The number indicates how many new items are available.

Click on the Bb home icon to expand the Bb home menu.

Click on any of the My Grades icon to see details of your Grade Results.

Click on any of the Posts icon for direct access to the Posts panel, you can alternatively navigate to the other pages within the My Bb menu.

To return to the course menu click on the My NUI Galway tab.
4 Getting into Your Courses

Once you log in you will be in the My NUI Galway tab.

From your My Courses list, select one of the courses and you will be directed to the Home Page of the course.

5 The Course Interface

5.1 The Course Interface Menu

Home Page is a course overview for students in your course, encompassing Announcements, Calendar items and Notifications.

Announcements is a space where lecturers may post announcements relevant to the course.

Staff Details is a space to put your own profile, along with others involved in the course delivery.

Course Information is a content area for module information.

Content is a content area for Lecture Notes, Assignments, multimedia files and Learning Units.

Assignment is a content area where assignments will be displayed by the lecturer. Assignments can also be uploaded in this area by the students.

My Grades is a link for students to access their course grades.
5.2 Submitting an Assignment

Access the Assignment

- Your instructor will most likely advise you of the name of the assignment and its location.
- Click on the relevant assignment to read details.
- Your instructor may have added some notes in the window about the assignment such as due date etc

Upload and Submit the Completed Assignment

From once you have completed your assignment you will need to submit to your instructor.
- Click on the main title of the relevant assignment link, in this example “Assignment Two”
• An assignment submission page is activated with 4 headings.

1) **Assignment Information**: shows the assignment description and details.

2) **Assignment Submission**: This is where you will submit the assignment. Click on the **Browse My Computer** button to activate the file explorer window.

   ![File Explorer Window](image1.png)

   The **Browse My Computer** button activates a file explorer window.

   ![Locate Your Assignment](image2.png)

   Locate your assignment in the file window and select the assignment by placing the cursor on your assignment and click once. The file name should be displayed in the file name box. Now, click on the Open button in the explorer tab.
3) **Comments**: You may add some comments in the Comment window, this is optional.

4) **Submit**: Finally click on the Submit button to upload the assignment to your instructor.
It’s easy to connect your laptop to the Internet

1. Connect to NUIGWiFi wireless network.

2. Open your web browser.
   A login page will appear (as seen below)

3. Login with your User ID and Password
   User ID is eight characters long e.g.
   10012345 for students
   0001234s for staff
Problem: My laptop won’t pick up the NUIGWiFi signal

• Does your laptop have WiFi capabilities?
  Check your laptop manual.
• Are you near a NUIGWiFi hotspot?
  Check the map at http://www.nuigalway.ie/iss

Problem: I cannot see the login page

a. If the login page doesn’t load, ensure your browser homepage is a standard http://URL
e.g. http://www.nuigalway.ie (not https:// or other protocol).

b. If you connect to the NUIGWiFi network but don’t log in within 30 minutes, you need to disconnect from the wireless network and re-connect.

Where can I find more information about NUIGWiFi and WiFi printing? http://www.nuigalway.ie/iss

What’s the IP Address of my machine?

**WINDOWS:**
Go to the **Start** menu and select **All Programs**.
Click **Accessories**, and then **Command Prompt**.
Type `IPCONFIG/ALL` Under the WIRELESS Sections you will see your IP Address listed.

**MACINTOSH**
Go to the **Apple** menu, then **System Preferences**.
Click on **Network**.
Set the menu to **Show: Network Status**.
Your number will be shown next to **Built-In Ethernet**.