BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY AND FAMILY STUDIES
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This distance learning programme is a 4-year, part-time programme in Community and Family Studies. Students are awarded an NUI Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies upon successful completion of the first 2 years of the programme and a Bachelor of Arts: Community and Family Studies on completion of the 4-year cycle. This programme is designed to enable participants to further develop and enhance their understanding, knowledge and skills relevant to Family and Community work practice and policy in Ireland or abroad. The main focus of the degree programme will be on Community and Family studies but will broadly incorporate community development, family support, adolescence, childcare, health, political and general socio-economic studies.

INTENDED FOR:

This programme was developed in response to the continuing education needs of personnel working in community/voluntary and state sectors actively supporting Community and Family life in a rapidly changing society. It is an interdisciplinary programme drawing upon selected components of Sociology, Politics, Community Development, Family Studies and Law. It is a broad educational programme which places specific emphasis on knowledge and skills for personnel working within a broad range of sectors which seek to support and enable families and communities to function effectively within society.

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This NUI Diploma/ BA programme is designed specifically to create accessible, student centred learning opportunities within the Social Sciences. Core flexible learning materials, developed by NUI Galway practitioners and experts in the field of Community and Family support, will be provided to students at the start of the programme. The cost of learning materials and the tuition is included in the programme fee. Each programme consists of a combination of learning materials, workshops and assignments. The workshops may be held at a number of geographic locations throughout Ireland.

PROGRAMME CONTENT:

The BA programme is devised on a modular, credit basis. Each module carries a specific number of credits. The maximum number of credits that a student can attain each year is 45 credits. A Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies is awarded on attaining 90 credits and a Bachelor of Arts in Community and Family Studies degree on attaining 180 credits.
## PROGRAMME MODULES

### Year One:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Research Skills</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Module*</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Society</td>
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<td>Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 1</td>
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### Year Two:

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<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Module*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics and Policy Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues in Contemporary Family Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group work and Community Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 2</td>
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### Year Three:

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<tr>
<td>Elective Module*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methodology in the Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childhood and Adolescence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Societal Interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 3</td>
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### Year Four:

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<th>MODULE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Long Learning: Policy and Practice</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Family: Project Planning, Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equality and Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
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## ELECTIVE MODULES (SAMPLE)

### Diploma cycle
- Community Enterprise, Business and Legal Issues
- Community Health
- Development and Change
- Racism and Interculturalism
- Understanding Conflict
- Youth and Society
- Youth Work

### Degree cycle
- Community Management
- Comparative Themes in Society, Politics and Culture
- Social Exclusion, Citizenship and the Modern State
- Information Technology: Family and Community
- Adulthood and Ageing
- Families and the Law
- Community and the Environment
- Community Consultation and Decision Making

**Note:** Other elective modules may be offered in addition to, or in substitution of, the modules listed above. Not all of the elective modules may be offered every academic year.
**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants for the programme should meet the University’s requirements for mature students. Formal academic qualifications are not required to commence the BA in Community and Family Studies. Applicants whose first language is not English, or who have not been educated through the medium of the English language during their two most recent years of study, must present one of the following qualifications in the English language: IELTS: 6.5 or TOEFL (IBT): 92. Applicants should have good reading and writing skills, as well as basic IT skills, as independent home study is required.

**RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITED PRIOR LEARNING:**

Students who have previously undertaken approved programmes may be granted credit for their qualifications. Such credit, where granted, will be at first year University level only and will be limited to a maximum exemption of 30 credits in the first two years of a part-time degree. Applicants wishing to apply for exemptions must complete the exemption form available from the Programme Administrator, and supporting documentation must be submitted.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Apply online at: [www.nuigalway.ie/apply](http://www.nuigalway.ie/apply)

**NOTE:** A non-refundable application fee of €30 is to be paid online at time of application.

(Please note that the number of places available per venue is limited.)

**DURATION/ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The modular structure of the programme allows students to proceed at their own pace. A series of 1 to 2 day workshops are scheduled throughout the academic year (September to April) which students must attend - this equates to approximately one workshop per month. A 1 day workshop is held on Saturday, a 2 day workshop is held on Friday and Saturday.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students must attend workshops and submit an assignment for each module. Students must also submit a project at the end of each year of study. A proportion of marks are also based on written examinations.
WHERE TO FROM HERE?

NUI Galway offers a wide range of graduate level Diplomas, Masters Degrees and Doctoral Research Degrees.

AWARD

NUI Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies (2 years)

NUI Bachelor of Arts: Community and Family Studies (4 years)

ANNUAL FEE

The fee for this programme is €2,900 per year. NOTE: A non-refundable application fee of €30 is to be paid online at time of application.

Upon acceptance of the course you will be required to pay €500. The remainder of the course fees may then be paid in full or in accordance with the following payment schedule:

i. The first installment, €790, must be paid on registration at your course induction day.

ii. The second installment, €990, must be submitted in early February.*

iii. The third installment, €620, must be submitted in early May.

*As previously outlined, students who have undertaken approved programmes may be granted credit for their qualifications. Such credit, where granted, will lead to a reduction in overall programme fees and will be deducted from the second installment of fees.

Fees Scholarships may also be available which will reduce fees by up to 30% for certain categories of students – eligibility criteria apply. Please contact us for further information.

In the event that programme fees are being sponsored on behalf of a student (e.g. by employer) appropriate payment arrangements will be agreed with the student involved.

Under existing legislation, students in employment may be eligible for income tax relief at the standard tax rate. For specific details on this scheme, students are encouraged to contact their local tax office.
ENQUIRIES

HOW CAN I APPLY?
Apply online at: www.nuigalway.ie/apply

WHO CAN I CONTACT?
Programme Administrator, Community Education, Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development, NUI Galway, Nuns’ Island, Galway City.

Phone: 091- 495472 / 091- 495786
Email: community.ed@nuigalway.ie
