



# MA sa Léann Éireannach

MA in Irish Studies  
Centre for Irish Studies  
NUI Galway

Course Handbook

2021-22



*At Home in the World.* Photograph, ©Ceara Conway 2012.

# Centre for Irish Studies

## NUI Galway

### MA IN IRISH STUDIES (Literature & History)

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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **General Introduction**

Welcome to the Centre for Irish Studies and we hope that you will both enjoy and gain from your year of postgraduate study on the interdisciplinary MA in Irish Studies' programme. This Course Handbook provides you with essential information about the MA programme and supplements the information given through general University sources.

Irish Studies is an integrated, interdisciplinary programme of learning which seeks to explore key aspects of the Irish experience in its historical and contemporary settings. Since its inception in 2000, the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway has established itself as one of the premier locations worldwide for interdisciplinary research and advanced teaching on the cultural, social and political endeavours of Irish people, on the island of Ireland and beyond.

The MA in Irish Studies (Literature & History) is a one year interdisciplinary programme drawing on the disciplines of Irish, English, History, and including sociological and political science perspectives. The programme focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and seeks to provide for participants a critical interrogation of key junctions and issues in the historical, cultural and social development of modern Ireland. The approach will be interdisciplinary throughout, aiming to provide a comprehensive overview of the Irish experience since the early nineteenth century. A wide range of political and literary texts and other forms of cultural representation will be studied as primary material and students will be encouraged to make inter-connections between the various strands of their course. The teaching language of the course is English. Essays, dissertations and oral presentations may be in either English or Irish at students' own discretion.

### **Features of MA in Irish Studies at NUI Galway**

- Interdisciplinary focus on the development of modern Irish culture and society
- Bilingual approaches to Irish literature, history, music and dance cultures
- Intensive year-long Irish-language programme, including classes in the Gaeltacht
- Advanced research workshops and MA Dissertation mentoring and training
- Academic mentoring and support for career development with MA Programme Director

## **Career opportunities**

Since it was first offered in 2001, over 210 students from Ireland, Wales, England, Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada and the US have graduated from this internationally renowned postgraduate programme. Graduates of this programme have entered a wide range of careers including advanced PhD research, teaching and education, publishing and translation, creative industries, journalism and digital media, and the arts, tourism and heritage sectors.

## **Interested in Further Research in Irish Studies?**

While many of our students pursue careers in areas as listed above, a significant number progress to pursue doctoral studies in Ireland and overseas. In recent years, our graduates have been awarded prestigious national and international doctoral fellowships and awards in Ireland, Europe and North America (Irish Research Council Postgraduate Fellowships, Lady Gregory Fellowships, Galway Doctoral Fellowships, Boston College Postgraduate Fellowships and University of Notre Dame Postgraduate Scholarships), while others have gone on to publish their MA Dissertations as part of the Local History Series with Four Courts Press, and in peer-reviewed international journals and specialist magazines. Many of our MA candidates continue their interdisciplinary enquiries and are accepted onto the PhD in Irish Studies programme at NUI Galway.

The Centre for Irish Studies provides a supportive environment and has an exceptional record in assisting both MA and PhD candidates to complete their research dissertations to the highest standards in a timely fashion. The Centre offers academic support for research students to give papers at academic conferences in Ireland and overseas, as well as training in advanced research methodologies. The *Irish Studies Seminar Series* and occasional Public Lectures, International Conferences, Workshops and Symposia provide further opportunities for graduate students to engage with distinguished visiting scholars whose expertise coincides with their own research interests.

*“When I came to Galway in September for the MA in Irish Studies programme I was unsure of what to expect, both from living in a new city and from starting a new academic programme. The atmosphere of the university, particularly within the Centre for Irish Studies, was welcoming and intellectually stimulating. Our varied backgrounds, and the interdisciplinary nature of the programme, meant that I have a better understanding of Ireland and the Irish people than I ever could have obtained in a more traditional programme.*”

*For a student with many interests, the MA could not have been a better fit.” - Erin Kraus, PhD in History, University of Notre Dame (MA in Irish Studies, NUI Galway 2010)*

## **Research at the Centre for Irish Studies**

### **Distinguished Visiting Scholars**

The Centre for Irish Studies has a long-standing commitment to supporting international research initiatives in the field of Irish Studies. In particular, the hosting of Visiting Scholars makes a significant contribution to the intellectual life of the Centre by providing a platform for wider discussions among the Irish Studies community at NUI Galway.

With the generous assistance of funding agencies, including the Leverhulme Foundation, the Irish American Cultural Institute, the Fulbright Commission, the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Foras na Gaeilge, and the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies at NUI Galway, the Centre has hosted emerging and established scholars from Europe, the Americas, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.



### **Comhrá Ceoil**

Irish Music and Dance Studies is central to teaching and research at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway, drawing on cognate disciplines of ethnomusicology, cultural history, spatial and cultural geography to expand the field of Irish Studies internationally. There is a vibrant post-graduate research cluster in music and dance studies, a thread which also runs through the fabric of undergraduate teaching.

For a number of years now, a music and dance studies reading group, *Comhrá Ceoil*, has been meeting regularly as a forum for debate and discussion. *Comhrá Ceoil* draws together strands of research, discourse and practice in the field and encompasses a variety of research driven initiatives and events, both on and off campus. It provides a robust but collegial environment to develop new ideas and revisit old paradigms of discussion on the matter of music, dance and Irishness. For further information, contact Dr Verena Commins [verena.commins@nuigalway.ie](mailto:verena.commins@nuigalway.ie)



## Ómós Áite: Space/Place Research Group

*Ómós Áite: Space/Place Research Group* was established in 2009 to promote the interdisciplinary study of issues relating to the social, cultural and political production of space and place in modern society. Work conducted in the group critically examines how personal and national identities, cultures and communities ground themselves and construct their sense of place in a world that is becoming increasingly globalised and is sometime perceived as being ‘placeless’.

While such spatialised concerns are wide-ranging and demand a critical engagement across a variety of discourses, the focus of much research underway with members is with the significance and role of place and the concept of critical regionalism in Irish culture and society. *Ómós Áite* also seeks to forge further thematic connections across key disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences, with a particular emphasis on both foundational texts and contemporary work underway in Irish Studies, Cultural Geography, Modern Languages and Literatures, Critical Theory, Philosophy, Music and Performance Studies, Urban and Rural Planning, and Visual Art & Design. For further information, contact Dr Nessa Cronin, [nessa.cronin@nuigalway.ie](mailto:nessa.cronin@nuigalway.ie)

### **Sean-nós Singers and Dancers in Residence**

The appointment of Sean-nós Singers and Dancers in Residence represents the dynamic connection between the University and its Irish-speaking hinterland by recognising *sean-nós* song and dance as highly developed art forms that are particularly strong in the Connemara Gaeltacht. The annual Sean-nós Singers/Dancers in Residence workshop series runs weekly at the Centre for Irish Studies during the academic year. All workshops are free and open to the public. This scheme is funded by Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta and An Chomhairle Ealaíon in association with the Centre for Irish Studies at NUI Galway.

## SECTION 2: PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### MA Programme Directors and Module Convenors

Below are the contact details for staff members associated with the MA in Irish Studies, NUI Galway.

#### Director, Centre for Irish Studies

Professor Louis de Paor (Irish Studies)

Tel: 091-493660      [louis.depaor@nuigalway.ie](mailto:louis.depaor@nuigalway.ie)

#### Director, MA in Irish Studies Programmes

Dr Nessa Cronin (Irish Studies)

Tel: 091-492893      [nessa.cronin@nuigalway.ie](mailto:nessa.cronin@nuigalway.ie)

#### Administrator, Centre for Irish Studies

Samantha Williams (Irish Studies)

Tel: 091-492051      [samantha.williams@nuigalway.ie](mailto:samantha.williams@nuigalway.ie)

#### Irish Literature in English - Discipline Convenor

Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan (English)

Tel: 091 – 493787      [marie-louise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:marie-louise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie)

#### Irish History - Discipline Convenor

Dr John Cunningham (History)

Tel: 091 – 495642      [john.cunnigham@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.cunnigham@nuigalway.ie)

#### Irish Literature in Irish - Discipline Convenor

Professor Louis de Paor (Irish Studies)

Tel: 091-493660      [louis.depaor@nuigalway.ie](mailto:louis.depaor@nuigalway.ie)

#### Political Science and Sociology – Discipline Convenor

Professor Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Political Science and Sociology)

Tel: 091 – 493594      [niall.odochartaigh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:niall.odochartaigh@nuigalway.ie)

## **Irish Music and Dance Traditions – Discipline Specialists in Irish Studies**

Dr Verena Commins

Tel: 091 – 495046      [verena.commins@nuigalway.ie](mailto:verena.commins@nuigalway.ie)

## **Interdisciplinary Seminar**

Dr Leo Keohane (Irish Studies) [leo.keohane@nuigalway.ie](mailto:leo.keohane@nuigalway.ie)

## **Irish Language Classes**

Ms Áine Ní Choirbhín (Gaeilge) [anne.corbett@nuigalway.ie](mailto:anne.corbett@nuigalway.ie)

## **MA PROGRAMMES - OVERVIEW**

The duration of our full-time MA programmes is one academic year, part-time MA programmes are completed usually over two years. The following modules are undertaken by students, depending on whether they are specializing in Literature, History, or Sociology & Political Science:

### **Semester 1**

IS 104 *Ideology, Politics and Society in Ireland 1800-1921* (10 ECTS)

IS 105 *Young Ireland to the Free State: Writing in English, 1849-1922* (10 ECTS)

IS 106 *Decline and Revival: Language, Literature and Society 1800-1939* (10 ECTS)

Irish Language Classes (Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced) (both semesters)

MA Interdisciplinary Seminar (both semesters)

Irish Studies Seminar Series (both semesters)

### **Semester 2**

IS 107 *Divided Ireland: Politics and Society since 1921* (10 ECTS)

IS 108 *The Politics of Modernity: Writing in English from 1922 to the present* (10 ECTS)

IS 109 *Gaelic and Free: Cultural Politics and Writing in Irish since 1939* (10 ECTS)

Irish Language Classes (Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced) (both semesters)

MA Interdisciplinary Seminar (both semesters)

Irish Studies Seminar Series (both semesters)

Irish Studies Advanced Research: MA Dissertation Workshops



Full course descriptions, syllabi, and assessment details are available from the individual course lecturers at the beginning of each semester.

## **COURSEWORK AND ASSESSMENT**

Assessment on all course modules is by continuous assessment, by essay only. There are no end-of-year examinations for this programme. Individual lecturers will explain the mode of assessment and essay requirements in detail to you over the course of the semester.

### **Essay Weightings for MA 10 ECTS modules**

Semester 1:    Essay 1: 40% (2,000 words)    Essay 2: 60% (3,000 words)

Semester 2:    Essay 1: 50% (2,500 words)    Essay 2: 50% (2,500 words)

### **Marks**

Marks for the MA are out of a total of 900: 100 marks are awarded for each taught module, and 300 marks for the MA Minor Dissertation. The Irish Language module is assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

### **Grade Bands**

70-100%:    First Class Honours

60-69%:    Second Class Honours (Grade 1)

50-59%:    Second Class Honours (Grade 2)

40-49%:    Pass

0-39%:    Fail

## **MA in Irish Studies - Minor Dissertation (30 ECTS)**

### *Requirements*

The Dissertation should make an original contribution to our understanding of the topic in question, should demonstrate good analytical skills, and should be presented in a scholarly manner. The recommended word-length of an MA Dissertation is 15,000-20,000 words. The subject shall be chosen by students in consultation with the course board and the MA Programme Director during the second semester.

### *Research topic*

Students should identify and select an interdisciplinary research topic relating to Irish culture and society since 1800 which will enable them to fulfil the above requirements and for which they can find a supervisor available in the research area to supervise them.

#### *Dissertation Schedule and Research Workshops*

- Research Methodology and Archival Research Workshops
- Preliminary MA Dissertation meeting before Christmas with Programme Directors
- MA Dissertation Workshops
- Students should identify a supervisor and discuss the feasibility of the topic with him/her by March/April of the submission year
- Students submit an MA Dissertation Proposal to the MA in Irish Studies Course Board towards the end of Semester 2
- Students present an outline of their proposed project and their progress to date to the MA in Irish Studies Course Board in late April/early May of the year of submission
- Students submit their MA Minor Dissertations at the end of the academic year

#### **Submission of Coursework**

All essays must be typed and submitted in **electronic formats** by the specified deadline indicated by your course lecturer. All electronic submissions are made through the course module on Blackboard. Coursework should include a MA Essay Cover Page indicating date of submission, essay title, lecturer name, and student details.

#### **Late Submissions**

In certain circumstances (health or personal reasons), *essay extensions* may be granted by the MA Programme Director in advance of the submission date.

*Students need to gain permission from the MA Programme Director for all essay extensions.* Coursework submitted after the deadline *without* an agreed extension will incur penalties.

#### **Referencing and Plagiarism**

Writing in an academic style is a process of investigating ideas, collating information and presenting a coherent and critical argument. You will be reading lots of diverse texts which will develop your awareness of different styles of writing and approaches to scholarship. All

academic writing requires the author to properly acknowledge the source/s of the information presented through a system of referencing/citation. This is the cornerstone of good academic practice. Support for academic writing skills is available at the *Academic Writing Centre* at NUI Galway, <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/awc/>

### **Referencing and citations**

In your essays, quotations and substantive information taken from other works must be acknowledged in footnotes or endnotes, giving author, title, and page number. When citing unpublished sources, students should follow the advice of the course lecturer. A bibliography, listing the documentary sources, books, and articles used (including all those acknowledged in footnotes/endnotes) must be included at the end of your essay.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is when a student presents the work of other authors as his/her own without proper acknowledgement or reference. Plagiarism can apply to many materials, such as words, ideas, images, information, data, approaches or methods. Sources of plagiarism can include books, journals, reports, websites, essay mills, another student, or another person. All work submitted by students for assessment, for publication or for (public) presentation, is accepted on the understanding that it is their own work and contains their own original contribution, except where explicitly referenced using the accepted norms and formats of the appropriate academic discipline.

Plagiarism can arise through poor academic practice or ignorance of accepted norms of the academic discipline. If you are in doubt as to what plagiarism is when writing your essay, or drafting your MA Dissertation, do consult with your course lecturer and/or MA Advisor in advance of submission of the final work. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. A full university statement on plagiarism is available through the student services webpage on the University home page. <http://www.nuigalway.ie/plagiarism/>

<b>MA IN IRISH STUDIES - ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b>
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**MA Semester 1**      *Monday 20 September – Friday 3 December 2021*

*(Coursework – End of term essays due in December 2021. Dates to be confirmed for each module)*

**MA Semester 2**      *Monday 10 January – Friday 1 April 2022*  
*(Coursework – End of term essays due in April 2022. Dates to be confirmed for each module)*

**MA Dissertation Research Semester**

Dedicated MA Dissertation Research:      1 May – 26 August 2022  
MA Dissertation Submission:                  Friday 26 August 2022

**MA Research Fieldtrips and Dissertation Seminars: Semester 2, Spring 2022.**

- MA Dissertation Workshops: January – May 2022
- MA Dissertation Presentation Day: May 2022 (date to be confirmed)
- Graduate Research Workshops: Specialist research workshops with Research and Library Staff at NUI Galway, throughout academic year

*For the NUI Galway Academic Calendar see:*

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/registrationoffice/files/All-students-21-22-Calendar---Revised.pdf>

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## **SECTION 3: FACILITIES AND RESOURCES**

### **LECTURES IN IRISH STUDIES**

All classes are held in the Seminar Room, Centre for Irish Studies and/or online, unless otherwise indicated. Attendance at all classes is required, with active student participation central to your learning experience. Readings are assigned for each lecture and will be circulated in advance. Wifi access through your NUI Galway account is available at the Centre for Irish Studies.

### **Writing Skills Support – Academic Writing Centre, NUI Galway**

All of your lecturers on the MA in Irish Studies will assist you in developing good academic writing skills. In addition, we strongly advise students to avail of the services of the Academic Writing Centre. This is a free service where students of all disciplines are welcome to get assistance with their writing skills, essays and reports.

The Academic Writing Centre situated in the James Hardiman Library, students can drop-in or make an appointment [writingcentre@nuigalway.ie](mailto:writingcentre@nuigalway.ie), or contact the Centre Director, Dr Irina Rupp, [irna.ruppo@nuigalway.ie](mailto:irna.ruppo@nuigalway.ie)

### **Student Support Services at NUI Galway**

**Child Care Student Services** at NUI Galway can offer practical help and advice as well as resources for our students who need it.

The **Chaplaincy Service** offers pastoral care and spiritual guidance to the students and staff of NUI Galway.

You can consult with a member of the NUI Galway **Counselling Service** for any issue. We provide skilled listeners who have experience dealing with all the challenges students encounter.

The **Student Health Service** provides on-campus medical and psychiatric care to registered students of the university in a professional, courteous, and confidential manner.

Looking after your health is as important as your academic achievements. The **Student Health Promotion Service** provides information on women's health, men's health, safer sex, weight management, healthy eating, alcohol and other drugs, smoking, stress reduction, relaxation, time management, physical activity parenthood, and more. It also offers a number of programmes, including personal development workshops, smoking cessation, wellness assessments, and exam de-stress.

The **Career Development Centre** helps you to manage your own career plans by providing a wide range of support services.

For a full listing and contact details see: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/student-support/>

### **Computer Facilities and Blackboard**

**Computer Facilities** For all computer-related queries contact the Information Services and Solutions (ISS) Service Desk. The ISS Service Desk is a service provided for all staff and students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. It offers a "one-stop shop" for all your computing related problems/queries. <http://www.nuigalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/>

### **Blackboard**

Blackboard is a Virtual Learning Environment designed to facilitate lecturers in the management of modules for their students, especially by helping lecturers and learners with course administration. Many of your MA lecturers will use Blackboard to circulate academic articles and information concerning your coursework.

<https://www.nuigalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/blackboard/students/>

### **James Hardiman Library, NUI Galway – Resources and Training for Researchers**

Navigating your way through the wealth of information resources the Library makes available can be a daunting task. Library staff provide support, help and training to enable you to get to grips with the literature of your subject and the Library's resources. We have staff with expertise on information resources in your subject area to support you with your studies, research, or teaching.

Special Collections Librarian: Ms Marie Boran [marie.boran@nuigalway.ie](mailto:marie.boran@nuigalway.ie)

Academic Skills Librarian: Mr Mike Smalle [michael.smalle@nuigalway.ie](mailto:michael.smalle@nuigalway.ie)

As well as being available for one-to-one enquiries and consultations, our support staff provide training sessions throughout the year aimed at helping you identify and use the information resources you need for your study.

<https://library.nuigalway.ie/help/researchhelp/>

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## **SECTION 4: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Programme Communication**

- **Please note that you should only use your NUI Galway email address when corresponding with us. You are responsible for checking your NUI Galway email regularly.** You should also check the MA in Irish Studies notice board regularly for information about upcoming events and class/timetable announcements and/or changes throughout the academic year.
- Information from the Programme Co-Director and from individual lecturers will be sent to your NUI Galway email address.
- Readings and other material for distribution will be disseminated through Blackboard, depending on the arrangements by the individual course lecturers.
- NUI Galway lecturers can be contacted during student office hours on line this year. If you need to speak with them outside of these hours you may email them in advance to organise a time outside of those hours to meet where possible.

## **UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT**

The primary objectives of the University are the dissemination and advancement of knowledge and understanding through teaching, research, study and rational discussion. Any student who enrolls for any course in the University in doing so accepts the objectives of the University and is giving a commitment, as a responsible individual and as a member of the University community, to behave in an appropriate manner.

### **Broad Principles**

In the broadest terms the University expects students to behave in a manner which ensures that the University can meet its legal, statutory and contractual obligations, that all students and staff are treated with dignity and respect, that all University property and facilities are used appropriately and that students uphold the good name of the University in their actions both on and off campus. The University will have due regard to a student's right to freedom of speech within the law and to the relevant University policies.

### **Rights and obligations of staff, students and others**

- Every student and staff member has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

- Students are expected to acknowledge the authority of the staff of the University, both academic and support staff, in the performance of their duties.

Every student is expected to approach his/her academic endeavours with honesty and integrity.

Each student shall comply with his/her academic programme requirements in terms of lectures, practicals, assignments and assessments and with all University registration, fee, library, use of computer facilities and examination regulations associated therewith.

Every student is required to behave in a manner which enables and encourages participation in the educational activities of the University and does not disrupt the functioning of the University. The maintenance of the good name of the University is in the interests of all of the University community and, as the standing of the University depends largely on those who represent it, it is the duty of its students at all times to behave, both inside and outside of the University, in a way which does not bring discredit to the University. For further information see: [www.nuigalway.ie/codeofconduct/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/codeofconduct/)

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