

Irish Studies

BA (Hons)

COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: [BBB](#)
- UCAS code: Q540
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 3 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: [29 January 2025](#)
- Starts: 22 September 2025

Course overview

This degree offers students a unique opportunity to study the history, politics, culture, literature, and language of Ireland. The interdisciplinary nature of the course provides students with a broad grounding in the humanities and social sciences, equipping graduates with a diverse and versatile skills set suitable for a wide-range of careers.

INTRODUCTION

You will explore Irish identity and society from a number of perspectives including the historical, the linguistic, the political, the literary and the ethnographic. You will then have the opportunity to develop expertise in your chosen area of study through the range of modules available in your second and third year.

The role of Ireland as an emerging independent nation, as well as part of a broader matrix of British and global history is explored. Its outstanding contribution to English literature in writers such as Wilde, Yeats, Joyce, Beckett, Bowen, McGahern, Heaney, and Edna O'Brien feature as part of this absorbing degree. Students can undertake in-depth study of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' and explore the lessons which can be drawn from the region's peace process for divided societies around the world. Students will also have the option of studying the Irish language, with modules catering to beginners as well as those who may already have a background in the language.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Knowledge and understanding of Ireland, it's culture, history and politics

- Ability to formulate informed, sensitive and well-articulated arguments
 - Debate skills
 - Ability to integrate a diverse range of primary and secondary materials (such as literary and historical texts, oral interviews, sound recordings, visual screenings of events, places and people) into your work
 - Bibliographical, library and internet research skills
 - Opportunity to learn the Irish language
-

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ONE

Year one introduces you to Irish literature, Irish legends, Irish history and gives you the chance to learn the Irish language.

Students take 60 credits of optional modules in each semester.

Students may take a maximum of 30 credits of non-IRIS modules.

FILM101 is a pre-requisite for **FILM102**.

OPTIONAL MODULES

ENGLISH LITERATURE IN IRELAND: JONATHAN SWIFT TO WB YEATS (IRIS103)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to a broad range of Irish Literature from Swift to Joyce and to the idea of an Irish Literary Tradition in English. A new author is introduced and apart from Joyce and Swift, and the module is taught in a lecture/seminar format.

NORTHERN IRELAND BEFORE THE 'TROUBLES': FROM PARTITION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND ARMALITES (IRIS107)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module enables students to understand the historical background to the development of the Troubles in Northern Ireland with reference to the underlying political, social, economic, cultural and religious context. It gives an overview of the main events and underlying causes of the outbreak of violent conflict in the late 1960s and examines the motives of main participating elements including the Northern Ireland and British governments, extra-parliamentary and political movements.

BEGINNERS' IRISH 1 (IRIS141)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This course will provide an introduction to Ireland's indigenous language, offering the chance to deepen your understanding of the culture and history of Ireland and to begin exploring Irish-language art, writing and film. Starting with some basic words and expressions, the course will guide students through the first steps towards achieving an A1 'beginner' level in Irish (following the European framework for language learning). No previous knowledge of Irish is required.

CLOSE READING (ENGL103)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to a key skill in literary study, that of precise and informed analysis of text (close reading).

INTRODUCTION TO FILM LANGUAGE (FILM101)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The aim of the course is to give you grounding in analytical skills, an appreciation of the significance of film as a medium, and an ability to write about film in an accessible and well informed way for different audiences and different purposes.

Furthermore, the course will introduce you to the basic components of the audiovisual 'language' which film uses to communicate with its audience, and to the methods that you should use when analysing how any one film uses this language. We will look at a wide variety of films selected for their particularly innovative or influential treatment of different aspects of this 'language'.

POWER, BELIEF AND IDENTITY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLDS, C. 500-1600 CE (HIST115)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module covers a period of crucial significance for European history, including interactions between Europe and other parts of the world in the premodern period. Much of it will be unfamiliar to many of you, but, we hope, will be all the more interesting for that reason. At its broadest, this module covers more than a millennium, from the rise of Christianity to the European arrival in and settlement of the Americas. We start with the origins of Christianity in the eastern Mediterranean, before moving on to the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of Islam. In Europe, we chronicle the rise of post-Roman kingdoms, the settlements of Vikings in Europe and more distant locations, the launching and objectives of the crusades. In light of the expansion of the papacy, we assess the emergence of new forms of spirituality and heresy, political conflicts between nascent states, and the impact of the Reformation and Catholic Reformation on other parts of the world. Underlying these events are some continuous themes, such as the foundation of the Christian Church, the development and evolution of notions of holiness, and the effect of religious belief on methods of education, ideas of difference and deviance, and responses to natural disasters. Another theme that runs through the module is to assess how gender mores affected the experiences of and possibilities for individuals who lived in these periods. Course content also looks at the practice of, and ideology behind, political activity and war. We aim to give you an appreciation of world views and of methods of representation based on the mental horizons possible in the age before modern technology.

BRITISH POLITICS 1 (POLI101)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module covers the ideas, policies of the main political parties in UK politics and how they are conditioned by wider ideologies. It examines the key reasons why people vote the way they do, analysing recent elections. The module assesses the importance of the media and political rhetoric and also analyses the importance of gender.

FIELDTRIP TO IRELAND AND STUDY METHODS (IRIS102)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module is intended for first year students taking the Irish Studies programme. It explores a range of perspectives and methods in Irish Studies through detailed exploration of one city or region in Ireland/ linked to Ireland.

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY IRISH WRITING: FROM JAMES JOYCE TO SALLY ROONEY (IRIS104)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will introduce you to literature written in English by Irish writers and published between 1914 and 2014. It surveys a wide range of texts – novels, poetry, and plays – each of which might be appreciated as a radical literary and/or cultural experiment with far reaching impact. Our course covers the greater part of the twentieth century and comes up to the near present; our readings of literature will necessarily be situated within their specific social, political and historical contexts. We will also explore major developments in Ireland in the discipline and practice of literary criticism as a way of shaping how we talk about the texts we read. We will consider work by writers including James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, Samuel Beckett, Edna O'Brien, Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, Martin McDonagh, Eimear McBride and Sally Rooney.

IRELAND'S BATTLE FOR IDEAS (IRIS114)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module aims to explore the various ideas that have contributed to the development of modern Ireland. It will explain how these ideas have interacted with one another and how they have shaped political debates and brought about social change.

BEGINNERS' IRISH 2 (IRIS142)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This course follows on from IRIS141: Beginners' Irish Language 1, bringing students to a more detailed understanding of Irish. We will continue to cover themes based on the TEG (Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge) syllabus and will delve further into key aspects of Irish language, literature and culture.

WAYS OF READING (ENGL113)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module will allow students to develop critical methods of reading and contextual analysis of literary texts. Lectures and tutorials will explore a range of critical methodologies (for example psychoanalysis and postcolonialism) as well as topics focused on the modes, attitudes and concerns that underlie the production of literature in relation to politics, society and culture. In doing so students will be introduced to key debates within literary study, as well as addressing topics important to different periods including issues of race, gender, sexuality, literary form, environment and economy.

This module aims to develop and challenge accepted modes of reading in order to expand and strengthen original critical enquiry while also improving students' written, oral and digital communication skills.

APPROACHES TO FILM (FILM102)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The aim of this course is to introduce you to key theoretical and conceptual debates within Film Studies. It will develop your ability to apply these concepts to close readings of film texts and, in doing so, enhance your skills of critical analysis and independent thinking.

MODERN BRITAIN: DEMOCRACY, WAR, AND MODERNITY (HIST116)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides students with an introduction to modern British history. It broadens their existing understanding by first considering factors of a general importance in the development of modern Britain, and then looking at particular events and themes. In this way, students will be given a grasp both of broad themes in British history – such as demographics, political units, ideologies and social change – and of the specific way history unfolded at key moments and turning points.

BRITISH POLITICS II (POLI102)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This introductory politics module focuses on the distribution of power in Britain and the nature of the British state. It outlines the traditional conception of the British political system as the 'Westminster Model' and considers the implications of this model for how democracy is conceived and how political power is mobilised, in whose interests and with what consequences, primarily in the UK but also in former British colonies and dependencies. The module examines the various component parts of the British political system including the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Parliament, the judiciary, the civil service, regional and local government and devolved institutions, from both a constitutional and political-sociological perspective. It also assesses the emerging impact of Brexit on the UK political system and for the distribution of political power within it, including consideration of the role of 'imperialist imaginaries' in shaping discussion of the UK's post-Brexit future. The module assumes no prior knowledge of the British political system or the particular issues under consideration.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

YEAR TWO

Year two builds on the themes introduced in year one and also to specific research methods to build your skills.

Students take 15 credits of required modules and 45 credits of optional modules in semester one and 60 credits of optional modules in semester two.

Registration onto **IRIS217** is subject to a suitable placement being sourced.

Registration onto **HLAC220** is only for students planning to undertake a Work Placement Year.

COMPULSORY MODULES

RESEARCH METHODS FOR IRISH STUDIES (IRIS230)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides an overview of research methods used in Irish Studies. For Irish Studies single honours students, it creates a bridge between the case study research of IRS102 Field Trip to Ireland and IRIS310 / IRIS400 third year dissertation in Irish Studies.

The module provides an opportunity for students to work with a range of staff in Irish Studies on a theme within their research area. Each theme will engage the student in writing up a short report that can map onto learning how to do more sustained research projects in third year.

OPTIONAL MODULES

BEGINNERS' IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS241)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This course will provide an introduction to Ireland's indigenous language, offering the chance to deepen your understanding of the culture and history of Ireland and to begin exploring Irish-language art, writing and film. Starting with some basic words and expressions, the course will guide students through the first steps towards achieving an A1 'beginner' level in Irish (following the European framework for language learning). No previous knowledge of Irish is required.

Not to be taken as part of a graduating curriculum with IRIS141.

CONTINUING IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS242)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This course follows on from IRIS242: Beginners' Irish Language 1, bringing students to a more detailed understanding of Irish. We will continue to cover themes based on the TEG (Teastas Eorpach Gaeilge) syllabus and will delve further into key aspects of Irish language, literature and culture.

Not to be taken as part of a graduating curriculum with IRIS142.

INTERMEDIATE IRISH LANGUAGE (IRIS243)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This course is aimed at those students who already have a beginners' level (A1) knowledge of Irish language. Students will continue learning Irish language and grammar, with an emphasis on Irish culture, history and literature. Students wishing to take this module must have either completed IRIS241 and IRIS242 or have completed studies in Irish language to GCSE/Junior Certificate level or equivalent.

WRITING MAGAZINES / MAGAZINE WRITING: HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THE PERIODICAL (ENGL299)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1

This module will look at the history, context and content of some of the late 19th and early 20th century's most important 'little magazines'. Using the library Special Collections and Brown University's Modernist Journals Project this module seeks to understand the role that literary magazines play within a culture and the historical background to their production. It will examine their material and print cultures, history and content in order to gain understanding of the role magazines played in their exploration of, or engagement with, various literary and historical movements. Topics covered will include sexuality, censorship, Modernism, the manifesto, State interference, and literary content, amongst others. Some of the magazines examined may include: The Savoy, To-Day, Blast, The Criterion, Ireland To-Day and Weird Tales. This module will suit students interested in journalism, magazine material and print cultures, censorship, and historical contexts. The module aims to engage students with primary historical research through classes in special collections and through digital resources.

MAKING HERITAGE HAPPEN (HLAC205)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The legislative and management structures related to heritage, and the purpose, scale and effectiveness of these varies greatly across the globe, and is constantly being changed in response to economic, social, cultural and legislative forces. This module examines current agendas, policies and practices in a historical perspective, and then concentrates on a critical review of current practice. Aspects of the varied UK systems are considered within a comparative international context, considering the management issues associated with sites, monuments and buildings, and objects, museums and archives. Heritage managers mediate between remnants of the past and political, cultural and economic structures in the present. Whilst the module contains much that relates to practice within current legislative, cultural and economic systems, it also reflects on the ethical and socio-political dilemmas often facing heritage management.

PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to prepare and empower students to participate successfully in professional work experience, such as a year in a placement or internship, or volunteering opportunity, and to develop, in a pro-active way, life-long skills, attitudes, and behaviours. Students will have the opportunity to engage in inter-disciplinary, team-based research, gain the knowledge, confidence, and self-awareness to source and successfully apply for professional work opportunities.

UK GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS SINCE 1945 (POLI204)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to the study of elections and voting behaviour. It uses post-war British elections and referendums as the focal point for introducing key political science debates about voting and party competition and as a context for analysing political change in Britain. In place of seminars, students attend required data lab sessions, in which they are taught quantitative skills (e.g. t-test, Chi-Square test, statistical correlation, linear regression) through the analysis of key election datasets (e.g. vote shares, opinion polls, election surveys, candidate spending) in guided PC sessions. These sessions involve the use of both Excel and SPSS software and students will need to be confident in their ability to undertake basic mathematical procedures and to learn introductory statistical methods.

IRISH STUDIES IN ACTION (IRIS217)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Work placement module.

CONTINUING IRISH LANGUAGE 2 (IRIS244)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This course follows on from IRIS243: Continuing Irish Language 1. It will move beyond A2 level and begin to introduce the knowledge needed for achieving a B1 'Intermediate' level in Irish. Students wishing to take this module must have either completed IRIS243 or have completed studies in Irish language to GCSE/Junior Certificate level or equivalent.

BANNED: FICTION, SEX AND THE LIMITS OF DECENCY (ENGL298)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2

This module seeks to consider the history of literary censorship from France of the 1850s to postwar Britain and Ireland. It will examine issues such as 'bad language', decency, morality and 'cancel culture' in writers ranging from Gustave Flaubert to Edna O'Brien.

SAINTS, SCHOLARS AND SEA MONSTERS: IRELAND AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC, C.400 - C.850 (HIST234)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This course will explore the history and culture of the Gaelic-speaking world and neighbouring territories from the end of Roman Britain to the beginning of the Viking Age—a period of immense social, political and religious change in these islands. Students will be introduced to the literature of early medieval Ireland – stories of miracle-working saints, visions of hell, and voyages across wondrous and monstrous seas. A special comparative lecture will draw out common threads in the history of Ireland and Aksum (modern-day Ethiopia), two non Roman territories that became Christian at roughly the same time. Students will also explore the connections between Irish territories and the neighbouring Pictish, British and English kingdoms—this will provide an opportunity to explore how the peoples of this era defined themselves and to reflect on the later regional and religious identities of Ireland and Britain.

EXPERIENCE, MEMORY AND EMOTION: ORAL HISTORY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH (HIST265)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

From the 1970s, scholars working across the humanities and social sciences have made increasing use of firstperson testimonies to investigate how 'ordinary' individuals and groups experience, think and act in the social world. This level 5 module introduces students to this 'turn to the personal' via consideration of the development of Oral History as one of the most dynamic and powerful methodologies for studying human experience in history. Combining close reading of seminal theoretical texts with in-depth historical case studies and practical exercises in the analysis and interpretation of oral history narratives, students will acquire critical understanding of the historical development of oral history as a form of research practice and social activism; epistemological debates concerning the special credibility of oral history and the problem of subjectivity in history; and different approaches to the analysis of oral narratives with special reference to notions of everyday life, the self, memory and emotion. Culminating in an extended case study of the uses of oral history in researching personal experiences of modern war, Experience, Memory and Emotion provides students with practical and theoretical understanding of an exciting and adaptable historical methodology, enhancing their capacity to employ autobiographical sources on other history courses and in the development of independent research projects.

LIVING THE GLOBAL EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (HLAC200)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module introduces you to aspects of life in Britain and Europe between about 1740 and 1815. This period is often seen as the beginning of the modern world, when the ideas about human nature and society that still shape our own lives came into circulation and when the global entanglements generated by trade and colonisation began to have a lasting impact on everyday life in Europe. The module is taught by tutors from French, German and English Studies, and History, as well as staff from the National Museums Liverpool. It gives you an insight into the range of materials and methods that are used in research in eighteenth-century studies. Interactive lectures, seminars and fieldwork encourage a hands-on approach to learning. You start by inventing an 18th-century character and you follow that character through various experiences typical of the period: shopping, reading, travelling, thinking about political issues of the day. Images, artefacts and contemporary texts in English and other languages are made available to support your research. The aim is for you to develop your capacity for asking questions (curiosity) as well as for answering them (research skills).

MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module considers display and public interpretation in museums and galleries on the one hand and publicly accessible sites and monuments on the other. This module examines current UK interpretation theories, policies and practices in an international comparative perspective. Heritage interpretation and display brings understanding of the past to peoples in the present, though what aspects of the past to reveal and emphasise can be highly political and controversial. The module concentrates on current practice, but it also reflects on the selectivity of heritage interpretation decisions, and the ways interpretation can exclude as well as include various sectors of society.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

YEAR THREE

Year three pulls together everything from your first two years of study, and gives you the option to focus on your preferred route of Irish Studies, whether that be Irish history, Irish literature or Irish politics.

Students must take:

EITHER:

Semester one

60 credits of optional modules

Semester two

IRIS310 – Dissertation (30 credits)

30 credits of optional modules

OR:

Semester one

45 credits of optional modules

Semester two

45 credits of optional modules

Semester one and two

IRIS400 – Dissertation (30 credits)*

IRIS400 is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

Up to 15 credits of optional modules may be taken from cognate subjects elsewhere in the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures with prior permission from the subject lead.

OPTIONAL MODULES

IMAGINING THE MIGRANT SELF: HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THE POLITICS OF CULTURE (ENGL486)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1

We, as a society, confront narratives of migrant experience daily. The rhetoric of crisis, disaster and emergency often defines the stories of those who have fled or been forced out of their homelands as powerfully as it pervades related debates around conflict, climate change and the Coronavirus pandemic. In recent years, as the UK's relationship with the rest of Europe and the rest of the world has been radically reconceived, our islands are imagined, by some, as places of refuge and, by others, as bastions vulnerable to invasion. But the complex ways in which migrants themselves experience, interpret and represent their settlement histories in Britain rarely feature within public accounts of the making of contemporary British society. This new interdisciplinary module takes a long view of the migrant experience in postwar Britain, guiding students through relevant aspects of social theory, moments in modern history, and literary texts. We will encounter the migrant experience through literature, film, performance, journalism, critical writing, and first-hand accounts. The module also features an alternative assessment: students will be guided by experts in creating oral history and verbatim theatre practitioners to generate new analyses and narratives of migration.

WAR WRITING (ENGL488)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 1

War Writing addresses the ways that wartime and peacetime are imagined by writers in the 20th and 21st centuries. We consider the topic by looking at a diverse range of texts that address war directly or indirectly. We ask our students to ask exactly what it is that war means and the ways in which writers have attempted to answer that question. We actively look to expand our definition of war writing and to include a wide spectrum of writers and writing.

CIVIL WAR AND THE SELF: HUMAN HISTORIES OF THE NORTHERN IRISH TROUBLES 1969–2019 (HIST385)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Why do ordinary people resort to war to achieve their political aims? What are the personal impacts of political violence for members of a divided society? And how do communities emerging from protracted conflict live with its emotional legacies? This module explores human experiences of the Northern Ireland Troubles, using personal narratives to re-tell the history of the conflict from the standpoint of individuals, families and groups who participated in, lived through, and were impacted by its 30- year history of violence. Focusing on the relationship between conflict, culture and human subjectivity, *Civil War & the Self* shows how historical analysis of personal perspectives, motivations and memories can enrich understanding of the causes, experience and consequences of civil war, and considers the value of such 'human histories' for the work of post-conflict reconciliation.

Combining close readings of key historical debates with in-depth case studies and practical exercises in the analysis of oral history narratives, students will acquire critical knowledge of the contested historiography of the Troubles, gain expertise in using personal narratives to research the human history of civil war, and deepen their understanding of the ethical, emotional and political importance of history for divided and post-conflict societies. Themes addressed include the human histories of Provisional IRA volunteers and British military personnel; civilian experiences of trauma, sectarian intimidation, and residential displacement; migrant histories of settlement and personal adaptation in Troubles-era Britain; and the creative uses of oral history as a method of 'conflict transformation' in post-conflict Northern Ireland.

FROM THE IRA TO ISIS: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to acquaint students with terrorism and counter-terrorism in today's world. It starts by examining key concepts, theories, and history and then moves on to looking at a range of issues that have been the subject of particular debate, such as whether terrorism works, whether there are regularities in how campaigns end, and the necessity and contributions of literature on 'Critical Terrorism Studies'. The module concludes by looking at whether we are at the end of the religious wave of terrorism and what we might expect to occur next.

CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (POLI815)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Northern Ireland is justifiably considered a place apart in UK politics. The region experienced thirty years of violent conflict, known as 'the Troubles' (c.1968–1998), and it remains a deeply divided society. Northern Ireland's devolution settlement was designed by international treaty, its party system is unlike any other in the UK, and its model of government is unusual even by international standards. This module introduces students to the principal debates associated with the conflict, politics, and governance of Northern Ireland. Topics explored in the module include: interpretations of the conflict; the strategy and evolution of paramilitary organisations; British state policy; the use and effectiveness of consociational powersharing since 1998; and 'post-conflict' politics and community relations in Northern Ireland.

WRITING FOR RADIO: BROADCASTING IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITAIN AND IRELAND (ENGL487)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2

This module will explore the art of writing for radio. At the same time, it will introduce students to the history of literature on the radio in Britain and Ireland. With a focus on the early and mid-twentieth century, we will survey essays, documentaries, lectures, radio plays, adaptations, poems and sound experiments. We will contextualise these works by discussing major events in the development of radio as a medium across the period: from the founding of national broadcast networks such as the BBC and RTÉ to the launch of the World Service; from the establishment and decline of the hugely influential BBC Third Programme to the histories of radio guides and magazines such as *The Listener*. The course will be underpinned by significant studies of media history produced by scholars including Chris Morash, Emily Bloom, Jürg R. Schwyter and Kate Murphy. Certain questions will preoccupy us throughout: is there something special, in an aesthetic sense, about writing for the radio? Do familiar writers have a 'radio voice'? How have political and social changes shaped the programming of literature on the radio? And what role has literature on the radio played in forging national cultural identities in Britain, Ireland, and across the world? Writers and broadcasters to feature on the course might include: Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, Louis MacNeice, Elizabeth Bowen, Dorothy Sayers, E.M. Forster, Dylan Thomas, Laura Riding, J.B. Priestley, Philip Larkin and Ewan MacColl.

JAMES JOYCE: A WRITING LIFE (ENGL499)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2

This module examines the life and work of Ireland's greatest and most influential fiction writer, James Joyce, from his 1914 collection of short stories, *Dubliners*, through his first novel *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and onward to his later masterpieces, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*.

Historical and biographical context will form a key part of our studies.

DISSERTATION IN IRISH STUDIES – SECOND SEMESTER (IRIS310)

Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2

Semester long undergraduate dissertation working with supervisor towards a 10,000-word thesis.

DISSERTATION IN IRISH STUDIES (WHOLE SESSION) (IRIS400)

Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session

Year long undergraduate dissertation working with supervisor towards a 10,000-word thesis.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

CHOOSING THIS SUBJECT AS A COMBINED DEGREE

You will explore Irish identity and society from a number of perspectives including the historical, the linguistic, the literary and its material culture. You then have the opportunity to choose modules in order to specialise in a specific area.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

The programme is taught through a mixture of lectures, lecture-classes, seminar presentations and small group discussions. Lectures provide a basic framework and introduce students to the key topics and central concepts of the subject. They provide core material for the course and are arranged on the assumption that lecture notes form a shared starting point for tutorial discussion, essay writing and revision.

Seminars are small discussion groups of 10-15 students. Both methods of teaching require preparation and interaction on both sides. Students are encouraged to lead discussions, and are given credit for seminar presentation and contributions to discussion in some modules.

Academic advisors are also responsible for meeting their advisees to guide their academic progress and assist them in their course choices. The learning experience is monitored by the issuing of module evaluation questionnaires, which are used to assess student feedback. All tutors keep office hours when they are available to see students on a drop-in basis, and students may also contact tutors by arrangement via email.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

All modules include assessed coursework of one kind or another – essays, analytical exercises, projects, seminar performance. There is no one standard means of module assessment, although essays, end of semester examinations and seminar presentations are the most common. The different types of assessment help evaluate your different skillsets and talents. Details of the assessment method for each module are contained in the module descriptors distributed to students at the beginning of each module.

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

An Irish Studies degree provides you with a range of transferable skills will allow you to pursue a career in many different areas. Alternatively, many of our graduates go on to undertake further academic research.

Recent employers of Irish Studies graduates include:

- British and Irish Local Government
- English language schools abroad
- Local education authorities
- National museums
- Newspaper groups
- FTSE 100 companies' graduate schemes Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

100% OF IRISH STUDIES STUDENTS FIND THEIR MAIN ACTIVITY AFTER GRADUATION MEANINGFUL.

Graduate Outcomes, 2018-19.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)	
Full-time place, per year	£9,535
Year abroad fee	£1,385

International fees	
Full-time place, per year	£24,100
Year abroad fee	£12,050

The UK full-time tuition fee, international course fee and fee for the year abroad for international students shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. We are currently awaiting confirmation of whether the year abroad fee for UK students will change, so the fee shown is for 2024/25. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about fees and funding](#).

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries that could help pay your tuition and living expenses.

We've set the country or region your qualifications are from as United Kingdom. [Change it here](#)

- **UNDERGRADUATE GLOBAL ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[If you're a high-achieving international student starting an undergraduate degree with us from September 2024, you could be eligible to receive a fee discount of up to £5,000. You'll need to achieve grades equivalent to AAA in A levels. Most of our undergraduate degrees are eligible, with the exception of clinical programmes in Medicine and Dental Surgery.](#)

- **THE LIVERPOOL BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student joining an undergraduate degree and have a household income below £35,000, you could be eligible for a Liverpool Bursary worth up to £2,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **ASYLUM SEEKERS SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Apply for an Asylum Seekers Scholarship and you could have your tuition fees paid in full and receive help with study costs. You'll need to have applied for asylum in the UK, or be the dependant of an asylum seeker, and be joining an eligible undergraduate degree.](#)

- **CARE LEAVERS' OPPORTUNITY BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you've spent 13 or more weeks in Local Authority care since age 14, you could be eligible for a bursary of £3,000 per year of study. You'll need to be a UK student joining an eligible undergraduate degree and be aged 28 or above on 1 September in the year you start.](#)

- **COWRIE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a Black African or Caribbean heritage and a household income of £25,000 or less? You could be eligible to apply for a Cowrie Foundation Scholarship worth up to £8,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **ESTRANGED STUDENTS BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student identified as estranged by Student Finance England \(or the equivalent UK funding body\), you could be eligible for a bursary of £1,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **GENESYS LIFE SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP**

- Home students

Joining a School of Biosciences degree and have a household income of less than £25,000? If you're a UK student, you could apply to receive £4,500 per year for three years of your undergraduate course.

- **GRADUATE ASSOCIATION HONG KONG & TUNG UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- International students

- Hong Kong

If you're an undergraduate student from Hong Kong who can demonstrate academic excellence, you may be eligible to apply for a scholarship worth £10,000 in partnership with the Tung Foundation.

- **KAPLAN DIGITAL PATHWAYS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- International students

Completed a Kaplan Digital Pathways Foundation Certificate? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study for a maximum of two high achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from an online Kaplan Foundation Certificate.

- **NOLAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Home students

Do you live in the Liverpool City Region with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a Nolan Scholarship worth £5,000 per year for three years of undergraduate study.

- **RIGBY ENTERPRISE AWARD**

- Home students

Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? If you've participated in an eligible outreach programme, you could be eligible to apply for a Rigby Enterprise Award worth £5,000 per year for three years of your undergraduate degree.

- **ROLABOTIC SCHOLARSHIP**

- Home students

Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a ROLABOTIC Scholarship worth £4,500 for each year of your undergraduate degree.

-

SPORT LIVERPOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

- [Home and international students](#)

[Apply to receive tailored training support to enhance your sporting performance. Our athlete support package includes a range of benefits, from bespoke strength and conditioning training to physiotherapy sessions and one-to-one nutritional advice.](#)

-

TECHNETIX BROADHURST ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

- [Home students](#)

[Joining a degree in the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science? If you're a UK student with household income below £25,000, you could be eligible to apply for £5,000 a year for three years of study. Two awards will be available per academic year.](#)

-

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

- [International students](#)

[Completed a Foundation Certificate at University of Liverpool International College \(UoLIC\)? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study to some of the highest achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from UoLIC.](#)

-

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE FIRST CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

- [International students](#)

[We're offering a £1,000 fee discount for years 2 and 3 of undergraduate study to eligible students progressing from University of Liverpool International College. You'll need to be studying a non-clinical subject and get an average of 70% or above in year 1 of your degree.](#)

-

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE IMPACT PROGRESSION SCHOLARSHIPS

- [International students](#)

[If you're a University of Liverpool International College student awarded a Kaplan Impact Scholarship, we'll also consider you for an Impact Progression Scholarship. If selected, you'll receive a £3,000 fee discount off the first year of your undergraduate degree.](#)

-

YOUNG ADULT CARER'S (YAC) BURSARY

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a young adult and a registered carer in the UK, you might be eligible for a £1,000 bursary for each year of study. You'll need to be aged 18-25 on 1 September in the year you start your undergraduate degree.](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
A levels	BBB Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is BBC with A in the EPQ. You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme .
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Applications considered. BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.
International Baccalaureate	30 points, with no score less than 4
Irish Leaving Certificate	H2, H2, H2, H3, H3, H3
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	BBB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Accepted with grades BB at A level.
Access	30 credits at Distinction and 15 credits at Merit in graded level 3 units in a relevant Diploma.

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
International qualifications	<p>Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.</p>

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- Aged 20+ and without formal qualifications? The one-year [Go Higher](#)

- [diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

