

BA (Hons)

Irish Studies

UCAS code Q540

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

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

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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**.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
ENGLISH LITERATURE IN IRELAND: JONATHAN SWIFT TO WB YEATS (IRIS103)	15
NORTHERN IRELAND BEFORE THE 'TROUBLES': FROM PARTITION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND ARMALITES (IRIS107)	15
BEGINNERS' IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS141)	15
CLOSE READING (ENGL103)	15
INTRODUCTION TO FILM LANGUAGE (FILM101)	15
POWER, BELIEF AND IDENTITY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLDS, C. 500-1600 CE (HIST115)	15
BRITISH POLITICS 1 (POLI101)	15

Optional modules	Credits
FIELDTRIP TO IRELAND AND STUDY METHODS (IRIS102)	15
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY IRISH WRITING: FROM JAMES JOYCE TO SALLY ROONEY (IRIS104)	15
IRELAND'S BATTLE OF IDEAS (IRIS114)	15
BEGINNERS' IRISH LANGUAGE 2 (IRIS142)	15
WAYS OF READING (ENGL113)	15
APPROACHES TO FILM (FILM102)	15
MODERN BRITAIN: DEMOCRACY, WAR, AND MODERNITY (HIST116)	15
BRITISH POLITICS II (POLI102)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODS FOR IRISH STUDIES (IRIS230)	15

Optional modules	Credits
BEGINNERS' IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS241)	15
BEGINNERS IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS242)	15
CONTINUING IRISH LANGUAGE 1 (IRIS243)	15
WRITING MAGAZINES / MAGAZINE WRITING: HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THE PERIODICAL (ENGL299)	30
MAKING HERITAGE HAPPEN (HLAC205)	15
PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)	15
UK GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS SINCE 1945 (POLI204)	15
IRISH STUDIES IN ACTION (IRIS217)	15
CONTINUING IRISH LANGUAGE 2 (IRIS244)	15
BANNED: FICTION, SEX AND THE LIMITS OF DECENCY (ENGL298)	30
SAINTS, SCHOLARS AND SEA MONSTERS: IRELAND AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC, C.400 - C.850 (HIST234)	15
WAR STORIES: PERSONAL HISTORIES OF WAR IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (HIST265)	15

Optional modules	Credits
LIVING THE GLOBAL EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (HLAC200)	15
MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS (HLAC206)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

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.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
IMAGINING THE MIGRANT SELF: HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THE POLITICS OF CULTURE (ENGL486)	30
WAR WRITING (ENGL488)	30
CIVIL WAR AND THE SELF: HUMAN HISTORIES OF THE NORTHERN IRISH TROUBLES 1969–2019 (HIST385)	15
FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)	15
CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (POLI815)	15
WRITING FOR RADIO: BROADCASTING IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITAIN AND IRELAND (ENGL487)	30
JAMES JOYCE: A WRITING LIFE (ENGL499)	30
DISSERTATION IN IRISH STUDIES – SECOND SEMESTER (IRIS310)	30
DISSERTATION IN IRISH STUDIES (WHOLE SESSION) (IRIS400)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Combined degree

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.

Teaching and assessment

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.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence

- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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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).

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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 - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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 paying for your studies.](#)

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.

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Entry requirements

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

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** from A levels, with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

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 overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

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

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
 - If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, 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.
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English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

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