UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MRes

Irish Studies

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **17 September 2027**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **27 September 2027**

About this course

Our MRes programme provides a personalised and focused introduction to postgraduate research allowing you to develop as an independent researcher with the support of an expert in Irish Studies.

Introduction

The Irish Studies MRes degree is particularly appropriate if you are intending to progress to PhD level research. It provides a rigorous overview of the current state of scholarship in your selected field, guides you through a programme of directed, individualised reading, to the selection of a feasible research project, and allows you to complete a substantial piece of research (25,000 – 30,000 words).

This unique program offers you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge of Irish culture, history, language, and literature while developing advanced research skills.

We're proud to offer a dynamic and diverse learning environment thanks to our influential institute. Our experienced faculty members are passionate about their fields and committed to helping you succeed. You'll work closely with your professors to develop as an independent researcher exploring a wide range of topics of your choice, from the medieval Irish language to contemporary literature and film.

Our program also provides ample opportunities for practical research experience. You'll have access to a wealth of resources, including the extensive Irish language and literature collections in our library, as well as archives and museums throughout the region and renowned speakers.

Whether you're interested in pursuing a career in academia, research, or cultural heritage, our MRes Irish Studies course will provide you with the knowledge, skills, and experience to achieve your goals.

What you'll learn

- Advanced research skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, critically evaluate sources and present your findings in written and oral form;
- A deep understanding of Ireland's history, culture, and politics;
- Prepare for further research or a career in related fields such as academia, journalism, or cultural heritage.

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Course content

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

Semester one

Students study one 30-credit core module and one 30-credit research training module, culminating in a 120 credit dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODS (IRIS507)	30
RESEARCH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BY DIRECTED STUDY (HLAC503)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it ran for students beginning in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by Friday 30th April 2027 at the latest.

Semester two

During Semester two you will concentrate on research for your dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
HLC RESEARCH MASTERS DISSERTATION (HLAC501)	120

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Summer

You will continue to work on your dissertation over the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
HLC RESEARCH MASTERS DISSERTATION (HLAC501)	120

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Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The programme will use a variety of teaching methods, including one-to-one tutorials, independent study, seminars, and skills development. Tutorials offer personalised guidance, whilst independent study encourages critical thinking. Seminars foster collaboration and skills development exercises help students acquire essential competencies. This diverse approach to teaching ensures that students receive a well-rounded education that accommodates different learning styles.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed through various methods, but the core assessment method will be written essay or report writing, along with coursework essays, presentation/poster presentations, skills development exercises like bibliographies and reports, and the ultimate culmination of their academic journey, the dissertation.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

This Irish Studies MRes course offers students an in-depth understanding of Ireland, transferable skills, and networking opportunities with businesses, voluntary organizations, and academic leaders in Irish Studies.

The Irish Studies MRes graduates typically continue to doctoral research or gain employment in research or policy-based environments.

Possible career prospects:

- Academia and teaching (at both university and secondary levels),
- Journalism,
- PhD level researcher
- Museum work.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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 - £5,238
Part-time place, per year - £2,619

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £25,350
Part-time place, per year - £12,650

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. The University may administer inflationary rises to international fees in subsequent academic years as you progress through the course.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £13,206 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We don’t anticipate additional costs to students outside of general study costs.

You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

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Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This should be in a subject relevant to your proposed field of research.

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, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the **University of Liverpool International College**, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MRes, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. 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

120 overall, with no component below 105

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 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 6.0, for further details.

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