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Why choose Irish Studies at Liverpool?

As a European nation with a fascinating, although often turbulent, past, Ireland represents an ideal prism for the study of history, literature, and politics. You will not only explore the role of Ireland as an emerging independent nation, but also understand its part in a broader matrix of British and global history. The interdisciplinary nature of the programme provides an interesting and rewarding engagement with this nation’s true personality, to set aside the simplified and stereotypical view of Ireland and its peoples and to focus instead on the diversity and plurality that inform Irish identity.

Study in a department with world-leading research in an internationally recognised institution
The Institute of Irish Studies was recognised in 2007 by the Irish government with a multi-million pound endowment to celebrate its achievement in contributing to the development of greater understanding between the two countries.

Be part of an important, influential and internationally recognised institute
Our Institute of Irish Studies is unique as a National Centre of Excellence in Britain for the study of Ireland, and our programmes cover a wide range of topics from Irish politics and history to its literature and culture. Ireland’s ambassador to Britain, His Excellency Daniel Mulhall, has written of his admiration for the Institute which “plays a special role in promoting Irish Studies in Britain and thus fostering close ties between our two countries”. Our students have gone on to win places on prestigious graduate programmes and to work with NGOs, in banking, the civil service, law, arts administration and teaching.

Good to know:

Over 100
Year One students are taking Irish Studies modules in the academic year 2016-17

Offers study abroad opportunities

Offers a Year in China

100 75 50 25
Offers Honours Select combinations

Continued over...
Learn in a friendly and supportive environment recognised for its high levels of student satisfaction

We are a small department based in one Grade I-listed building on the main campus, where all staff are not only involved in internationally renowned research but foster a friendly, supportive environment for students. All academic staff are widely published and internationally respected for their scholarship – this learning then feeds into our teaching so that students are at the cutting edge of research in a variety of intellectual fields.

Benefit from access to renowned speakers

While you are studying with us you’ll also be able to access the extensive programme of events that are held at the Institute, with regular high calibre speakers presenting. Speakers have included the late David Ervine, Dr Mo Mowlam, the current Irish President Michael D Higgins, former Irish Presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese and writers Roddy Doyle, Seamus Heaney and Colm Tóibín.

We also host events for the Liverpool Irish Festival every October and these have included lectures by the author Patrick McCabe, the late filmmaker Peter Lennon and the Keeper of Antiquities of the National Museum of Ireland Dr Eamonn Kelly. Our close relationship with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs also sees regular visits and contributions to events from the Irish Ambassador to Britain, His Excellency Daniel Mulhall.

Study abroad

As part of your Irish Studies degree programme you may have the opportunity to study abroad. Studying abroad has huge personal and academic benefits, as well as giving you a head start in the graduate job market. Irish Studies students can currently apply to study at the National University of Ireland, Galway. There is also the opportunity for students to spend a semester at Boston College, USA, University of Georgia, USA or the University of Toronto, Canada. For more information, visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/goabroad

Year in China

The Year in China is the University of Liverpool’s exciting flagship programme enabling undergraduate students from a huge range of departments, including Irish Studies, the opportunity to spend one year at our sister university Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), following XJTLU’s BA China Studies degree classes. See www.liverpool.ac.uk/yearinchina for more information.

How you learn

You will attend lectures, seminars and make a field trip to Ireland. You will be assessed by a mixture of coursework and examinations in January and May/June of each year. Your final degree classification is determined by performance in Years Two and Three and assessment of the third year project-based modules is by extended essay or dissertation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Irish writing from Swift to Yeats lecture</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Warriors, witches and legends lecture</td>
<td>Irish writing from Swift to Yeats tutorial</td>
<td>Group meeting to discuss fieldtrip to Ireland</td>
<td>Reading for fieldtrip to Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Warriors, witches and legends lecture</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Group meeting to discuss fieldtrip to Ireland</td>
<td>Essay feedback and writing skills discussion</td>
<td>Reading for Irish writing from Swift to Yeats</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland lecture</td>
<td>University Gaelic football match</td>
<td>Reading for Warriors, witches and legends</td>
<td>Personal tutor meeting</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland research methods tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland lecture</td>
<td>University Gaelic football match</td>
<td>Reading for Warriors, witches and legends</td>
<td>Personal tutor meeting</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland research methods tutorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>Reading for Irish writing from Swift to Yeats</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland lecture</td>
<td>University Gaelic football match</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Reading for Irish writing from Swift to Yeats</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>University Gaelic football match</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland lecture</td>
<td>Library: essay preparation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>John Kennedy annual lecture and reception</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Invest in your future

This interdisciplinary subject provides you with a range of transferable skills that include research methodologies such as questionnaire design and execution, interview techniques, linguistic skills and the ability to analyse literary texts and historical documents, as well as photographic and artistic representations. An Irish Studies degree will allow you to pursue a career in areas such as heritage and tourism, teaching, publishing, journalism, public relations, marketing, parliamentary research and the civil service. Alternatively, many of our graduates go on to undertake further academic research.

Recent employers of our graduates
- 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).

Work experience opportunities
The Institute of Irish Studies offers a number of funded high-profile and exciting work placement opportunities. We strive to tailor our placements to suit the ambitions of our students and these have included NGOs, the National Library of Ireland, academic summer schools and prominent law firms.

A passion for learning: postgraduate study
- Irish Studies MA/PGDip.

Lecture series
The Institute of Irish Studies runs an acclaimed public-lecture series, and as a student you will gain the opportunity to meet and engage with prestigious speakers from across the globe.

Make yourself employable
The Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool is the leading Centre of Excellence for the study of Ireland in Britain. We produce highly quality graduates who have used the transferrable skills delivered to them to gain prestigious internships and career, for instance:
- Odhrán McMahon (MA Understanding Conflict) undertook an internship at The Hague Institute for Global Justice and is currently working at the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand
- Dr Anna Pilz (MA, PhD Irish Studies) was appointed the Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of English, University College Cork
- Anna Franks (BA Irish Studies) was accepted onto Abbey National’s Graduate Trainee Management scheme and is now running her own marketing consultancy business.
Skills for Success
Irish Studies students can take part in our ‘Skills for Success’ programme; a series of workshops and events that enable you to gain essential life, academic and employability skills. You will learn about time management, team building, problem solving, communication and many more practical tips. You will be able to put these skills into practice too, by making use of our many work placement opportunities.

Competition for graduate careers is now very fierce in the UK, with many more graduates in the market than was the case a number of years ago. As a result, employers are looking for more than just a good degree from a good university. They are looking for potential employees who have a real understanding of areas of work and have made significant efforts to research into and develop skills that may be useful in the workplace. Skills for Success includes an Employability Programme designed by specialist careers and employability advisers, helping you to build up your portfolio of skills and knowledge to enhance your job prospects and develop a successful career after you graduate.

The Institute of Irish Studies at Liverpool is highly regarded and has excellent links with the Irish Government, both north and south of the Irish border. We are invited to regular guest lectures and debates and attending such events has really widened my knowledge, enabling me to become acquainted with subjects peripheral to the topics covered in lectures and seminars and enhancing my understanding of my degree.

Afton McNamee
Irish Studies with English BA (Hons)
Irish Studies BA (Hons) Q540 3 years

Programme in detail

You will explore Irish identity and society from a number of perspectives including the historical, the linguistic, the literary and the ethnographic.

You then have the opportunity to choose modules in order to specialise in a specific area. These modules include Ireland in peace and rebellion; An introduction to Irish literature; Politics of the Irish question; Vikings in Ireland and Modern Irish language. The programme is very flexible, offering you the chance to select approved modules from within the areas of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Key modules

Year One

You are required to take a minimum of 90 credits of optional modules and may select up to 30 credits of subsidiary modules. (Subsidiary modules may be selected either in one or both semesters, see www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences). If you take Irish Studies as your Major you will take 90 credits in Irish Studies and 30 credits in your Minor subject.

Optional modules

- An introduction to Irish writing from Joyce to Heaney
- An introduction to Irish writing from Swift to Yeats
- Fieldtrip to Ireland and study methods
- From Civil Rights to Armalites
- Ireland’s battle for ideas
- Peace activism in Northern Ireland
- Warriors, witches and legends: the origins of Ireland.

Year Two

You take modules totalling 120 credits.

Optional modules

- 'A Terrible Beauty': the life and works of W.B. Yeats
- Conflict and conciliation: Ireland, 1870-1923
- Irish fiction
- Living the global eighteenth century
- The diaspora: Irish 19th century migration
- The politics of religion: conflict and reconciliation
- The transformation of Ireland, 1923-2000.
Year Three
You take modules totalling 120 credits.

Optional modules
- Approaches to Beckett
- Dissertation in Irish Studies (second semester)
- Dissertation in Irish Studies (whole session)
- James Joyce: a writing life
- Sexuality, emancipation and repression: women in Ireland, 1800-1939
- ‘Troubled times’: the politics of the conflict in Northern Ireland 1960-present
- Understanding the Northern Ireland conflict: interpretations and solutions
- Vikings in Ireland.

See pages 08-10 for module descriptions.

Irish Studies Joint
You will receive a general grounding in all aspects of Irish Studies. 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.

Irish Studies Minor
Irish Studies is an ideal complement to a Major in a broad range of subjects. You will explore Irish identity and society from a number of perspectives including the historical, the political, the literary and its material culture. You then have the opportunity to choose modules in order to specialise in a specific area.
## Optional modules overview

### Year One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Module description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An introduction to Irish writing from Joyce to Heaney</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Introduces a broad range of Irish literature in English, from James Joyce, Beckett and Seamus Heaney to lesser known writers like Frank O’Connor and Eimear McBride. Emphasis is placed on the ways in which revolution, independence and the maturation of the nation have impacted on Irish writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An introduction to Irish writing from Swift to Yeats</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Introduces a broad range of Irish literature in English, from Jonathan Swift to W.B. Yeats, placing it in its historical and cultural contexts and introduces the idea of an Irish literary tradition in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldtrip to Ireland and study methods</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Provides an interdisciplinary perspective of the culture, literature, politics and history of Ireland in a series of study sessions culminating in a three day guided trip to Dublin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Civil Rights to Armalites</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Outlines the history of Northern Ireland since 1920 and helps you to understand why political violence broke out in the late 1960s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland’s battle for ideas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Provides an understanding of the various ideas that have shaped modern Ireland, explaining how these ideas have interacted with one another and how they shaped political debates and brought about social change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace activism in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Provides an overview of the different forms of grassroots peace and reconciliation activism that has taken place in Northern Ireland since the troubles began in the late 1960s. Investigating its role in supporting the peace process during the 1980s and 1990s and examining its contribution to promoting peace and reconciliation since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warriors, witches and legends: the origins of Ireland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Explores early Irish history, archaeology and literature from the late Iron Age until the reign of Henry VIII. Developing an awareness and appreciation of the interdisciplinary characters of medieval studies and an interest and knowledge about the origins of Ireland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Optional modules overview

### Year Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Module description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'A Terrible Beauty': the life and works of W.B. Yeats</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Examines the life and works of W.B. Yeats, one of the twentieth century’s greatest poets and an interrogation of Yeats’s relationship to major literary movements and his Irishness. You will read Yeats’s essays about the occult, his experimental dance plays, and investigate his attitudes to war and revolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict and conciliation: Ireland, 1870-1923</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Presents a wide-ranging picture of the state of Ireland from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, introducing key historical concepts and debates such as modernisation, democratisation, nationalism, unionism, colonialism and demographic transition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish fiction</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Examines Irish writers as experimentalists who explored different literary forms in the attempt to capture or respond to drastic political and social change. We will think about realism and naturalism, as well as modernism, as experimental forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living the global eighteenth century</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Introduces aspects of Britain and Europe between 1740 and 1815, using the example of Liverpool – one of the fastest growing and most prosperous cities in the eighteenth century world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The diaspora: Irish 19th Century migration</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Provides a deeper understanding of the Irish migration. It questions why people leave their country of birth; the difficulties and prejudices they often face in their new homelands and what migration contributes to the place of birth and to the place of destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The politics of religion: conflict and reconciliation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Investigates the place of religion in Irish society, examining the contribution that it has made both to the conflict between the competing nationalisms of unionism and Irish nationalism in the 20th century and the role that it has played in reconciling Northern Irish society since 1968.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The transformation of Ireland, 1923-2000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Focuses on the foundation of the modern Irish state and the transformation changes it underwent in the years leading up to the Celtic Tiger. Exploring these changes in political, social, economic and cultural terms will enable students to fully understand the issues inherent in nation building and the benefits that external influences can bring to the process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Optional modules overview
### Year Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Module description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Beckett</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Engages with the work of Samuel Beckett at an advanced level, considering various critical approaches to his work; provides the necessary historical and critical background in order to understand principle aspects of his various styles of writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation in Irish studies (Semester Two)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Introduces a higher level of research and writing than you would meet outside the format of a self-designed and driven research topic; develops independence as researchers and the writing skills (including referencing and bibliography formation) required of a researcher considering taking up postgraduate study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation in Irish studies (Whole Session)</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Introduces a higher level of research and writing, teaches students a high degree of independence as researchers and the writing skills (including referencing and bibliography formation) required of a researcher considering taking up postgraduate study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Joyce: a writing life</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Engages with the work of James Joyce at an advanced level, considering his stylistic progression from the early stories to the final complex workings of Finnegans Wake; setting out the necessary historical and sociological background to understand the environmental conditions that produces a writer of Joyce’s stature and motivations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexuality, emancipation and repression: women in Ireland, 1800-1939</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Presents an overview of the role and status of Irish women at a time of considerable change; examining women’s involvement in the areas of religion, politics, work and family; using both secondary and primary sources, to highlight the contribution which women made to the economy, society and politics of Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Troubled times’: the politics of the conflict in Northern Ireland 1960-present</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gives an overview of the historical background to the late 20th century phase of the Irish conflict; explores the immediate causes of the outburst of violence from 1968 onwards; examines the motives and strategies of the main participating elements in conflict and the peace process leading to the Agreement of 1998.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the Northern Ireland conflict: interpretations and solutions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Introduces theory and explanation of the NI conflict, looking among other things at religion, identity and nationality; provides an overview of the peace process, the Good Friday Agreement and the difficulties encountered since April-June 1998.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikings in Ireland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Explores the history, archaeology and literature of Vikings in Ireland from the first recorded attacks in 795 until the beheading of the last Viking King of Dublin in 1171. Recent archaeological work revolutionised the study of this subject and students will learn about the latest finds and discoveries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: modules are provided for information only and may change. Timetabling restrictions may apply.*
Irish Studies students have the opportunity to study two subjects on a Joint Honours (50:50) basis or as Major/Minor (75:25), focusing 75% of your time on your Major subject and 25% of your time on your Minor.

**Why combine subjects?**
We consulted widely with employers and careers experts when developing the Honours Select programme, and they strongly supported the emphasis on flexibility, breadth and multidisciplinary skills as a valuable addition to the strong Single Honours programme.

![Table showing Honours Select options](https://example.com/table.png)

**Honours Select**
Honours Select offers an innovative way to study more than one subject and create your own degree based on your academic strengths and interests.

"From our work with graduate recruiters it’s clear that the key to 21st century employability lies in positioning yourself at the intersections between academic subject disciplines. That’s where innovation exists, that’s what gives organisations from Apple to Unilever a competitive advantage, and that’s why Honours Select offers students such an important head start in the job market."

**Head of Careers & Employability**
University of Liverpool

Upon graduation you will receive a certificate that clearly credits the one or two subjects you chose to study.
Popular Honours Select combinations include:

**Irish Studies and English**
Expand your knowledge of English by studying Irish writers such as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and W.B. Yeats.

**Irish Studies and History**
Widen your knowledge of British and world history by seeing it through the prism of Ireland, study world-changing events such as, the Glorious Revolution, the Great Famine and the Easter 1916 Rebellion.

**Irish Studies and Politics**
Enhance your understanding of conflict and the difficult path to peace by using the Irish Troubles as your test case. Develop comparative methodologies and an insight into the nature of armed conflict throughout the world.

See [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/honours-select](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/honours-select) for further details.

**Study abroad**
Students studying under Honours Select can still apply to study abroad, as long as both subjects have compatible partners. See [www.liverpool.ac.uk/goabroad](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/goabroad) for more information.
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Liverpool L69 7WY
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E: hlcevent@liverpool.ac.uk
www.liverpool.ac.uk/irish

Information provided is correct at time of going to press and is subject to change.