

Maynooth University
Department of Ancient Classics

First-Year Student Handbook
Greek and Roman Civilization
2021-2022



Delphi, central Greece

Welcome to the Department of Ancient Classics! The ancient Mediterranean world remains a fascinating and rewarding subject of study, a source of inspiration and ideas even in our fast-changing twenty-first century. Maynooth's first-year modules aim to introduce you to the most important aspects of the separate civilizations of Greece and Rome, and to give you an interdisciplinary overview of their history, literature, politics, cultural values, and continuing importance. The following Handbook contains essential information on lecture times and locations, module content, tutorials, and assessment, including optional written work. If there is information you need but which is not covered in this Handbook, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff for guidance.

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The Department

The offices of all staff for Ancient Classics are in the Arts Building on the North Campus. Each member of the teaching staff is happy to meet students outside class, during weekly consultation hours (details are posted on the Departmental webpage and the staff member's office door) or by appointment.

For general administrative inquiries, please contact the Executive Assistant at the Departmental Office.

For questions more specific to your first-year studies, please contact Dr Jonathan Davies (First-year co-ordinator) or Dr William Desmond (Head of Department).

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Departmental Website:

Further information about the Department and its activities can be found online at: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/ancient-classics

Noticeboards:

Important information and updates, along with other items relevant to Classics (e.g. events, lectures) are regularly posted on the noticeboard between offices 6 and 9. Please consult these noticeboards regularly.

First-year modules: Introduction to Greek and Roman Civilization

The Greek world is introduced in semester 1 (GC151), and the Roman world in Semester 2 (GC152). Both modules carry 7.5 Credits, and comprise 30 lectures/classes along with 8-10 tutorials. Full details for each semester (e.g. a list of lectures, readings, assignments and due dates) will be provided in syllabi in class.

GC151 Gods and Heroes: From Myth to History (Dr Kieran McGroarty)

Times: Monday, 11-12am (CB2), Tuesday, 10-11am (CB2), Wednesday 2-3pm (CB2).

Module content: This module introduces the fascinating world of ancient Greece—its mythology, literature, politics, history, and art—from Homer to Pericles. The first part of the module explores major myths of the Greek gods and heroes, as reflected primarily in Homer’s *Odyssey* (selections of which will be read in English translation). Homer’s epic depicts the world of early Greece as it began to distinguish itself from Near Eastern predecessors, with city-states, Mediterranean colonies and panhellenic festivals. From the *Odyssey*, we turn to the important phenomenon of the Greek city-state, and to two city-states above all: militaristic Sparta and democratic Athens, with its rich social, literary and artistic culture. We study how Athens and Sparta allied to help defeat the vast Persian Empire in key battles like Marathon and Thermopylae—events that inspired the subsequent Athenian empire, Periclean Acropolis, career of Alexander the Great, and the enduring “myth” of Greek liberty. In all, through literary, historical and visual sources, the module offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the civilization that has remained foundational for much Western culture.

Learning outcomes: On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Relate key Greek myths to their literary and/or artistic representations.
- Analyse the narrative and characters of Homer’s *Odyssey*.
- Discuss distinctive features of the Greek city-state, particularly those of democratic Athens.
- Outline the histories of Classical Sparta and Athens up to the 5th-century BC.
- Explain the importance of the Persian Wars in Greek culture and history.
- Develop imaginative, lateral thinking.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas in written form.

Assessment:

- One 90-minute written examination after Semester 1 (80% of total mark).
- One **optional** written assignment (20% of total mark).¹ The assignment mark will be applied only if it is to the student’s advantage.

Required book purchase:

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Rieu, E.V. (revised by Rieu, D.C.H., introduction by Peter Jones). (Penguin Books, 2003) ISBN: 978-0-140-44911-2.

¹ The coursework assignment may not be resubmitted (or submitted for the first time) for the Autumn examination. Ten percentage points (10%) will be deducted from an assignment submitted up to one week beyond the due date. An assignment submitted more than one week late will not be accepted unless an extension has been granted by the Head of Department.

GC152 Making Rome: Culture, Politics and Society in the Roman Republic

(Dr Jonathan Davies and Dr Maeve O'Brien)

Times: Monday, 11-12am (HJ), Tuesday, 10-11am (HH), Wednesday 2-3pm (AX2).

Module content: The ancient Roman Republic was a sophisticated society with a culture which still resonates today. Its political fortunes were shaped by such colossal figures as Julius Caesar, Cicero, Cleopatra and Augustus, but it was not just an arena for political debate. This module offers you the chance to explore the lives of the ancient Romans: men and women, children and adults, senators and slaves. It finds them at work and at leisure, presents their myths and heroes, and examines their art and their literature. Finally, the module asks what led such a powerful state to fail. The final century of the Roman Republic saw the rise of popular politics, political infighting, assassination and war, much of it related in the first-hand accounts of the generation who lived through it. How was Caesar greeted on his return from conquering Gaul? What did Cicero really think of Cleopatra? And what was the purpose of Virgil's epic poem, the *Aeneid*? All of them had a role in the making and unmaking of Rome.

Learning outcomes: On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Summarise the major historical developments of the Roman Republican period.
- Identify key cultural elements and values of the Roman Republic.
- Explain the principles underlying the political, social and cultural changes in this period.
- Recognise the methods by which an ancient society can be approached and understood.
- Display a broadened understanding of the differences between ancient and modern societies.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas in written form.

Assessment:

- One 90-minute written examination after Semester 2 (80% of total mark).
- One **optional** written assignment (20% of total mark).² The assignment mark will be applied only if it is to the student's advantage.

Required book purchase:

M. Everson-Davies and H. Swain, *Aspects of Roman History: A Source-Based Approach* (London: Routledge, 2010).

² The coursework assignment may not be resubmitted (or submitted for the first time) for the Autumn examination. Ten percentage points (10%) will be deducted from an assignment submitted up to one week beyond the due date. An assignment submitted more than one week late will not be accepted unless an extension has been granted by the Head of Department.

Lectures and Tutorials

Attendance

The Department of Ancient Classics regards attendance at lectures and tutorials as a very important part of education. Attendance in lectures and tutorials, and discussing issues with your lecturer and fellow students makes learning the material easier and more enjoyable, and you will reinforce employable skills in critical listening, note-taking, debate, argument, and team-work. You may make contacts and friends that will be important for later work and/or life. Most of all, examinations are based mainly on the material discussed in lectures and tutorials, so you will increase your chances of success by attending them. Conversely, if you do not attend, you will be at a great disadvantage when it comes to performing in examinations. It has been the Department's experience over many years that students who do not attend lectures and tutorials tend to perform poorly, often extremely poorly, in examinations and other forms of assessment. For many reasons, therefore, your regular attendance is encouraged.

However, given ongoing COVID concerns, you may not be able to attend every lecture or tutorial, and attendance registrars will not be kept for 2021-22. Lecturers will make every effort, within reasonable limits, to help you study material for classes that you may be forced to miss (e.g. through supplemental Moodle support).

Lectures and note-taking

Lectures are the main teaching mode in any module. In them, the lecturer provides an overview of a body of material, in a structured and controlled way, supplying basic factual information, examining specific cases or texts, and so illuminating key issues in the larger fields of classical literature, history, philosophy and/or culture. Three fifty-minute lectures per week cannot cover every angle of a particular topic, however, and here university study is different from secondary-school: you will be expected to read and study outside class, ideally by preparing for upcoming lectures and by following them up with supplemental reading (or listening and viewing of audio-visual materials). Here the lecturers typically provide bibliography and websites to guide your study. Please pay attention to such bibliographies: they are carefully selected and will be an enormous support in helping you to excel and to learn efficiently.

To get the most out of lectures, you are also encouraged to take notes. This is a skill in itself, which does not come automatically and must be cultivated. Recent psychological tests demonstrate convincingly that the physical act of writing forms neuropathways much more than typing—or merely listening passively. Critical listening means that you abstract the main points of a lecture, reconstruct the argument in your own mind, and so internalize it and make it your own. Note-taking can be the beginning of effective writing and therefore of complex communication—skills in high demand (and low supply) for businesses, companies, government agencies of many kinds. Lecture notes add up, from class to class and week to week, and will enable you to approach written assignments and final exams with much more confidence.

Tutorials

In addition to lectures, the teaching of Greek and Roman Civilization in first year includes tutorials, which the Department considers equally important. The purpose of lectures may be more immediately apparent than that of tutorials: lectures are the primary forum for the dissemination of essential information, argument, ideas, and academic advice from lecturer to student. Inevitably, however, no matter how much the lecturer attempts to include an element of interaction in lectures, lectures will be an essentially *passive* learning experience for the student. So tutorials are intended to provide another sort of learning experience: an active one, in order to provide a properly balanced approach to your study of Greek and Roman Civilization. Tutorials should not be seen as something extra, an add-on to the main business of garnering information through lectures, or as a chore to be got through, but as the essential counterpart of lectures, and just as valuable to your learning.

But because tutorials are supposed to be an active learning experience, their success will depend on just how much *you* contribute to them. With poor participation, it is easy for tutorials to degenerate into just another lecture. **So your participation is very important**, and we encourage you to speak up confidently, and add your ideas to those of others. Don't be shy! We greatly value your input, and you may be assured that you will not be humiliated in any way when you do contribute to a tutorial. There is never any single 'right answer' in scholarship, and your ideas are as worthy of being expressed and explored as anyone else's.

Purpose of tutorials

The purpose of tutorials may be summarised as follows:

- In the first place, their function is not simply to rehash lecture material. Instead, they expand on and go beyond the scope of lecture material, by introducing you to new material on the same or related topics and new ways of dealing with the material, and by bringing in parallels, contrasts, and contradictions.
- As noted above in the section on the 'philosophy of tutorials', tutorials provide an essentially different mode of learning from lectures. In lectures you will have a more passive learning experience, absorbing information from the lecturer and handouts. By contrast, tutorials are intended to be an active learning experience in which discussion, debate, and argument are a fundamental part of the process of learning. In tutorials you will debate material, investigating different ways in which evidence about the ancient world may be interpreted.
- Following on from this, tutorials aim to give you guidance and practice in the techniques of scholarly investigation. They aim to encourage and develop your confidence in discussion and in your academic abilities. This should be valuable for you both in your academic work and in other social and professional spheres.
- There is one final, crucially important, purpose of tutorials. If you have come to university directly from school, you will be familiar with a learning environment where teachers take the ultimate responsibility for giving direction to your learning. At university, however, the situation is different: you will be expected to take responsibility for your own learning. Lecturers are here to help, advise, and guide; but they will not 'teach' in the manner you will be used to from school. Tutorials provide a structured opportunity for you to take this responsibility for your learning.

Tutorial Schedule 2021-2022

First Semester (GC151)

27 September - 1 October	No Tutorials
4-8 October	No Tutorials
11-15 October	Critical Skills 1: Orientation and study skills
18-22 October	Tutorial 1
25-29 October	Study Week (No tutorials)
1-5 November	Tutorial 2
8-12 November	Critical Skills 2: Written Assignment Preparation
15-19 November	Tutorial 3
22-26 November	Critical Skills 3: Scholarly Debates
29 November - 3 December	Tutorial 4
6-10 December	Critical Skills 4: Exam Preparation

Second Semester (GC152)

31 January - 4 February	No Tutorials
7-11 February	No Tutorials
14-18 February	Tutorial 1
21-25 February	Critical Skills 1: Written Assignment Preparation
28 February - 4 March	Tutorial 2
7-11 March	Critical Skills 2: Narrative and Analysis
14-18 March	Study Week (No tutorials)
21-25 March	No Tutorials
28 March-1 April	Tutorial 3
4 – 8 April	Critical Skills 3: Assessing and Interpreting Ancient Sources
11-14 April ³	Tutorial 4
18-22 April	Easter Holiday (No tutorials)
25-29 April	Critical Skills 4: Exam Preparation
3-6 May	No Tutorials

³ Friday 15 April – Good Friday – No tutorials.

Optional Written Work (with due dates)

GC151 is assessed by a written examination at the end of semester one (80% of the total module mark) and one **optional** written assignment (20% of the total module mark). GC152 is assessed by a written examination at the end of semester two (80% of the total module mark) and one **optional** written assignment (20% of the total module mark). The assignment mark will be applied only if it is to the student's advantage.

Guidelines for submission

- Pay attention to the due date, in order to avoid late penalties.⁴ Start your essay in good time!
- Proof-read your final draft, to avoid needless mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and formatting.
- Include a word count of your draft.
- Fill out a Departmental Cover Sheet, to indicate that the essay is your own work, and is not plagiarized. (See p. 12 below on plagiarism.) **This Cover Sheet is very important!**
- Attach the Cover Sheet to your essay, so that Cover Sheet + Essay form a single electronic file (e.g. Microsoft Word document).
- Submit your essay file through **Turnitin** in the dedicated link on the Moodle page for the module in question. Your instructor will provide further instructions, as necessary, for using Turnitin.
- That's it, you can relax for a while!

Deadlines for optional written assignments, 2021-2022.

Semester 1 (GC151)

10 December 2021 (Friday), 5pm.

Semester 2 (GC152)

29 April 2022 (Friday), 5pm.

⁴ Ten percentage points (10%) will be deducted for assignments submitted up to one week beyond the due date. Written work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted unless an extension has been granted by the Head of Department.

Presenting Written Work (Guidelines)

Introduction

This guide is intended to help you with the presentation of written work in the Department of Ancient Classics. Its fundamentals will be discussed in tutorial, Critical Skills 2 (see p. 8). It sets out a number of guidelines that will help you present your work in the best manner possible. Good presentation is an important aspect of good written work, and should reflect the following:

- All written assignments must be **typed**.
- Academic papers usually include both **references** and a **bibliography**, to provide information about sources used in researching the paper.

Sources

Sources are typically either

- primary i.e. ancient works (such as Homer's *Odyssey* or Tacitus' *Histories*), or
- secondary, i.e. scholarly books and articles (e.g. Whitman's *Homer and the Heroic Tradition*, or Ronald Mellor's *Tacitus*) which are based on primary sources.

References

When you submit written work, you will make reference to both primary and secondary works. References often come in two forms:

- Direct quote from a primary or secondary source. If you quote an author's actual words, then you **must** put them in quotation marks (" or "). Not to do so may constitute a form of plagiarism, i.e. intellectual theft.
- Allusion to, use, summary or paraphrase of a *specific and distinctive* idea, argument, interpretation, or piece of information that is specific enough to somehow "belong" to the writer. In this case, again, you should acknowledge the source of this *distinctive* item. General facts and items "which everybody knows" (e.g. the fact that Rome is in Italy) do not need to be referenced. Sometimes, the line between the distinctive and general may be difficult to determine: when in doubt, please make reference to the sources that you have used. If you have relied heavily on a source, then you should acknowledge this, and inform your reader about it.

There are two ways you should include references to primary and secondary works:

1. In parentheses in the main body of your paper. Examples:

Primary sources

- To refer to Book 1, Line 5-7 of Virgil's *Aeneid*, write as follows: "... Virgil alludes to the founding of Rome at the very beginning of the epic (Virgil, *Aeneid*, 1.5-7)."
- Or, if you want to quote the phrase "political equality was a thing of the past; all eyes watched for imperial commands" from Book 1, Chapter 4 of *Annals* by Tacitus, your paper might read as follows: "... As Tacitus darkly comments of Augustus' regime, "political equality was a thing of the past; all eyes watched for imperial commands" (Tacitus, *Annals*, 1.4)."

Secondary sources.

- To refer to p. 96 of Shotter 1994, write "... your argument (Shotter 1994: 96) in parentheses in the sentence where you use the material..." Such references should contain three items of information: Author Name, Date (of publication): Page number(s).

2. In a footnote at the end of the page. You may include references in a footnote, but without parentheses. References to primary sources should be as above, as should those for secondary sources (e.g. In a footnote: Shotter 1994: 96, but now without parentheses).

Other methods of referencing are possible and may be used in other university Departments: if you want to use one of these, please check with the lecturer first, and (if approved) use it consistently.

Bibliography

A bibliography should be included at the end of your paper, listing information about the primary and secondary sources you have referenced. Be sure that the bibliography reflects the following points:

- Alphabetical ordering. Items are arranged according to the author's surname (or standard name in the case of ancient texts). You might find that it is better to have separate sections in your bibliography for primary and secondary sources, but this is not strictly necessary.
- Translations of ancient texts should be cited as follows:
Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. E.V. Rieu (London, 2003).
- Modern books should be cited as follows:
Martin, R. *Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times* (Yale, 2000).
- Modern articles in journals should be cited as follows:
Cartledge, P., 'Hoplites and Heroes: Sparta's Contribution to the Technique of Ancient Warfare', *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. 97 (1977), pp. 11-27.
- Modern articles collected in a book should be cited as follows:
Potter, D.S., 'Roman Religion: Ideas and Actions', in *Life, Death, and Entertainment in the Roman Empire*, edited by D.S. Potter and D.J. Mattingly (Ann Arbor, 1999), 113-167.

If you are having difficulty with any of this, please do not hesitate to consult with your lecturer.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own without acknowledgement. This includes the use, in whole or in part, of another student's work. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty, even theft, and will be treated with the utmost seriousness wherever discovered. Individual acts of plagiarism may attract a mark of zero, and in cases of serious and repeated plagiarism, more serious penalties may be applied by the University. For Maynooth University's policy on plagiarism, see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies/academic-policies-procedures>. The Department strongly advises you to read this document.

Every time you quote the words of a modern author, you should use quotation marks and clearly indicate your source by means of a footnote or a reference in parentheses ('round brackets'). Likewise, when you are paraphrasing modern authors, the source should be indicated clearly. See the guide to referencing above.

As a safeguard against plagiarism, each student must attach to the front of any piece of written work submitted a copy of the Departmental Cover Sheet, and sign the declaration at the bottom of the sheet. A written assignment will not be accepted without an attached Cover Sheet and completed declaration. Cover Sheets may be downloaded from the Departmental web-page or are available from the holder located outside the office of the Executive Assistant, Departmental Office 9.

Examination Matters

Both first-year modules (GC151 and GC152) require an exam after the relevant semester. The lecturers will provide details about these exams—the sorts of questions you should expect, as well as materials for focussed review.

There will also be tutorials dedicated to exam review, so you should receive lots of advice to do as well as you can.

In addition, you may check past exam papers on the Maynooth Library website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library/exam-papers>. The questions on these papers will give you a sense of what to expect, but in general it is better to focus on the materials in lectures, tutorials, written assignments and review sheets.

For the procedures concerning the discussion, checking, and appeal of examination results, note the information provided by the Exams Office: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams

MU LIBRARY

The Maynooth University Library looks forward to meeting you during your studies, whether that's online or in-person. MU Library will be essential to you in:

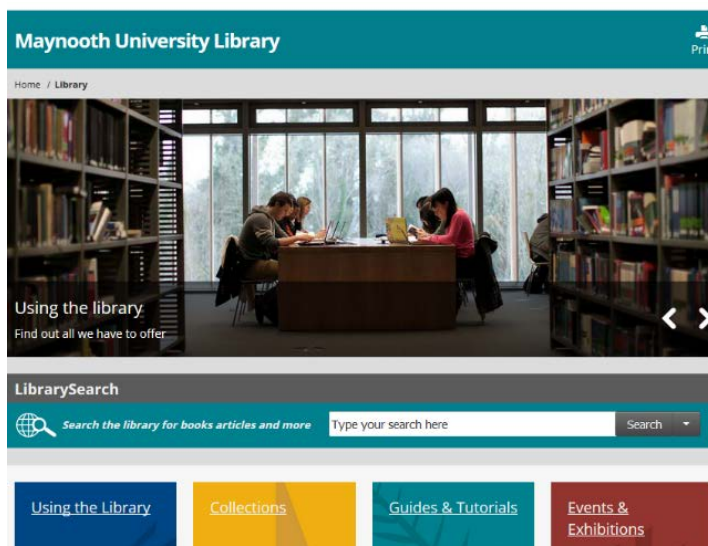
- finding the right e-books and online material to help you study & write assignments,
- borrowing physical books and accessing journal articles, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions* that may be in operation,
- short, free tutorials & quizzes online that will help you improve your information skills,
- as source of dedicated support in your studies.



Fig. 1: Exterior of MU Library

Our homepage, <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>, is a great place to start, with:

- up-to-date information about accessing the library,
- information on using all our services and classes (including remotely) and
- advice on connecting with us to get the support you need for your studies and assignments.



Your **MyCard** (student card) entitles you to access the library and to borrow books. Click the "Using the Library" tab (see Fig. 2) on the library homepage, for more information. At the time of writing, there is controlled access to MU Library due to Covid-19*, and this can change depending on the phase we are in.

Fig. 2: MU Library Homepage

Our "Working Remotely" guide for students, <https://nuim.libguides.com/WorkingRemotely>, has lots of useful information and resources to support you even if you are studying off-campus. During lockdown, all the library staff continued to work remotely, answering queries by email and via Library Chat, delivering classes via *MS Teams*, and setting up virtual meetings with students and staff, so *whatever* level of physical access is in place over the coming year, MU Library will make sure you have the support and information you need.

MU Library is located on the South Campus beside the Kilcock road. You can choose different study spaces*

- from the open-access area on the ground floor (where food, drink and chat are allowed) with access to over 50 laptops and print facilities*,
- to the quieter areas on levels 1 and 2, with training rooms and meeting rooms*, or
- use the [bookable group study-rooms \(See links at the end of this piece\) for your group and project-work*](#).

Using correct sources of information is key to success in your studies and exams. Every subject has a **dedicated Subject Guide** on our website (*see Fig. 3*) that we recommend you bookmark. **Ancient Classics' Subject Guide** is here <https://nuim.libguides.com/ancientclassics>. It also has information about reference styles, online tutorials and quizzes, a chance to email your query to a Teaching Librarian, and lots of more useful information. The full range of subject guides are available at the link below, containing sections on getting started, recommended books, databases, and links as chosen by your lecturers https://nuim.libguides.com/guides_tutorials

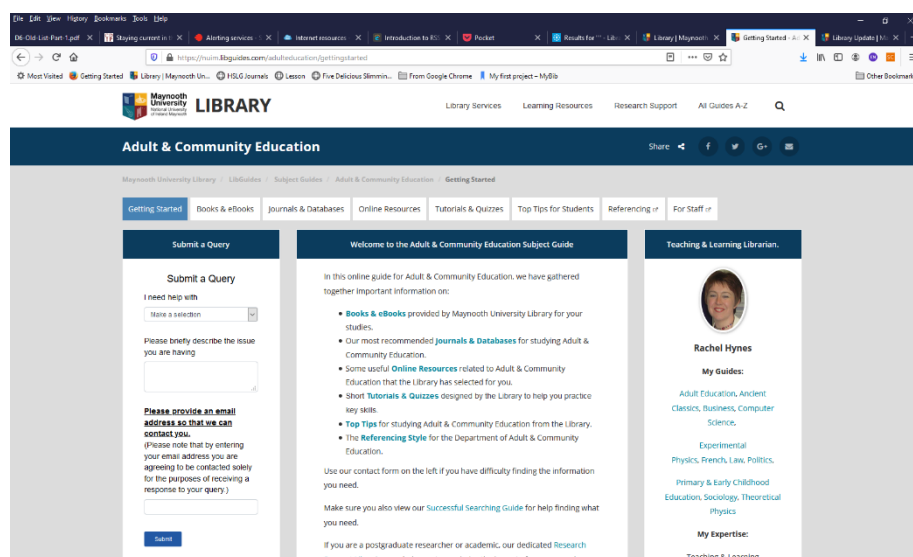


Fig. 3: *Adult & Community Education Subject Guide*:

Use **LibrarySearch** (*see Fig. 4*) on the library homepage to search for specific books or articles, or even to see the range of material that we hold on your topic. The results give you details of thousands of e-books and e-journals you can read on your devices (on or off campus), plus information on books, journal articles, and databases on your subject. We also have online e-dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and e-newspapers; everything you need to write successful assignments.



Fig. 4: *“LibrarySearch” searches the entire collection in MU Library—millions of eBooks, articles and databases.*

If you have any **queries about finding material**, whether it is online, or on the shelf, library staff are here to help you. If you are accessing us remotely, use the live and anonymous *“Library Chat”* box on our homepage, or email us your queries to library.information@mu.ie. If you are visiting the library in person, staff are available to answer your queries and get you started. We look forward to meeting you, either virtually at an orientation event, or perhaps in

an online pop-up event. We may even meet you in one of your classes, as some lecturers ask us to teach a class to students about the library resources available to them, or to teach you information skills.

You can borrow a laptop from the laptop-bank (opposite the library desk) to use within the library, or you can log on to one of the library PCs to do your essays, or you can use your own laptop in the library too*. We have a 3D printer available (ask us at the library desk) as well as a colour photocopier, in addition to numerous black and white photocopiers. You use your MyCard to load it with credit for printing. IT Services have a dedicated space at the main library desk where you can go if you need IT help.

Make sure to follow us on Instagram @library_mu, Facebook @MaynoothUniLibrary or on Twitter @mu_library.

[Contact us](#) with your queries about

- using the library, finding locations within it, student services,
- finding information for your studies, or
- how to use any of the online material.

We all know it can be a lot to take in when you start in university, but we are here to help you. The library wishes you every success in your studies.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS:

Links:

- Library homepage: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>
- Working Remotely: student support: <https://nuim.libguides.com/WorkingRemotely/StudentSupport>
- [Ancient Classics' Subject Guide](#): <https://nuim.libguides.com/ancientclassics>
- A-Z of the Subject Guides: <https://nuim.libguides.com/>
- Book a group study room*: https://nuim.libcal.com/booking/MU_GroupStudyRooms
- Online tutorials (LIST online): <http://nuim.libguides.com/list-online>

Undergraduates' contact: library.information@mu.ie

* Check <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library/news/library-update> for any changes to access or services in MU Library.

Important Dates for Academic Year 2021-22

Semester 1 (September 2021-January 2022)

September 20-24	First-year students' Orientation Week
September 27	First Year Lectures start
October 25-29	Study Week (no class)
December 17	Lectures end
January 3-6	Study Week
January 7	January examinations commence

Semester 2 (January-May 2022)

January 31	Lectures start
March 14-18	Study week (no class)
April 15-22	Easter holiday (no class)
May 6	Lectures end
May 9-12	Study Week (no class)
May 13	Summer examinations commence