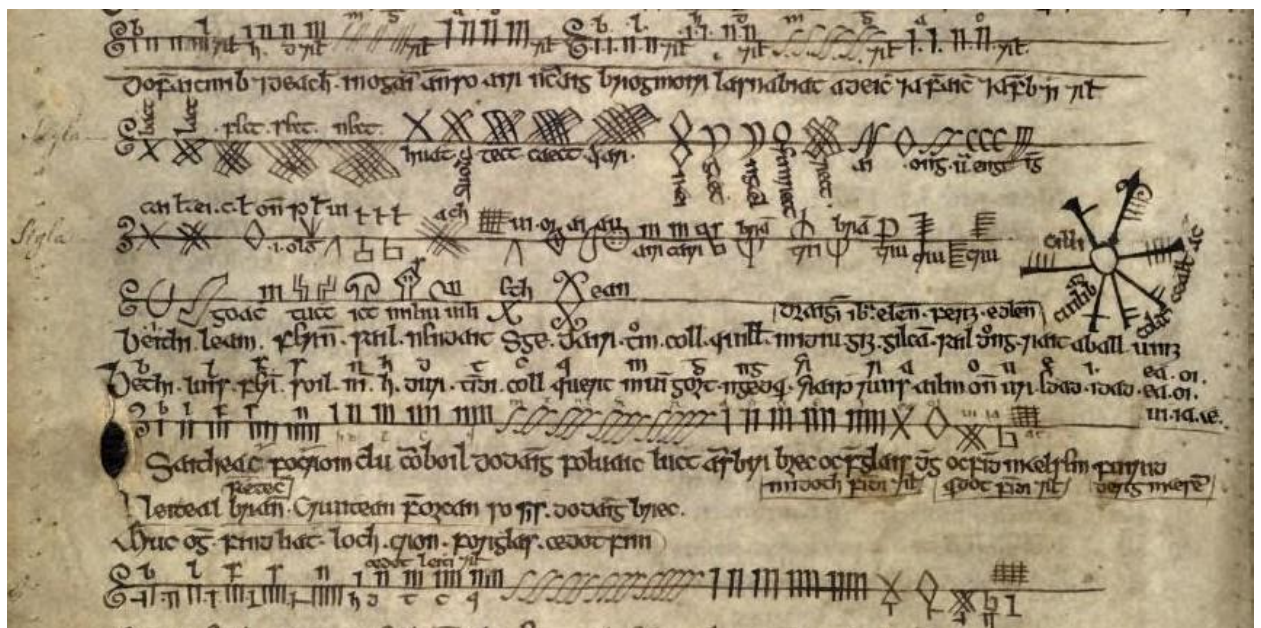


SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES  
 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY IRISH

## MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES



## SECOND YEAR STUDENTS' HANDBOOK 2022-23

## Welcome

Welcome to Maynooth University and to the Department of Early Irish (Roinn na Sean-Ghaeilge). We are delighted that you have chosen to continue your study of Medieval Celtic Studies, and we hope that you will enjoy the year as you deepen your knowledge and understanding of medieval Irish history and archaeology, look in greater detail into the many aspects of Irish literature, or begin to study the Old Irish language, the medium in which many famous tales and poems have come down to us.

The Department of Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge) is part of the School of Celtic Studies (Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh) in the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy of Maynooth University. The homepage of the department is at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/early-irish-sean-ghaeilge>. The Department can be contacted by email at [earlyirish@mu.ie](mailto:earlyirish@mu.ie). The members of staff are listed below. Please contact them via email if you have any queries and they can arrange a one-on-one meeting if necessary. Staff endeavour to respond to all student emails as quickly as possible during work hours (9:00–17:00, Monday–Friday).

## Staff

Associate Prof. Dr *Deborah Hayden* (Head of Subject)

Room 23, Arts Building

email: [deborah.hayden@mu.ie](mailto:deborah.hayden@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 3711

Lecturer Dr *Elizabeth Boyle*

Room 25, Arts Building

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Lecturer *Francesco Felici*

Room 18, Arts Building

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Lecturer Dr *Eoin Grogan*

Room 47, Arts Building

email: [eoin.grogan@mu.ie](mailto:eoin.grogan@mu.ie)

Lecturer/Assistant Prof. Dr *Mary Leenane*

Room 1.14, Iontas Building

email: [mary.leenane@mu.ie](mailto:mary.leenane@mu.ie)

Dr *Caitlin Ellis*

email: [caitlin@celt.dias.ie](mailto:caitlin@celt.dias.ie)

Dr *Chantal Kobel*  
email: [chantal@celt.dias.ie](mailto:chantal@celt.dias.ie)

Prof. *Barry Lewis*  
email: [barry@celt.dias.ie](mailto:barry@celt.dias.ie)

Prof. *David Stifter* (on sabbatical leave)  
Room 18, Arts Building  
email: [david.stifter@mu.ie](mailto:david.stifter@mu.ie)  
phone: 01/708 3710

### **Administrator**

Cormac Ó Feinneadh  
Room 44, Arts Building  
email: [earlyirish@mu.ie](mailto:earlyirish@mu.ie)  
phone: 01/708 3737

### **Important dates**

#### *Semester 1*

19 September 2022 – 16 December 2022

19 September 2022	Lectures commence
7 October 2022	Change of module deadline for all continuing students
31 October–4 November 2022	Study week
16 December 2022	Conclusion of first semester lectures
19–30 December 2022	Christmas vacation
2–5 January 2023	Study period
6 January 2023	Examination period commences

#### *Semester 2*

30 January 2023 – 5 May 2023

30 January 2023	Lectures resume
10 February 2023	Deadline for change of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester modules
13–17 March 2023	Study week
7 April 2023	Good Friday (no lectures)
10–14 April 2023	Easter vacation
1 May 2023	May bank holiday (no lectures)
2–5 May 2023	Conclusion of second semester lectures
8–11 May 2023	Study week
12 May 2023	Examination period commences

## Second Year – General Information

### General

This subject is taken with one other arts subject (excluding French, Greek and Roman Civilisation, Mathematical Physics, Chinese Studies, Accounting, Politics, Psychological Studies) and will be continued for the duration of the degree (three years or four years in case of the B.A. International). In accordance with the University policy, some modules can be replaced by Elective Streams. The course is taught through the medium of English and no previous knowledge of the Irish language is required. Texts will be read in English translations.

### Queries

General concerns, problems or issues which may arise should be addressed to your Second Year Co-ordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Boyle ([elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie)). Wherever possible, queries pertaining to specific modules are best addressed to the lecturer in question during the consultation hours or after their lectures.

### Moodle

Each module has a particular account allocated on Maynooth University's academic support system Moodle at <https://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/>.

### Lectures

You are required to register for modules amounting to 30 credits in total. The modules typically merit 5 credits and entail 24 lectures (2 hours per week), delivered over the duration of the semester. You must attend all modules that you are registered for. Tutorials are offered for some modules; if one such module is your choice then you must sign up for a suitable tutorial time slot as your attendance and participation in relevant tutorials contributes to the overall module assessment. All modules contribute to the end-of-year mark.

It is your duty to attend all classes, lectures and tutorials. If you cannot attend a class for any reason, please contact the relevant lecturer beforehand and explain your case. If you are ill, provide us with a doctor's certificate stating the duration of your illness. The campus map allows you to locate all teaching venues:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-map#expanded>.

Although most times and venues of lectures have been fixed before the start of the year, they may be subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, it is important to check this information at the beginning of each semester.

## **Textbooks, Library**

Relevant textbooks for each module will be recommended to you in the lectures. You can borrow these books from the John Paul II Library in the South Campus, or buy them in the University Bookshop, North Campus. Many resources are also accessible via the library online and module lecturers will upload reading materials to Moodle.

## **Assessment**

The modules will be examined through a combination of essays, examinations, and various kinds of continuous assessment; some modules are assessed by examination only. The exact details for their relative weighting differ from module to module, details of which can be found in the module descriptors. The university-scheduled examinations will take place at the end of the relevant semester, after the end of the lectures. It is possible that these exams will take the form of on-line examinations. Other types of assessment (in-class exams, essays, etc.) fall within the semester; details will be provided by the lecturers. Maynooth University's Marks & Standards as detailed online at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams/information-students> apply. Please note that according to these under normal circumstances the highest attainable mark is 80.

## **Essays, academic sincerity and deadlines**

You will be required to write essays (1,500–2,000 words approx.) for some modules. Recommended reading lists and essay titles will be communicated by the lecturers during each module involved. Essay cover sheets can be downloaded from the Department webpage at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/early-irish-sean-ghaeilge/our-courses>. They must be duly completed, signed and attached to all submissions. Students are required to provide two copies of essay assignments, one for retention by the Department, and one for retention by the student.

Is féidir leat na haistí a cheapadh as Gaeilge más mian leat.

These essays must be properly referenced. You are responsible for the quality of any information used from other sources. All material consulted for essays must be credited with a recognised form of academic referencing. Unacknowledged reproduction of another's work or plagiarism is considered a serious offence, for which a student will receive no marks and the matter will be reported to the Head of Subject, Dr. Deborah Hayden. You are obliged to adhere strictly to the Maynooth University policy on plagiarism as detailed online at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams/information-students>. Any such offences will be prosecuted according to Maynooth University rules and regulations stated therein.

Essays must be submitted by the deadline outlined in the module descriptors, or at the time specified by the lecturers during each module. Late essay submissions will incur a penalty of a reduction of 10 marks per day late of deadline. Assignments handed in more than 1 week after the due date will be awarded no more than 40% of the maximum mark possible. No essays will be accepted after the end of the lecture period of the relevant semester (16 December 2022 in semester 1; 5 May 2023 in semester 2).

## Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office is available to assist and advise undergraduate students with programme related decisions you may be unsure about during your time at Maynooth University. The Programme Advisory Office acts as a guide to students as you navigate your own way through your programme options. The Programme Advisory team can assist first year students with questions about subject combinations, changing subjects and progression options for second year. Continuing students may also avail of the service if you are unsure about your programme options, for example if you have any questions about the flexible degree pathways, or whether or not to choose to take an Elective.

### *Contact:*

Room 1.17, ground floor Rowan House

website: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office)

email: [programme.choices@mu.ie](mailto:programme.choices@mu.ie)

phone: 01 474 7428

## Experiential Learning

### *Experience More During Your Time at MU*

The routes available to Maynooth students to experience more from their degree programme are diverse, enabling the development of rich learning experiences that connect classroom content with real-world experience. The Experiential Learning Office connects Maynooth students to a range of opportunities in the following areas.

### *Community Based Service Learning*

Community Based Service Learning presents a credit-bearing academic experience that empowers students to engage with their surrounding communities, which often results in enhancing student's academic, civic, social and personal development, whilst they contribute to the common good. The experiential learning office facilitates academic staff in offering community based service learning experiences with their students.

### *Further information and contact:*

website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/experiential-learning-office>

email: [Aisling.Flynn@mu.ie](mailto:Aisling.Flynn@mu.ie)

phone: + 353 1 4747760

## Semester 1

### **SG207 Language 1 – Old Irish 1 (5 credits)**

This module provides an introduction to the Old Irish language of the so-called Classical period of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries for absolute beginners. The history of the language and contemporary sources are introduced prior to the studying of basic topics of grammar (notably the sound and spelling systems, the inflection of nouns, adjectives and pronouns, the present stem of verbs) and reading appropriate Old Irish texts.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours + 10 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Tue 12:00 [HB] and Wed 12:00 [JHT8]

**Lecturer:** Francesco Felici

**Text book:** David Stifter, *Sengoídelc. Old Irish for Beginners*, New York: Syracuse University Press 2006.

**Assessment:** The marks are awarded out of a maximum of 80. 10% of these marks are for attendance and tutorial work, 30% for a mid-term in-class exam, and 60% for a university-scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

**Tutorials:** Arrangements for tutorials will be announced at the beginning of semester 1.

### **SG228 Literature 7 – King Arthur's Britain: Medieval Welsh Literature (5 credits)**

This module offers the student a first introduction to select topics of medieval Welsh literature, including the collection of tales known as the *Mabinogion*, legends concerning Merlin, heroic poetry and the question of the beginning of Arthurian literature.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Wed 12:00 [SE236], Thu 12:00 [JHT4]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Deborah Hayden

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Continuous Assessment, an essay details and deadlines of which will be announced in class and/or electronically.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination in January 2023.



## **SG230 Literature 4 – Humour in Medieval Celtic Literature (5 credits)**

There are a number of texts surviving from twelfth-century Ireland and Wales which are generally accepted as being ironic or parodic in intent, and are thus regarded as humorous compositions. This module will trace the earlier development of humour in medieval Celtic narrative, examining the use of subversive literary tropes – particularly irony – to undermine certain social or religious conventions. Students will explore a range of ironic and parodic narratives, and the relationship between humour and the more serious genre of satire will be considered. Students will explore the way that humour is used to subvert the so-called ‘heroic ethos’ and to express disapproval at cases of clerical immorality. This will lead to a consideration of some of the more extensive parodies and ironic narratives written in medieval Ireland and Wales, including *Aislinge Meic Con Glinne* and *Culhwch ac Olwen*.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Wed 17:00 [EHCR] and Thu 16:00 [ESR]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

## **SG253 History 1 – Early Ireland, from St Patrick to the Battle of Clontarf (5 credits)**

This module is framed around two historical men from medieval Ireland for whom lasting legacies were created. These are St Patrick, patron saint and Irish cultural icon, who reputedly drove the snakes from Ireland in the name of Christianity and high-king Brian Boru, who reputedly drove the vikings from Ireland at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. This module explores the history and culture of the six centuries separating these two individuals, when Ireland was famed as the ‘Island of saints and scholars’.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Thu 09:00 [HB] and Fri 12:00 [BSEM]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Caitlin Ellis

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Essay.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

### **SG354 History 5 – The Viking World II: Ireland (5 credits)**

The vikings were a major factor in Irish history from the late eighth century until the early eleventh, and had a continuing influence until the later twelfth century. But who exactly were the vikings and what impact did they have on Ireland during this period? This module explores the various representations of the vikings and their activities in the primary sources and examines questions of identity and cultural legacy in medieval Ireland.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Thu 11:00 [EHCR] and Thu 14:00 [JHT10]

**Lecturers:** Dr. Caitlin Ellis

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Essay.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

### **SG271 Middle Welsh (5 credits)**

This module provides an introduction to the grammar of Middle Welsh, exemplified by short pieces of Middle Welsh text where appropriate.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent student activities

**Time and Venue:** Tue 15:00 [BSEM]

**Lecturer:** Prof. Barry Lewis

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (in-class written exam)

### **SG381 Palaeography for Undergraduates 1 (2.5 credits)**

This module introduces the students to basic concepts of palaeography: the development of scripts and writing styles, common abbreviations and notae, and codicology. The students will gain practical experience in reading medieval Irish manuscripts.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 12 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** TBA

**Lecturer:** Dr. Chantal Kobel

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (reading and transcribing passages from medieval manuscripts for the class, in-class exam).

## Special Options Semester 1

### **SG241 Intensive Old Irish 1 (10 credits)**

The students are gradually familiarised with all aspects of Old Irish grammar. First, the phonology and orthography of Old Irish are introduced. After this, the inflectional classes of the nouns and adjectives, the present stem classes of the verbs, as well as central chapters of syntax, e.g. inflected prepositions and infixed pronouns, are the main focus of the attention.

Students who want to take this module have to contact the module coordinator first. Previous experience in the learning of languages is recommended.

This module has to be taken together with SG243.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 48 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** to be arranged, initial meeting Mon 19 Sept. 12:00 [EHCR]

**Lecturer:** Francesco Felici

**Assessment:**

- (a) 10% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (b) 90% Written examination (180 min) in January 2023.

### **SG250 Structured Reading (5 credits)**

Guided structured reading of articles, chapters, and monographs from the historiography of Celtic Studies. Students who want to register for this module have to contact their year co-ordinator first. SG250 can only be taken once.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent work

**Time and Venue:** to be arranged

**Lecturer:** Dr. Mary Leenane

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment.

## Semester 2

### **SG208 Language 2 – Old Irish 2 (5 credits)**

This module continues the exploration of the Old Irish language of the so-called classical period of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Aspects of Old Irish grammar and syntax are discussed in detail (esp. noun classes, past tenses).

**Prerequisite:** SG207 or an equivalent knowledge of Old Irish

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours + 12 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Tue 12:00 [BEM] and Tue 15:00 [PB1]

**Lecturer:** Francesco Felici

**Text book:** David Stifter, *Sengoídelc. Old Irish for Beginners*, New York: Syracuse University Press 2006.

**Assessment:** The marks are awarded out of a maximum of 80. 10% of the marks are for attendance and tutorial work, 30% for a mid-term in-class exam, and 60% for a written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

**Tutorials:** Arrangements for tutorials will be announced at the beginning of semester 2.

### **SG223 History 3 – The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland (5 credits)**

Archaeological evidence for secular settlement and social systems, the development of the early Church and monastic sites, the emergence of late ‘Celtic’ artistic traditions and the wider European, including Anglo-Saxon, Carolingian and Viking, influences that contributed to this rich period of Irish society is introduced and examined in detail. The contribution of new archaeological discoveries are assessed in the wider context of interdisciplinary studies, including history and environmental research.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Tue 12:00 [EHCR] and TBA

**Lecturer:** Dr. Eoin Grogan

**Assessment:** 50% each for two essays from set topics

### **SG227 Literature 6 – Fenian Literature (5 credits)**

This module will focus on the medieval Irish saga literature known as *féanaigeacht*, that is, literature concerned with Finn mac Cumhaill and his *féan* ('warband'). Significant tales from the so-called 'Fenian Cycle', ranging from 'Finn and the Man in the Tree' to *Acallam na Senórach* ('The Colloquy of the Ancients') will be studied in detail, and various literary, moral and political interpretations of the tales will be explored. The circumstances of composition of the literature, and its striking interest in aspects of geography and cultural memory, will be discussed in detail. The modern reception and reworking of 'Finn Cycle' literature will also be explored.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Thu 9:00 [PB1] and TBA

**Lecturer:** Dr. Mary Leenane

**Assessment:** (a) 50% Continuous Assessment (2,000–2,500 words).

(b) 50% Written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

### **SG254 History 2 – Law, Society and the Learned Classes in Early Ireland (5 credits)**

The early Irish law books, often known as the 'Brehon laws' provide a wealth of information about numerous aspects of medieval Irish society. This module studies aspects of these law books, the learned classes that created them and the social institutions and practices they illuminate.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Thu 16:00 [EHCR] and Fri 13:00 [JHT7]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:**

(a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)

(b) 50% Written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

### **SG272 Middle Welsh Reading (5 credits)**

Reading of select Middle Welsh texts, prose and/or poetry.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent student activities

**Time and Venue:** TBA

**Lecturer:** Prof. Barry Lewis

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (weekly preparations, in-class written exam)

### **SG382 Palaeography for Undergraduates (2.5 credits)**

The students are introduced to the Irish manuscript tradition, especially those manuscripts that are relevant for medieval literature of Ireland. The students will learn how to read and transcribe medieval Irish manuscripts.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 12 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** TBA

**Lecturer:** Dr. Chantal Kobel

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (practice in reading and transcribing medieval Irish manuscripts).

## **Special Options Semester 2**

### **SG242 Intensive Old Irish 2 (10 credits)**

This module introduces the students to advanced aspects of Old Irish grammar, esp. the formation of non-present tenses and moods, and advanced aspects of syntax, esp. dependent clauses.

This module has to be taken together with SG244.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 48 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** TBA

**Lecturer:** Francesco Felici

**Assessment:**

- (a) 10% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (b) 90% Written examination (180 min) in May 2023.

### **HY224 Settlement and Society in Ireland (5 credits)**

The importance of multidisciplinary approaches to the early landscape will be stressed, with an emphasis on history and archaeology and the natural sciences. Irish historic settlement will also be discussed in its European context.

Attention: only a limited number of places available!

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Tue 13:00–15:00 [TSI035]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Michael Potterton

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (5,000 word essay or shorter essay combined with class assignments/tests. Essay to be submitted by Monday prior to commencement of end-of-semester examinations).

## Timetable (2022/3): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

### Semester 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>09:00</b>				SG253 [HB]	
<b>10:00</b>					
<b>11:00</b>				SG354 [EHCR]	
<b>12:00</b>		SG207 [HB]	SG207 [JHT8] SG228 [SE236]	SG228 [JHT4]	SG253 [BSEM]
<b>13:00</b>					
<b>14:00</b>				SG354 [JHT10]	
<b>15:00</b>		SG271 [BSEM]			
<b>16:00</b>				SG230 [ESR]	
<b>17:00</b>			SG230 [EHCR]		

## Timetable (2022/3): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

### Semester 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>09:00</b>				SG227 [PB1]	
<b>10:00</b>					
<b>11:00</b>					
<b>12:00</b>		SG208 [BSEM] SG223 [ECHR]			
<b>13:00</b>		HY224 [TSI035]			SG254 [JHT7]
<b>14:00</b>		HY224 [TSI035]			
<b>15:00</b>		SG208 [PB1]			
<b>16:00</b>				SG254 [EHCR]	
<b>17:00</b>					