

**SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY IRISH**

**MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES**



**FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' HANDBOOK 2023-24**

## Welcome

Welcome to Maynooth University and to the Department of Early Irish (Roinn na Sean-Ghaeilge). We are delighted that you have chosen our subject, Medieval Celtic Studies, and we hope that you will experience an enjoyable year as you explore the many aspects of Celtic Civilisation, for instance Medieval Irish literature, law and history, as well as the origins, language, culture and society of the Celts in mainland Europe. Early Irish literature is one of the earliest in Europe to be written in a vernacular language, i.e. in a language of the local people, other than the classical languages Latin and Greek. You will learn about the early stories, history, or women in early Irish and other Celtic societies.

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

Dr *Deborah Hayden* (Head of Department)

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Dr *Niamh Wycherley*

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## **Administrator**

Cormac Ó Feinneadha

Room 43, Arts Building

email: [earlyirish@mu.ie](mailto:earlyirish@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 3737

## **Important dates**

### *Semester 1*

18 September 2023 – 22 December 2023

25 September 2023	Lectures commence
20 October 2023	Change of subject deadline for 1 <sup>st</sup> -year students
30 October–3 November 2023	Study week
22 December 2023	Conclusion of first semester lectures
23 December 2023–5 January 2024	Christmas vacation
8–13 January 2024	Study period
12 January 2024	Examination period commences
29 January – 2 February 2024	Inter-semester break

### *Semester 2*

6 February 2024 – 10 May 2024

6 February 2024	Lectures resume
16 February 2024	Deadline for change of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester modules
25–28 March 2024	Study week
29 March 2024	Good Friday (no lectures)
1–5 April 2024	Easter vacation

6 May 2024	May bank holiday (no lectures)
7–10 May 2024	Conclusion of second semester lectures
13–16 May 2024	Study week
17 May 2024	Examination period commences

## **First Year – General Information**

### **General**

This subject is taken with two or three other arts subjects (excluding Accounting, Chinese Studies, French, Greek and Roman Civilisation, Mathematical Physics, Politics, Psychological Studies); Critical Skills modules may be substituted for one of the subjects. Our subject may be taken in first year alone or may be continued for the duration of the degree (three years, or four years in case of the B.A. International). 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 First Year Co-ordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Boyle ([elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie)). Whenever possible, queries pertaining to specific modules are best addressed to the lecturer in question during the consultation hours or after their lectures.

## Lectures

You are required to register for modules amounting to 15 credits in total. Therefore, you must register for all our compulsory modules (one per semester) listed below. Each module is worth 7.5 credits and entails 36 lectures (3 hours per week), delivered over the duration of the relevant semester. All first-year modules are accompanied by tutorials; 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 are of equal value in relation 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, please 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 due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, it is important to check this information at the beginning of each semester.

## Moodle

Each module has a particular account allocated on Maynooth University's academic support system Moodle at <https://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/>. Course material for each module and general information will be made available on the relevant Moodle pages. Familiarise yourself with this platform and get accustomed to using it regularly. It is a practical tool for communicating with your fellow students and lecturers about questions arising in the lectures.

## Assessment

The modules are examined through a combination of essays, examinations and various kinds of continuous assessment (e.g. home assignments, or class-work in the lectures and in the tutorials). The exact details for their relative weighting differ from module to module, details of which can be found in the module descriptors. Assessment methods may be subject to change, in which case these amendments will be confirmed by the lecturers in class or electronically. 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. 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 for a module is 80.

## **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.

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

You will be required to write essays (1,500–2,000 words approx.) for the modules. Recommended reading lists and essay titles will be communicated by the lecturers timely in class. Essay cover sheets can be downloaded from the Department webpage at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/early-irish-sean-ghailege/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, including text generated by artificial intelligence, 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/sites/default/files/filefield\\_paths/MU%20Policy%20on%20Plagiarism%20and%20Academic%20Integrity\\_Sept%202022.pdf](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/filefield_paths/MU%20Policy%20on%20Plagiarism%20and%20Academic%20Integrity_Sept%202022.pdf). Any such offences will be prosecuted according to Maynooth University rules and regulations stated therein.

Essays must be submitted by the deadline dates outlined in the descriptors of the modules below, 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 (22 December 2023 in semester 1; 10 May 2024 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

### **SG151 Celtic Civilisation 1 – Power and Status in the Celtic World (7.5 credits)**

This module introduces students to the rich and fascinating world of Celtic culture and literature, illustrated by a wide-range of literary and historical sources. From stories of Cú Chulainn through to the reality of the social inequalities of the medieval world, this module will develop critical skills in reading and analysing historical sources while opening a window on pre-modern Ireland, Wales and other Celtic-speaking societies.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 33 lecture hours + 9 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Mon 11:00 [EH], Tue 10:00 [HJ] and Wed 14:00 [HG]

**Lecturers:** Dr Elizabeth Boyle (module coordinator), Dr Eoin Grogan, Dr Corinna Salomon

**Assessment:**

- (a) 40% Essay (1,500–2,000 words), details and deadlines to be announced in class.
- (b) 10% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (c) 50% University scheduled written examination (90 min) in January 2024.

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

## Semester 2

### **SG152 Celtic Civilisation 2 – Gender and Sexuality in the Celtic World (7.5 credits)**

This module takes an interdisciplinary approach to questions of gender and sexuality in the Celtic-speaking world from the earliest sources in the Classical period through to the thirteenth century. Literary and documentary sources – such as legal texts, saga literature, ethnographical writings and hagiography – will be examined in conjunction with linguistic, material and visual culture in order to investigate a range of issues, including the status of women in Celtic societies, laws relating to marriage, paternity and sexual offences, and depictions and subversions of masculinity and femininity in medieval Celtic saga narratives.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 36 lecture hours + 10 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Mon 11:00 [IONSEM], Tue 10:00 [IONSEM] and Wed 14:00 [IONSEM]

**Lecturer:** Dr Elizabeth Boyle (module coordinator), Dr Eoin Grogan, Dr Corinna Salomon

**Assessment:**

- (a) 30% Essay (1,500–2,000 words), details and deadlines to be announced in class.
- (b) 30% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (c) 40% University scheduled written examination (90 min) in May 2024.

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

**Timetable (2023/24): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 1<sup>st</sup> Year**  
**Semester 1**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>09:00</b>					
<b>10:00</b>		SG151 [HJ]			
<b>11:00</b>	SG151 [EH]				
<b>12:00</b>					
<b>13:00</b>					
<b>14:00</b>			SG151 [HG]		
<b>15:00</b>					
<b>16:00</b>					
<b>17:00</b>					

**Timetable (2023/24): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 1<sup>st</sup> Year**  
**Semester 2**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>09:00</b>					
<b>10:00</b>		SG152 [IONSEM]			
<b>11:00</b>	SG152 [IONSEM]				
<b>12:00</b>					
<b>13:00</b>					
<b>14:00</b>			SG152 [IONSEM]		
<b>15:00</b>					
<b>16:00</b>					
<b>17:00</b>					