

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

MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES



FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' HANDBOOK 2024-25

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. 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

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Dr *Nora White*
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Administrator

Cormac Ó Feintheadha
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Important dates

Semester 1

16 September 2024 – 20 December 2024

23 September 2024	Lectures commence
18 October 2024	Change of subject deadline for 1 st -year students
28 October – 1 November 2024	Study week
20 December 2024	Conclusion of first semester lectures
21 December 2024–3 January 2025	Christmas vacation
6–11 January 2025	Study period
10 January 2025	Examination period commences
27 January – 31 January 2025	Inter-semester break

Semester 2

4 February 2025 – 9 May 2025

4 February 2025	Lectures resume
14 February 2025	Deadline for change of 2 nd semester modules
17–21 March 2025	Study week
18 April 2025	Good Friday (no lectures)
21–25 April 2025	Easter vacation
5 May 2025	May bank holiday (no lectures)
9 May 2025	Conclusion of second semester lectures
12–17 May 2025	Study week
16 May 2025	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 in Semester 1, and Dr Truc Ha Nguyen, truc.nguyen.2019@mumail.ie in Semester 2). 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. Many resources are also accessible via the library online and module lecturers will upload reading materials to Moodle. See the Appendix to this handbook for more information about how to use the Maynooth University Library.

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 Department, 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. 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 (20 December 2024 in semester 1; 9 May 2025 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

email: 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

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 [APT] and Wed 14:00 [TSI036]

Lecturers: Dr Elizabeth Boyle (module coordinator), Dr Seán Ó Hoireabhárd, Prof. David Stifter

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 2025.

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 Truc Ha Nguyen (module coordinator), Dr Nora White, Prof. David Stifter

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 2025.

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

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00					
10:00		SG151 [APT]			
11:00	SG151 [EH]				
12:00					
13:00					
14:00			SG151 [TSI036]		
15:00					
16:00					
17:00					

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

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

MU LIBRARY

Welcome to Maynooth University! We're looking forward to meeting you, whether you're studying online or on campus. Starting university can feel overwhelming, but don't worry—we're here to help every step of the way.

How the MU Library Can Help You:

- **E-books and Online Resources:** Easily find the materials you need for your assignments, essays and study.
- **Borrowing Books:** Access a wide range of physical books and other resources.
- **Workshops & Tutorials:** boost your information skills at short, in-person sessions called “LIST” – Library & Information Skills Tutorials.
- **Online Tutorials and Quizzes:** Short, free online resources to boost your information skills.
- **Helpful Staff:** Our friendly team is always ready to assist you in finding and using what you need.
- **One to One or Group Support:** Get help for your assignments and questions.
- **Group Study Rooms:** Perfect bookable spaces for working on projects with your classmates.

All these resources are FREE for MU students!

Start Here: Our Library Homepage



Visit our library homepage at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>. It's a great starting point for:

- Up-to-date library access information
- Details on using our services, both on and off-campus
- Information skills training classes (LIST & other sessions)
- Support for your studies and assignments

IMPORTANT! Use your MyCard (student card) to access the library and borrow books.



For more information, look at our guide “Using the Library” here <https://bit.ly/3LOslGU> or ask us for a demo.

Need Help? We're Here for You!



If you're having trouble finding what you need, our library staff are ready to help. [Photo by Daniel Balteanu]

Whether you're on campus or off, you can:

- Visit the **Library Information Desk** on the ground floor of the library
- Use the live “Library Chat” box on our homepage
- Fill out our “Online Enquiry Form” on the left side of our homepage

Explore Our Study Spaces

The MU Library, located on the South Campus, across the road from the TSI building, offers various study spaces to suit your needs:

- **Ground Floor:** Open-access area before the turnstiles, where you can eat, drink, and chat, with over 50 laptops and print facilities.
- **Levels 1 and 2:** Quieter areas with bookable group study rooms, a flexible learning space and a silent study room.



Check out our spaces ahead of time with our VR Tours and Exhibitions here:

<https://bit.ly/3WLU41>

Find the Right Resources



Using the correct information source is crucial for your success. Each subject has a dedicated *Subject Guide* on our website. These guides, available here:

<https://bit.ly/3SuB84D> include recommended books, databases, reference styles, online tutorials, and more. There's contact information for our *Teaching & Learning Librarians*, if you need more information on your topic.

Use *LibrarySearch* <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library> to find specific books or articles on your reading lists. The search results will show you e-books, e-journals, and the location of print books on our shelves.

Tech and Tools at the Library

We offer various technological resources, including:

- **Laptop Loans:** Borrow a laptop from the laptop-bank opposite the library desk.
- **Ground Floor Print Hub:** Multifunction printers available for all your print jobs.
- **3D Printing:** Available for free student and staff use; ask at the Information Desk.
- **Charging Stations:** For recharging your devices quickly.
- **Short Story Dispenser:** For a quick, fun read.
- **Wellness Zone:** Try out our 3 Energy Pods & Cubbie on Level 1, for rest and relaxation.



You can also suggest up to 5 books a year for the library to order here:

<https://bit.ly/4dcxLYj>

IT Services

IT Services are available at the Library Information Desk during service hours to help with any IT issues, including photocopying.

Refreshments

There is a Starbuck's Café found on the ground floor of the library, plus vending machines and water fountains available in the library.






Stay Connected and Informed

Keep an eye on the screens in the library for events. Follow us on social media for updates, tips and events throughout the year:

- **Instagram:** @library_mu
- **Facebook:** @MaynoothUniLibrary
- **X:** @mu_library

We wish you every success in your studies and look forward to seeing you soon!

Useful Links and Contacts

- **Library Homepage:** <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library> 
- **Using the Library:** <https://nuim.libguides.com/library-services/usingthelibrary> 
- **A-Z Subject Guides:** <https://nuim.libguides.com/> 
- **Book a Group Study Room:** https://nuim.libcal.com/booking/MU_GroupStudyRooms 
- **Online Tutorials:** <http://nuim.libguides.com/list-online> 

Contact Us

For queries, visit our library homepage for live chat or our online enquiries can also email us at library.information@mu.ie.

Welcome to Maynooth University Library!