

Department of History

Welcome Booklet

2024-2025



A Welcome from Terence Dooley, Professor of History and Head of Department



For the past seven decades, your department has consistently played a pivotal role in advancing historical research, preserving our cultural heritage and nurturing the academic curiosity of countless citizens. Through your years of excellence in teaching, research and publication, you have illuminated the past, providing us with the insights necessary to navigate the intricacies of the present and the challenges of the future in an ever more interconnected and uncertain society, empowering students in the pursuit of understanding our world to become informed and engaged citizens.

**Prof Michael D Higgins
to Department of History,
29 September 2023.**

Dear Students,

As Head of the Department of History at Maynooth University, and on behalf of all my colleagues, it is a great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to each and every one of you, whether undergraduate or postgraduate.

Some of you are just beginning your university journey as Freshers, and this may seem a little daunting at first, but I want to assure you that my colleagues and I will do all we can to help you settle in quickly so that every stage of your academic journey will be a rewarding and enjoyable one.

Others of you have progressed beyond graduation and you are just beginning, or are well advanced, in your postgraduate studies. You are now part of a department that has a very long tradition of postgraduate excellence. Our students have gone on to fill high profile positions in academia (both as academics and administrators), the civil service, diplomatic corps, in industry, as politicians, educators, and a variety of other career areas. The vast majority of almost 200 books in the Maynooth Local History series emanates from theses completed in the Department. Our weekly research seminars bring scholars to you from institutions across the world, many of whom work in collaboration with colleagues in the Department. This is a very exciting chapter in your lives and it is my earnest hope that you will enjoy every step of the way to an MA or a PhD.

All of you together constitute a very important part of what is arguably the most vibrant History department in the country, and I would like to assure you that our department is committed to helping you in any way we can to fulfil your academic ambitions.

In 2023, the Department celebrated 70 years of excellence in teaching, research and publication. This milestone was recognised by President Michael D Higgins in a letter to the Department, part of which is quoted here. President Higgins' warm and generous message acknowledged the fact that the Department is staffed by colleagues who have pioneered and continue to lead research in a broad range of areas that cover the history of Ireland, Europe, North America, and the world in general. They have set research agendas in Ireland and internationally on a whole range of varied topics across a very broad chronological span, with the result that the Department offers an extremely impressive and diverse range of modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Academic colleagues are backed up by a dynamic and highly supportive administrative staff who are also fully committed to supporting you in every way they can.



I strongly recommend you read the undergraduate or postgraduate handbook, whichever is relevant to you, and acquaint yourself with everything that is in it. These handbooks can be found at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history/documentation>; they will help you understand the choices available to you and the structures of the History degree. They also will provide you with much vital information on the practices, regulations, and standards of the Department.

This is an exhilarating time to be a History student because never has the discipline looked so exciting, diverse, and cosmopolitan in what it has to offer to students. Thus, it is imperative that you make the most of every day you spend with us, learning from time you spend in class with lecturers and tutors, from meeting with your peers in social clusters where you can discuss and debate, and from engaging with established scholars who carry a lifetime of experience and who are more than willing to share this with you.

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful and successful year. Do please feel free to come and see me or any of my colleagues if at any time you wish to discuss your present or your future.

Very best wishes,

Prof Terence Dooley, Head of Department
23 September 2024





Maynooth University Department of History

The Department of History at Maynooth University is one of Ireland's leading centres for the study of history. Our academics and administrators provide you with high-quality teaching and close supervision of your academic progress. We are committed to ensuring that your experience at Maynooth University is stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable. Our research interests cover a wide variety of periods and themes.

Please note: detailed student handbooks for undergraduates and postgraduates contain complete departmental policies and are available at: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history/documentation. The tables of contents of the handbooks are attached at the end of this booklet for reference. All course information is found on the University course finder, the University timetable and Moodle, all available at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/current-students>

Health and Safety

Your health and safety is our number one priority. The University is committed to complying with all relevant health and safety legislation and has legal obligations to implement its health and safety policies. Your commitment and co-operation is essential for the implementation of this policy. Each student is required:

- to take reasonable care of his/her safety and that of any person who may be affected by their activities;
- to cooperate with the University;
- to report defects;
- not to interfere with anything provided to secure the safety, health and welfare of persons on the premises.

In the event of a fire alarm sounding while you are in class, or on any business in the Department of History located in Rhetoric House, please evacuate the building and proceed to one of the prescribed assembly points. For Rhetoric House they are located in the car park to the front of Logic House and in the Riverstown Courtyard. Under no circumstances should you attempt to return to the building until the all clear is announced.

The university's health and safety statement may be consulted at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/university-policies/health-safety>



Staying Connected: Student-Staff Communications



Effective communications are essential in the navigation of your academic career. There are a number of channels through which we in the History Department endeavour to ensure effective communications between staff and students.

The departmental website

The departmental website provides up-to-date information about the Department, its staff, courses on offer and upcoming events. Please visit us at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history>

Consult with our staff

You are encouraged to consult with staff on academic or other matters concerning your studies. All full-time lecturers have consultation times set aside to meet with students. These times are posted on their office doors and on the departmental website:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history/contact-us>

If, by chance, all the consultation times posted by a lecturer that you wish to see clash with your classes, you can ask for an appointment to see the lecturer at another mutually convenient time.

Individual lecturers and tutors will indicate the extent to which they can deal with enquiries by email. However, email communication can never substitute for face-to-face student-staff consultation. Please take advantage of our office hours; you are always most welcome!

Staff advisory roles

The History Department staff are tasked to provide advice in a number of areas. Should you have any questions about specific areas or programmes, please contact the appropriate member of staff directly.

Undergraduate Coordinator: Alison Fitzgerald

Coordinator of Research Postgraduate Programmes: Marian Lyons

Taught MA Programme Directors:

MA in European History: Dejan Djokic

MA in Irish History: Jonathan Wright

MA in Local History: Michael Potterton

MA in Military History: David Murphy

International Coordinator: JoAnne Mancini

Access/Mature Student Coordinator: Dympna McLoughlin

EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion): Jennifer Redmond

Student/Staff Committee: Terence Dooley

Website Appraisal: Roisín Higgins

Social Media Coordinator and Assistant Director CSHIHE: Ciaran Reilly

Director, Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies: Ian Speller





Your Departmental Community

Email

The Department of History communicates with students using their Maynooth University email addresses. It is vital that you check your email regularly and respond in a timely manner when necessary.

Moodle

Some lecturers use Moodle, a virtual learning environment, to provide on-line support for their modules including uploading study materials, posting notices/announcements regarding classes, assignments, etc. You can access Moodle here:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/current-students>

Social Media

The Department of History has a presence on social media. We use social media to publicise news and general activities among students, staff and alumni. The accounts to follow are:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maynoothhistory>

X (formerly Twitter): @MaynoothHist <https://twitter.com/MaynoothHist>

Departmental Student-Staff Liaison Committee

In Semester 1, students in the Department are invited to elect representatives to this committee which meets regularly throughout the year to consider any issues that affect the work of students, and related matters. You are encouraged to get to know your class representative and to tell them about any questions or problems you may have.



Key Dates 2024-25

The general calendar for the University, which includes in- and out-of-semester dates for the academic year, can be found at:

<https://maynoothuniversity.ie/registrar/key-term-dates>

First Semester lectures: 23 September – 20 December 2024

Study Week: 28 October – 1 November 2024 (inclusive)

Second Semester lectures: Tuesday, 4 February to Friday, 9 May 2025

Study Week: 17-21 March 2025 (inclusive)

Easter: 21-25 April 2025 (inclusive)

Within the Department, there are also key dates which you should note carefully:

Undergraduate Key Dates

Monday, 6 January 2025: Deadline for First Semester elective module projects

Monday, 12 May 2025: Deadline for Second Semester elective module projects

Postgraduate Key Dates

Taught MA Programmes (MA European History, MA Irish History, MA Local History, MA Military History & Strategic Studies)

Monday, 4 November 2024: submit 750-word summary of intended topic to the programme director

Friday, 6 December 2024: submit 2,000-word draft introduction to supervisor

Friday, 24 January 2025: submit a draft chapter to supervisor

Friday, 2 May 2025: submit a first complete draft of thesis to supervisor

Friday, 6 June 2025: submit final draft of thesis to supervisor

Friday, 4 July 2025: Submit the final electronic and one hard copy to the History departmental office. Additional instructions may be forthcoming from individual programme directors.

PhD (First Year) Calendar 2024-2025

12 September 2024: HY832 PhD Research tutorial 1 begins (weekly, Thursday 3pm)

10 October 2024: First Research Seminar (Thursday 6pm-7.15pm, schedule as circulated)

10 October 2024: Deadline for Irish Research Council (IRC) applications (see www.research.ie)

6 February 2025: HY833 PhD Research tutorial 2 begins (weekly, Thursday 3pm)

13 February 2025: Research Seminar resumes (Thursday 6pm-7.15pm, schedule as circulated)

28 April 2025: Annual report to supervisor(s)



The Wider University: Find out what the University can do for YOU

Students should familiarise themselves with Maynooth University Registry, the primary administrative unit responsible for:

Student Records and Registration:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/records>

Examinations and timetabling:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams>

Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office is available to assist and advise undergraduate students with programme choices and 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 they are unsure about programme options, for example questions about the flexible degree pathways, or whether or not to choose to take an Elective.

Email: programme.choices@mu.ie

Tel: 01 474 7428

Website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office>

Location: Room 1.17, ground floor, Rowan House

Maynooth University Access Programme

The Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) provides a wide variety of supports to students with disabilities, as well as encouraging under-represented groups and diversity, developing inclusive policies and promoting student independence to help students reach their full academic potential. For a comprehensive list of services, see:

<https://maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office#>





Student Skills and Success and SPUR

Experiential learning modules, such as Professional Development and Employability (involving employer-led sessions) are managed by the Student Skills and Success Office. It also has responsibility for the MU Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research (SPUR). This is a paid six-week summer research placement where you will be 'learning by doing and reflecting' and can connect classroom content with real-world experience. The Department of History has participated in SPUR-type schemes since they started and hopes to do so again.

Website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-success>

Location: Rowan House.

Maynooth University Library

Did you know that you can request that the Library order unavailable books on your behalf? Students in History are urged to make the most of the outstanding facilities of the John Paul II University Library. It offers a variety of study spaces, ever-changing exhibitions on the ground floor, sleep pods, and, with its coffee shop, a place to meet between classes. It is open from early to late, with additional opening hours during examination times. The staff are renowned for their helpfulness and expertise. For more information, explore the Library Homepage at:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>



Finally: the History Department maintains detailed handbooks with complete descriptions of departmental policies, regulations, and so on. Should you have any further questions about Departmental Policy in relation to any of the subjects mentioned in the tables of contents below please consult the appropriate Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook at: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history/documentation>

Undergraduate Handbook

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