

**Want to be  
taught by  
the best?**

**Want to think  
outside the  
cubicle?**

**Want to be  
irresistible to  
employers?**

Maynooth  
University

**BE  
MORE**

# Maynooth University is looking to the future... **your future.**

September 2016 marks the beginning of Maynooth University's revised undergraduate curriculum – the new Maynooth Education.

This is your chance to take advantage of a university education that draws on great ideas from around the world and is unlike anything else in Ireland.

- We've adapted what we teach and how we teach
- We've added flexibility and time to decide what you want to study
- We know what will make you stand out in the world of work, throughout your career

Your future is exciting and challenging. Employers around the world are seeking graduates who can think clearly, who can communicate, who can solve problems.

Whatever course you want to study, a Maynooth Education will give you the skills to communicate effectively, to think about the world in a different way, and the flexibility and personal development that will serve as the best foundation for your future.



# What employers are looking for

A survey\* of Irish and multinational employers said they wanted graduates with:

- A greater level of 'soft skills', e.g. verbal and written communication, teamwork, grammar
- More technical skills such as, problem solving, analytical skills, data analysis
- More practical workplace experience through placements or work experience programmes
- An entrepreneurial spirit
- General presentation skills
- Study of specific foreign languages alongside many degree courses

**A Maynooth Education** is designed to provide this blend of expertise and skills that employers are seeking.



\* Source: Department of Education and Skills, 2015

# The Key Components of a Maynooth Education

## First-Year Choices



A newly designed first year that is unlike any other first year university experience in Ireland.

We've designed our programmes to allow you to specialise from the start, or, in our larger degree programmes, take up to four subjects in the first year and specialise in second year, when you are sure what you prefer. These larger degree programmes also give you time to sample a range of subjects during your first four weeks at Maynooth. Many of our students spend that time discovering new subjects and often find themselves moving into career areas they had never considered.

## Critical Skills Courses



Employers are seeking graduates with 'critical thinking skills' – the ability to understand and deliver complex arguments, evaluate evidence, make balanced judgements, and communicate ideas clearly. Because these skills are so important, we embed them throughout all our degree programmes and have designed a series of foundational *First Year Critical Skills courses*. These small-group, optional courses can be taken in addition to your chosen subject(s), and give you an opportunity to develop these essential skills from the outset of your university career. As an example, Critical Skills courses on offer in 2015–16: *Great ideas that changed the western world* and *Globalisation: Integrating worlds and Universal Critical Skills*.

## Flexible Degree Structure



Our degrees are structured to give you the maximum possible flexibility to customise the programme of study, and allow you to experience different ways of thinking. There are a range of degree structures (where possible):

- Double Major – taking two subjects equally to degree level
- Major / Minor – specialising in one subject, while continuing with a second subject to degree level
- Single Major – specialising in only one subject to degree level.

We will also offer opportunities to combine subjects across the arts and sciences – and get you that exposure to different ways of thinking that employers crave.

## CAO Entry Routes



We are reducing the number of entry routes to our undergraduate programmes, making it easier to apply and allowing you to sample a range of subjects or specialise in a way that suits your interests and ambitions.

## Languages



Many employers are looking for graduates with strong language skills that accompany their degrees. Maynooth is offering students the ability to study a language (to various degrees of fluency) alongside many degrees, with classes in: Irish, Chinese, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese.



### **Electives (short courses outside your main subjects)**

Employers want to hire people who can look at the world in a different way, to find innovative solutions to their most challenging problems. Maynooth gets this. In second year you will have the option to gain exposure to a subject area that you find interesting but may be outside your chosen subject(s) by taking an 'Elective Stream' that makes up 1/6 of your study for the year. Examples include:

- Law and Society
- Science Communication
- Entrepreneurship, Creativity & Problem Solving
- Film and Screen Studies



### **Experiential Learning**

Many of our degree programmes include options for undergraduate research, work placements and study abroad (all are subject to availability). These provide opportunities for you to develop new skills, expand your horizons, and to get the experience that will help you to stand out from the crowd.



### **Clubs, Societies, Volunteering and Showcasing that Work**

Students who get involved in the University and local community find they develop strong leadership and teamwork skills and gain the confidence to communicate their talents and experiences to future employers at interview. You'll have the opportunity to create a web-based portfolio of your academic and non-academic work that will provide potential employers with a more rounded picture of your achievements and experiences.



# Maynooth in Numbers

The University has the highest growth rate in student numbers in Ireland: a 28% increase between 2010 and 2015

28%↑

Number of students who say they would choose Maynooth again ☒

86%

11,000

Students

9,100 

Undergraduate

1,530 

Postgraduates

370 

Doctoral and other research postgraduates

1,500 

International students from 85 countries

A network of alumni across the globe

50,000



A Maynooth Education –  
Your path to a job and  
infinite career possibilities