



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE

UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY



# INTERNATIONAL Summer School

Study. Explore. Experience Ireland.

# Welcome

Welcome to the University of Galway International Summer School, where you can choose from an exciting range of courses in Irish Studies, Irish Language, Ecology, Business and Archaeology. Each programme offers a rich and engaging exploration of its subject, taught by expert academics and educators who are passionate about sharing their knowledge and inspiring your curiosity.

Through stimulating lectures, interactive workshops and educational field trips, you will experience a dynamic learning environment that encourages discussion, critical thinking and fresh perspectives. You will gain valuable knowledge, practical skills and unforgettable experiences that will stay with you long after your time in Galway.

The University of Galway is at the heart of one of Ireland's most welcoming and vibrant cities. Set on Ireland's stunning Atlantic coast, Galway is renowned for its lively cultural scene, world-famous summer festivals and unique atmosphere, attracting visitors from across the globe each year.

I look forward to welcoming you to the University of Galway and wish you a rewarding academic experience and a memorable stay in the West of Ireland.

**Nuala McGuinn**  
Director, International Summer School

*The Summer School photographs in this brochure were taken by our International Summer School students.*

## Contents

01-02 About the International Summer School

### Courses

03-06 Irish Studies

07-08 Irish Language

09-12 Ecology: Living Landscapes in the West of Ireland

15-18 Business & International Management

19-20 Galway Archaeological Field School

### General Information

21 Programme Dates

21 Entry Requirements

22 Academic Credit

22 Tuition and Fees

22 How to Apply

23 Accommodation

24 Contact us



# About the International Summer School

The University of Galway International Summer School welcomes students from around the world to study in one of Ireland's most vibrant and welcoming cities. Our programmes combine academic excellence with cultural immersion through expert teaching, interactive learning and educational excursions.

Located on Ireland's spectacular Atlantic coast, on the west coast of Ireland, Galway is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, thriving arts scene and breathtaking landscapes, making it an inspiring place to learn, explore and connect. It is famous for its creative industries, medical device and ICT sector, marine ecology and innovation districts.

Home to more than 19,000 students from over 120 countries, the University of Galway offers a diverse, inclusive and globally connected learning environment.



Ranked among the **Top 2%** of universities worldwide



**22 subject areas** recognised in the QS World University Rankings



Home to **19,000+ students** from **110+ countries** with a global alumni community of **110,000+ graduates**



**Sustainability** is one of the University's four core values



Galway was named the **"Most Charming City"** by The New York Times

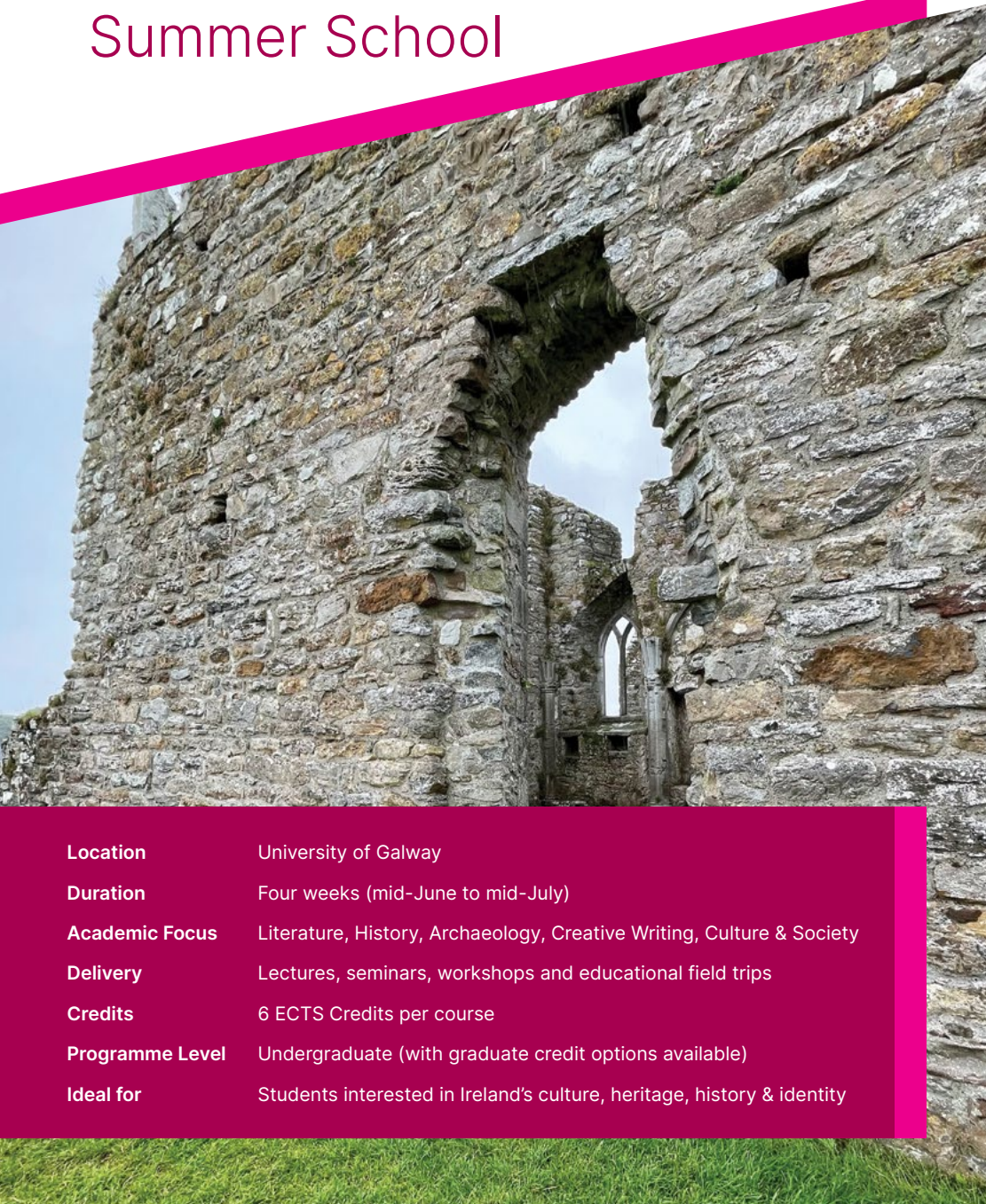


Campus recognised among the **30 most beautiful university campuses in Europe**

## Why Study here?

- > **LEARN** from internationally recognised academics & researchers.
- > **EXPERIENCE** innovative, interactive teaching with real-world perspectives.
- > **STUDY** in a welcoming university that values excellence, sustainability & global engagement.
- > **BUILD** international friendships & networks while living in one of Ireland's most distinctive cities.

# Irish Studies Summer School



|                 |                                                                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location        | University of Galway                                                   |
| Duration        | Four weeks (mid-June to mid-July)                                      |
| Academic Focus  | Literature, History, Archaeology, Creative Writing, Culture & Society  |
| Delivery        | Lectures, seminars, workshops and educational field trips              |
| Credits         | 6 ECTS Credits per course                                              |
| Programme Level | Undergraduate (with graduate credit options available)                 |
| Ideal for       | Students interested in Ireland's culture, heritage, history & identity |

## Discover Ireland Through its History, Culture and People

The Irish Studies Programme offers an engaging exploration of Ireland's rich cultural heritage through literature, history, archaeology, language and society. Designed for international students, the programme provides a unique opportunity to understand the many dimensions of Irish identity while experiencing the culture and landscapes that have shaped Ireland.

Students learn from leading academics across a range of disciplines while exploring Ireland beyond the classroom through educational field trips, cultural events and visits to significant heritage sites. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students examine themes including identity, migration, language, gender, heritage and social change, gaining valuable insights into Ireland's past and present.

## Learning Experience

The programme combines academic study with immersive cultural experiences. Students learn through:

- Expert lectures and interactive seminars
- Interdisciplinary discussions and workshops
- Literary and cultural events
- Guided tours and educational field trips
- Engagement with Ireland's history, language, music and traditions

The programme encourages critical thinking, discussion and independent learning while providing students with opportunities to connect classroom themes with real-world experiences.

**Irish Language:** Introductory Irish Language classes are also provided for students interested in learning basic elements of the language.

## Entry Requirements

Applicants are normally required to be university graduates or have completed two full years at university or college level before being admitted to the programme. Students should have also attained a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

The programme is delivered by academic staff from the College of Arts, Social Science and Celtic Studies at the University of Galway.

## Course Options

Students choose two courses from a selection of specialist courses exploring different aspects of Ireland's culture, history and society.

### REPRESENTING IRELAND LITERATURE & FILM

Explore how Ireland and Irish identity have been represented through literature, theatre and cinema. Students examine the work of influential Irish writers including W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Lady Gregory and Brian Friel while exploring themes of landscape, migration, gender, nationality and cultural identity.

**Field Trip:** Coole Park, Thoor Ballylee and Kilmacduagh

### IRISH HISTORY

Explore the key events and movements that shaped modern Ireland, from the Tudor conquest and Anglo-Irish relations to nationalism, independence and the political challenges of the twentieth century. Students examine the historical forces that continue to influence Ireland today.

**Field Trip:** Historical discussion and debate at Galway's Mechanics Institute

### GAELIC LITERATURE & CULTURE

Discover Ireland's ancient storytelling traditions, folklore and literary heritage. Students explore early Gaelic narratives, mythology, Irish folklore, oral traditions and the development of modern Gaelic identity through translated texts. No previous knowledge of the Irish language is required.

**Field Trip:** Galway City Museum

### IRISH SOCIETY

Explore Ireland's dramatic social transformation from a traditional rural society to one of the world's most globally connected nations. Topics include religion, education, politics, family life, media, gender and social change.

**Field Trip:** Cultural walking tour of Galway City

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF IRELAND

Discover more than 10,000 years of Ireland's history through one of Europe's richest archaeological landscapes. This course explores Ireland's human story from early hunter-gatherer communities to the medieval period, examining how archaeology reveals the development of Irish society.

**Field Trip:** Archaeological visits to prehistoric and medieval sites in the Burren and County Galway

### CREATIVE WRITING

Develop your creative writing through workshops, reading exercises and practical feedback. Students explore fiction and poetry while developing their own creative voice through close engagement with literary texts and Galway's vibrant literary community.

**Field Trip:** Participation in literary events organised locally in Galway

### ECONOMIC POLICY IN IRELAND

Examine the economic and public policy issues shaping contemporary Ireland. Students explore topics including healthcare, housing, environmental policy and social protection while developing an understanding of the economic principles used to analyse public policy challenges.

**Prerequisite:** Principles of Microeconomics (or equivalent)

**Field Trip:** Visit to Ireland's National Parliament (Dublin)

### CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

Field trips are an essential part of the Irish Studies experience, allowing students to connect academic learning with Ireland's landscapes, communities and heritage. Programme highlights may include day trips to places like:

**The Aran Islands**  
**Kylemore Abbey**  
**The Irish Workhouse**  
**Clonmacnoise Monastic Site**  
**Aillwee Burren Experience**  
**Caherconnell Stonefort**  
**Museum of Country Life**

Please note that courses and field trips may vary each year.



# Irish Language Summer School



|                 |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location        | Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, An Cheathrú Rua, Connemara                                                |
| Duration        | Three weeks (June)                                                                                   |
| Academic Focus  | Irish language, culture, folklore & Irish language communication skills                              |
| Delivery        | Intensive language classes, cultural activities, excursions & community engagement                   |
| Credits         | 12 ECTS Credits per course                                                                           |
| Language Levels | Beginners (A1), Elementary (A2) and Intermediate (B1) CEFR                                           |
| Ideal for       | Students wishing to learn Irish or develop their existing language skills through cultural immersion |

## Learn Irish in the Heart of the Gaeltacht

Experience the Irish language where it is spoken every day in the Connemara Gaeltacht. Based at the University of Galway's Irish Language Centre in An Cheathrú Rua, this immersive programme combines high-quality language tuition with authentic cultural experiences, helping students build confidence in spoken Irish while exploring Ireland's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

## Learning Experience

Students benefit from:

- Daily Irish language classes in small groups
- Cultural workshops and guest lectures
- Traditional music and cultural events
- Excursions throughout Connemara and the Gaeltacht
- Opportunities to practise Irish with native speakers
- Accommodation with Irish-speaking host families

Learning extends beyond the classroom through everyday interaction with the local community, providing a truly immersive language experience.

## Language Levels

Courses are offered at Beginner (A1), Elementary (A2) and Intermediate (B1) levels. Students are placed in the most appropriate class based on their previous experience of Irish.

## Entry Requirements

For advice on the most suitable level, course content or academic requirements, prospective students are encouraged to contact the Course Director.

## Scholarships

The Fulbright Commission offers Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards to US citizens while the Ireland Canada University Foundation offers scholarships to Canadian citizens who wish to study the Irish language.



# Ecology: Living Landscapes of the West of Ireland

|                 |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location        | University of Galway and field locations throughout County Galway and the West of Ireland            |
| Duration        | Three weeks (mid-June to early July)                                                                 |
| Academic Focus  | Ecology, biodiversity, conservation, sustainability & environmental management                       |
| Delivery        | Fieldwork, seminars, ecological surveys and practical investigations                                 |
| Credits         | 10 ECTS Credits per course                                                                           |
| Programme Level | Undergraduate (with graduate credit options available)                                               |
| Ideal for       | Students studying ecology, environmental science, geography, natural heritage or related disciplines |

## Explore Ireland's Unique Natural Landscapes

Discover the remarkable biodiversity of the west of Ireland through an immersive, field-based ecology programme. Combining scientific study with practical experience, this programme provides students with the opportunity to explore Ireland's diverse habitats while developing the skills needed to understand, monitor and conserve natural environments.

Based at the University of Galway, students learn within one of Europe's most distinctive ecological regions, from the limestone landscapes of the Burren to the coastal habitats and uplands of Connemara. Through direct experience in the field, students develop practical survey skills and gain insight into the challenges and opportunities of sustainable environmental management.

## Learning Experience

This intensive programme combines ecological theory with hands-on field experience. Students explore how natural systems function, how habitats are shaped by environmental processes and human activity, and how scientific knowledge can support conservation. It will also consider conservation and sustainability issues and the challenges facing the environment.

Students learn through:

- Field-based ecological surveys
- Habitat assessment and species identification
- Interactive seminars and discussions
- Practical conservation activities
- Group and individual presentations
- Reflective learning journals

The programme is delivered by the Applied Ecology Unit at the University of Galway and provides students with the opportunity to learn directly from experienced ecologists and environmental specialists.

## Entry Requirements

This programme is designed for students who have completed at least one year of university or college study in a relevant discipline, including:

- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Geography
- Botany
- Zoology
- Natural History
- Natural Heritage

Applicants should normally have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

As much of the programme takes place outdoors, students should have a reasonable level of fitness and be comfortable participating in short hikes and activities over uneven terrain.

## Field Experience

Students engage in a range of fieldtrips which are a core element of programme delivery including:

### THE BURREN

Study one of Ireland's most distinctive natural environments, a unique karst limestone landscape recognised for its exceptional biodiversity, rare plant species and geological features including limestone pavement and turloughs.

### CONNEMARA

Experience the ecological diversity of Ireland's Atlantic landscape through visits to:

- Coastal & seashore habitats
- Blanket bogs
- Upland environments
- Freshwater ecosystems





Jordan Graham  
Irish Studies

I was already studying the Irish language, and I had a keen interest in Irish history. This program has been a good taster for going back to school and potentially moving abroad.

The faculty have been stellar, taking meetings with me, chatting over coffee, availing themselves in any way they could on my journey. But my most treasured memories will be those secrets of Galway and the university that only reveal themselves when you linger long enough to listen—when you speak Irish to the sean-nós múinteoirí and they teach you a song long after the class is concluded, or when your professor tells you about the induction of a new special collection in the library so you go on a whim.

There are so many nuggets of gold in this program beside the schedule, you just gotta know how to dig for them, or rather, meet the people who will help you dig. Bain taitneamh as!

Samantha Borek  
Irish Studies



Meeting students from around the world was incredibly inspiring. So many of them have impressive goals, exciting careers, and big ambitions back home. **Being surrounded by people who are motivated and driven encouraged me to think bigger about my own future.** It reminded me that success comes from being willing to take opportunities, work hard, and keep an open mind.

This experience has changed how I see myself. It reminded me that if I truly commit to something, I can achieve it. I now feel more prepared than ever to return home, finish my final year of my bachelor's degree with confidence, and continue to my master's degree. Beyond academics, I have grown personally. I have become more patient, more logical, and more willing to understand people before making assumptions. I have rediscovered how naturally social I can be and how much I enjoy connecting with people from different cultures.



Iris Pierce  
Irish Studies

Going abroad solo for the first time to a new country can be a jolting experience. Even though Ireland felt like a welcoming place to start, I was still nervous about venturing out into the world on my own. Would I get lost? Would I forget to eat? What if I didn't like it?

I surprised myself with how quickly I adapted. Between attending classes and exploring Galway, I found myself discovering the Burren's rich archaeological heritage, sampling spice bags I unexpectedly fell in love with, and wandering the city streets with the confidence of a local—though I was far from one. **The Summer School gave me the space to step outside my comfort zone and experience things I never expected.**

Sure, there were moments of confusion at the beginning. I mean, where does one even buy a Leap Card? But I learned that it's okay not to know. Things will eventually work themselves out. There will be times you get lost, forget to eat, or feel uneasy. But no adventure exists without bumps in the road. In the end, I left with new memories and realized that my initial worries were simply part of the journey.

Before coming to Ireland, I honestly had no idea what to expect. I applied because the program sounded interesting and because I wanted to explore the country. **Looking back now, it was definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made.**

A course that I really enjoyed was International and Cross-Cultural Management. It completely changed the way I think about communicating. Learning how people from different cultures negotiate, communicate, and build relationships made me realize how important it is to understand someone's perspective and culture, not just your own.

My favourite part about being in Ireland was, however, the people. The program might only last a month, but it's amazing how quickly strangers can become friends. I met so many people from all around the world and made memories with them that I will always cherish.

Carina Mannes  
Business & International Management



# Business & International Management



|                 |                                                                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location        | University of Galway                                                                           |
| Duration        | 4 weeks in (mid-June to mid-July)                                                              |
| Academic Focus  | Digital entrepreneurship, international management & economic policy                           |
| Delivery        | Lectures, tutorials, case studies, industry engagement & presentations                         |
| Credits         | 6 ECTS Credits per course                                                                      |
| Programme Level | Undergraduate (with graduate credit options available)                                         |
| Ideal for       | Students interested in global business, innovation, entrepreneurship and international careers |

## Develop Your Global Business Perspective

Prepare for the challenges of today's interconnected business world through the University of Galway's Business and International Management Summer Programme. Combining academic excellence with practical learning, the programme explores how businesses operate, innovate and compete in a rapidly changing global environment.

Designed for students seeking an international business experience, the programme combines specialist study with industry engagement, cultural learning and practical application. Students develop the knowledge, skills and global awareness needed to succeed in an increasingly international workplace.

Students select two specialist courses, allowing them to tailor their learning experience while gaining a broader understanding of contemporary business challenges.

## Learning Experience

The programme combines theory with practical application, enabling students to explore current business issues through an international perspective.

Students learn through:

- Interactive lectures and tutorials
- Business case studies
- Industry visits and guest speakers
- Collaborative group projects
- Presentations and applied learning activities

The programme is delivered by academic staff from the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at the University of Galway, combining research expertise with real-world business insight.

## Entry Requirements

This programme is open to students from a range of academic backgrounds who have completed at least one year of university or college study.

Applicants should normally have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

## Course Options

Students will study two of the following specialist courses.

### E-BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES: DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN THINKING

Explore how digital technologies are transforming modern business and entrepreneurship. Using design thinking as a practical framework, students learn how to identify challenges, develop innovative solutions and create digital business opportunities.

*Students engage with academic experts and industry professionals across areas including:*

**FinTech**

**MedTech**

**EcoTech**

**Digital innovation**

Through a practical project, students develop a digital venture concept supported by a business model and present their ideas to a panel of entrepreneurs and industry experts.

### INTERNATIONAL & CROSS- CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Develop the skills needed to work effectively in global organisations and multicultural teams. This course examines how culture influences business practices, leadership, communication and management approaches around the world.

*Students explore:*

**International management practices**

**Cross-cultural communication**

**Global leadership**

**Managing diverse teams**

**The impact of globalisation on organisations**

The course provides valuable preparation for students interested in international business careers.

### ECONOMIC POLICY IN IRELAND

Gain insight into the economic and public policy issues shaping contemporary Ireland.

This course examines topics including healthcare, housing, environmental policy and social protection while introducing students to economic concepts used to analyse public decision-making.

*Students explore* how economic frameworks can be applied to real-world challenges and gain a deeper understanding of Ireland's economic development and policy environment.

**Prerequisite:** Principles of Microeconomics (or equivalent).

**Field Experience:** Visit to Dublin to meet policy advisers and analysts at the National Parliament (Dublin).

### INDUSTRY & CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Industry engagement and cultural exploration are central elements of the summer school programme. Students will gain valuable insights into Ireland's business environment through a range of company visits.

They will also experience the unique culture of the west of Ireland through educational visits to:

**Kylemore Abbey**

**The Burren**

**Cliffs of Moher**

Cultural experiences throughout Galway and the surrounding region

These experiences allow students to connect academic learning with Ireland's thriving business, technology and innovation ecosystem.



# Galway Archaeological Field School



## Discover Medieval Ireland

The Galway Archaeological Field School offers students the opportunity to explore the archaeology and architecture of medieval Ireland through hands-on field-based study. Based in County Galway, the programme focuses on Ireland's rich heritage of medieval castles, churches, and monasteries, combining academic learning with practical experience.

## Learning Experience

Students gain hands-on experience through archaeological excavation and visits to some of Ireland's most important medieval buildings. Teaching is delivered in small groups, enabling students to receive close attention and develop a strong understanding of the skills and techniques introduced during the programme.

## Entry Requirements

Entry requirements, academic credits, fees, accommodation information, and application details are available directly from the Galway Archaeological Field School. Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information.

## Course Options

Course details, dates, and programme combinations are available on the Galway Archaeological Field School website - [www.gafs.ie](http://www.gafs.ie)



# General Information

The information in this section provides an overview of key practical details for planning your Summer School experience. Programme-specific information, including dates, fees, accommodation options and application requirements, is available on the individual programme pages and the International Summer School website.

## Programme Dates

International Summer School programmes are offered during June and July each year. Programme duration varies depending on the subject area, with options ranging from one-week specialist archaeological field schools to intensive three and four week academic programmes.

Please refer to the International Summer School website for the most up-to-date programme details.

## Entry Requirements

Entry requirements vary by programme and are outlined on our programme information pages. In general, applicants should have completed a minimum of one full year at university or college-level study before joining the Summer School and be a registered university student.

Depending on the programme, applicants may be required to have completed two years of undergraduate study and normally hold a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

Some programmes may have additional subject requirements or prerequisites. Please refer to the individual programme pages for specific academic criteria.

## Academic Credit

All International Summer School programmes offer academic credit at undergraduate level, with credit values varying by programme.

Credits\* are awarded based on successful participation, attendance and completion of required assessments, including written assignments, presentations or examinations as specified by each Programme Director.

Graduate credit options are available on selected programmes through additional academic assignments. Students requiring graduate-level credit should consult with their home institution and the relevant Programme Director before applying.

## Tuition Fees and Payments

Tuition fees vary depending on the programme selected. Programme fees, payment schedules and included activities are available on the International Summer School website.

Fees include:

- Academic tuition
- Specified module field trips
- Specified educational activities and cultural experiences
- Access to University facilities

Full payment is required on acceptance of the offer. Further details, deadlines and accepted payment methods are provided as part of the application process and on the International Summer School website.

## How to Apply

Applications are submitted online through the University of Galway International Summer School website. Applications open in November and close on 30 March each academic year. Early application is recommended as places may be limited.

\*Academic credits are listed in ECTS Credits (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System), which is the standard credit system used across European higher education. As a general guide, 5-6 ECTS credits are approximately equivalent to 2.5-3 US credits. Students are advised to check with their home institution to confirm how ECTS credits will transfer to your programme.



[universityofgalway.ie/international-summer-school](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-summer-school)



## Accommodation

A range of accommodation options is available for International Summer School students.

### University Student Residences

Most students are accommodated in modern, self-catering student residences located close to the University campus. Accommodation typically includes:

- Single bedrooms in shared apartments
- Fully furnished living spaces
- Kitchen and dining facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Bed linen and essential household items

Student residences are conveniently located within walking distance of teaching facilities and the city centre.

### Irish Language Programme Accommodation

Students attending the Irish Language Programme are accommodated with carefully selected Irish-speaking host families in the Connemara Gaeltacht. This unique experience allows students to practise Irish in everyday settings while becoming immersed in the language, culture and community of the region.

## Contact Us

*For enquiries relating to the Irish Language Programme contact:*

### Course Director

**Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge,**

**An Cheathrú Rua,**

**Co. na Gaillimhe H91 DH28**

**Tel:** +353 91 494602

**Email:** [ancheathrurua@ollscoilnagaillimhe.ie](mailto:ancheathrurua@ollscoilnagaillimhe.ie)

**Website:** <https://acadamh.ie/acadamh/cursai/cursaieile/>

*For enquiries relating to the Galway Archaeological Field School contact:*

### Galway Archaeological Field School

**Oughterard, Co. Galway**

**Email:** [info@gafs.ie](mailto:info@gafs.ie)

**Tel:** +353 (0)87 2867061

**Website:** [www.gafs.ie](http://www.gafs.ie)

*For all other programmes, please contact:*

### International Summer School Office

**University of Galway**

**Galway, Ireland**

**Email:** [summerschool@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:summerschool@universityofgalway.ie)

**Telephone:** +353 (0)91 495442



[universityofgalway.ie/international-summer-school](http://universityofgalway.ie/international-summer-school)

**International Summer School Office**  
University of Galway  
Galway, Ireland  
**Email:** [summerschool@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:summerschool@universityofgalway.ie)  
**Telephone:** +353 (0)91 495442

**Connect With University of Galway**



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY