Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh
College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies

English

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Subject Overview

The Discipline of English is one of the largest and liveliest in the university. We have 20 members of staff, and over 1000 undergraduate students. We have an average of 45 students enrolled in our taught MA programmes each year, and currently have 38 PhD students. In addition, each semester we welcome over 250 students from overseas.

English is ranked in the top 100 English Departments worldwide in the QS World University Rankings 2023

How does English at College differ from English at School?

An English degree uses many skills developed in second-level education and it focuses on the enhancement and development of these skills. The English Department gives you the opportunity to deepen your interest in literature and, of course, in the English language by allowing you to explore various aspects of the subject. From creative writing to media studies, from the Old English language to modern American literature, our rich variety of courses allows you to engage with the books that you want to study.

Subject Name:	English
Course Code:	GY101
CAO Entry Points 2026:	337
Duration:	3 Years BA / 4 Years BA (International)
Entry Requirements:	Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate including Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.

Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities Graduates will often require a further specialised degree or diploma in order to facilitate their progress in their chosen career.

The study of English provides a base for a wide range of careers. Many of our graduates work in the field of education both at second and third level. English is a flexible subject that provides graduates with many highly valued skills which they can transfer to a variety of occupations.

Graduate opportunities are also available in such varied careers as: Teaching, Journalism, Public relations, Advertising, Media and film, Scriptwriting, IT design and consultancy, Creative writing, Arts administration, Diplomatic service, Financial services, Computer game design, Publishing, Librarianship, Heritage industries & Communications

What Our Students Say:

“Studying English at University of Galway has been greatly rewarding; I found the modules on offer intriguing and multi-dimensional. With its friendly and well-equipped campus there are any number of reasons to choose undergraduate English at University of Galway.” - Leigh Jordan

“Studying English at University of Galway was definitely the most educated decision I’ve ever made. It’s a discipline where the lecturers’ passion for their subject is contagious! The help I’ve received since my first year has made an astonishing difference to my confidence in writing.” - Stuart Kilmartin

Did you know

We offer a number of core modules, as well as a wide range of choices for seminar topics. This means that students will have the opportunity to specialise in topics that are of interest to them.

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Course Outline

Is an English Degree for you?
Do you enjoy reading and writing?
Are you creative?
Are you interested in different aspects of culture?
Do you want to develop skills in independent critical thinking?
If you can answer 'yes' to some of these questions, then a degree in English literature is for you.

Year One

In the first year of the Bachelor of Arts degree, you choose three subjects, and one of these can be English.

Year Two & Three

Second and Third Arts, you continue with two of the subjects taken in First Arts, one of which can be English. Within the subject there are a wide range of courses, both core and elective

Some of our special elective courses in recent years have included:

- Contemporary Irish Poetry
- Exploring Shakespeare
- Digital Humanities
- Creative Writing
- Pain & Pleasure in Jacobean Theatre
- African Literature
- Children's Literature
- Medieval Literature
- Introduction to Journalism
- Media Studies
- Literature in the Digital Age
- Contemporary Irish Writing

Find Out More

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