



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

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

Bachelor of Arts (Music)



University
of Galway.ie

Course Overview

The BA in Music at University of Galway is Ireland's newest undergraduate music degree. Students learn about the theory and history of music, and develop creative practical skills in performance, composition and technology. There is also the possibility to take a work placement in a music-related field during the third year of the degree, for which students will receive training in transferable professional skills. This is an ideal course for anyone interested in pursuing a career in music, including teaching music in secondary schools and many other fields.

In the third year of the programme, most students spend a semester either studying abroad at an international university or on a placement with an Irish arts, media or educational organisation. The university has partnerships with Galway Music Residency and Music for Galway; students may take placements with such organisations in the areas like marketing, production, administration or other areas relevant to their course.

Students taking a language must spend a semester abroad studying in a country where that language is spoken, such as University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France; University of Bologna, Italy or University of Oviedo in Spain. There are also international links with American universities where students can study Music and other performing arts subjects such as Notre Dame University in Indiana, USA.

Course Name: BA Arts (Music)

CAO Code: GY130

Course Level: 8

Duration: 4 years

CAO Entry Points 2026: 413

Entry Requirements: Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 Level in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes. Leaving Cert Music is recommended, but not essential.



Career Opportunities

Music graduates typically go on to careers in such fields as performance, teaching, composition, academia, sound engineering, music therapy, arts administration, journalism, broadcasting, publishing, librarianship and archivism. In some cases, this may require a further vocational qualification or postgraduate study.

The BA Arts Music programme has been designed to meet the requirement of the Irish Teaching Council, so graduates will be qualified to use music as a teaching subject as part of their study for a postgraduate degree in post-primary education.

Students will also have opportunities to avail of University of Galway's unique offerings in creative arts management and business, ensuring they have real-world skills that will be directly relevant to the creative arts industry in Ireland and internationally.

Music BA graduates have transferable skills in such areas as public presentations, teamwork, research, written and verbal communication. These skills are highly attractive to employers in a wide range of fields beyond music.

Students can combine the study of music with subjects such as Psychology, Legal Studies, Information Technology or Languages, all of which open up career opportunities in those areas.

Course Outline

Year One

In year one you study Music along with two other Arts subjects.

Music modules include:

- Traditional Music in Ireland: 1792 to the New Millennium
- Music Theory and Critical Listening
- Introduction to Music History
- Music Practice 1

Year Two

In Year Two you study Music along with one other Arts subject.

Music modules include:

- Harmony and Keyboard Harmony
- Introduction to Composition
- Music History 2
- Introduction to Sound Technology
- Music Practice 2
- Musical Theatre
- Power, Hierarchies and Irish Traditional Music Practice
- Popular Music, Culture and Identities in Ireland

Year Three

This year is fully dedicated to Music.

You choose from a range of optional modules which may include:

- Introduction to Musicology
- Counterpoint
- Scoring and Arranging
- Musical Theatre: History and Performance
- Music Project
- Music Study Abroad
- Music Work Placement

Year Four

In Year Four you study Music along with one other Arts subject.

Music modules include:

- Music Extended Essay
- Composition Portfolio
- Music History 3
- Writing about Music Performance Analysis
- Irish Traditional Music Performance
- Opera
- Music Practice 3
- Women in Pop

Find Out More

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