



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

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

BSc (Geography and Geosystems)



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Course Overview

The BSc (Geography and Geosystems) is your opportunity to explore how our planet works and how people interact with it. Over four years, you'll investigate landscapes, ecosystems, and resources, discovering how the environment changes from place to place and over time. You'll also learn how to measure the real impacts of human activity and climate change on the natural world. At the heart of the programme is a simple idea: better decisions for the future depend on good scientific evidence. By combining fieldwork, data analysis, and critical thinking, this degree equips you with the skills to understand, explain, and help solve some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

Why Study This Programme?

As a graduate of this programme, you will become an expert in human-environment relationships with the skills to assess the spatial dynamics of the natural world and manage our natural environment and heritage

Career Opportunities

Geography is crucial in informing genuine public concerns about environmental loss and degradation, as well as human-induced climate change. The Geography & Geosystems programme offers clear pathways that lead to an array of career opportunities across a wide range of interests including governmental, policy, and business sectors. Guidance will be offered throughout the programme to ensure students are undertaking the most appropriate modules for their own personal career goals and development.

Course Name: BSc (Geography and Geosystems)

CAO Code: GY134

Course Level: 8

Duration: 4 years

Min Entry Points 2026: 357

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, Mathematics, a laboratory science subject (i.e. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint), Computer Science or Agricultural Science) and any two other subjects recognised for entry purposes.

Course Outline

Year One

Year One of the programme introduces students to the fundamental concepts that govern both Physical and Human Geography. In parallel, students will receive a foundational scientific understanding of principles that govern the natural world (e.g., Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics).

Year Two

In Year Two, core modules focus on traditional Physical Geography (Climate, Biogeography, and Earth surface & interior processes) alongside introductions to Environmental Law and Statistics. In addition students will choose two of the four possible pathways:

1. Coastal and Marine Science
2. Ecosystems Sciences
3. Environmental Planning and Policy
4. Paleo-Sciences

Year Three

Study Abroad – Work Placement – Research Placement – Further Study

Semester 1: Core modules in Semester 1 focus on the introduction to GIS, alongside the development of career readiness and research design. These skills will support the student in Semester 2, regardless of their chosen pathway, and in Year Four, when they must apply their research and technical skills during their independent research projects.

Semester 2: The work placement or internship will enable students to apply their class-based skills critically in a real-world setting. Students will also have the option to travel to one of our partner universities abroad as part of the ERASMUS programme. Students opting to complement their portfolio with further studies will have the opportunity to enrol in modules from pathways and/or modules that they have not chosen in Year Two.

Year Four

In Year Four, a large portion of the students' efforts will be dedicated to an independent research project supervised by staff members in Geography. In parallel, students will further develop their GIS skills and advance their understanding in the pathways of their choices to deepen their knowledge and understanding in these areas.

Find Out More

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