



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

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

Celtic Civilisation



University
of Galway.ie

Subject Overview

Celtic Civilisation is the study of the legacy of the Celts in the world, from when we first encounter the Celts in history, to recent times. We examine the formation of the peoples and nations of Ireland, Northern and Western Britain and France in the early Middle Ages, and study aspects of their civilisation in early-modern and modern Europe. This subject examines the history, archaeology, languages, literatures, mythologies and cultures of the Celts.

Celtic Civilisation is offered by Roinn na Gaeilge as part of the BA (Joint Honours) programme, but is also available as an optional subject on a number of denominated degree programmes including the Bachelor of Arts (English and Creative Writing), Bachelor of Arts (Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies), and the Bachelor of Arts with Children's Studies.

Subject Name:	Celtic Civilisation
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.

Why Study Celtic Civilisation

To study Celtic Civilisation is to gain an insight into the reality behind popular conceptions and misconceptions of the Celts, in their ancient, medieval and modern incarnations. It is to uncover the truth behind myths and to reveal how the Celts and their descendants have left a great imprint on history and culture in Europe and beyond, and continue to do so. Celtic Civilisation shows another side to the common picture of mankind that is usually presented.

What Our Students Say:

“Studying Celtic Civilisation gives you the freedom to explore the languages, mythologies, and histories of the Celts. Personally, having a focus on medieval archaeology, the opportunity to study medieval Celtic literature and languages gave my studies in Archaeology a deeper and more vibrant perspective. I could not recommend it more.”

-Kelsey Holmes BA (Archaeology and Celtic Civilisation)

Erasmus

In your third year, you may have the opportunity to study abroad as part of the Erasmus programme at internationally renowned universities in Brittany and Germany. Places are subject to availability and awarded on a competitive basis.

Did You Know

The Celts were the pioneers of iron working technology in ancient central and Western Europe, establishing an industry and trade network that revolutionised life at the time.

Course Outline

First Year

In first year you study modules covering the ancient and medieval history of the Celts, the archaeology of the Celts, introducing the medieval literature of Ireland and Wales and the mythology and folklore of the Celts.

Second and Final Year

In the second and final year of the programme, you may choose from a wide range of modules covering many aspects of the medieval society and literature of the Celtic peoples, as well as studying Welsh or medieval Irish language. You may also choose from a selection of relevant modules in Archaeology, History, Classics and English. All Irish and Welsh literature is studied in translation and no previous knowledge of any Celtic language is required.

Find Out More

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