

***Bachelor of Science in  
Geography and Geosystems***

**FIRST YEAR**

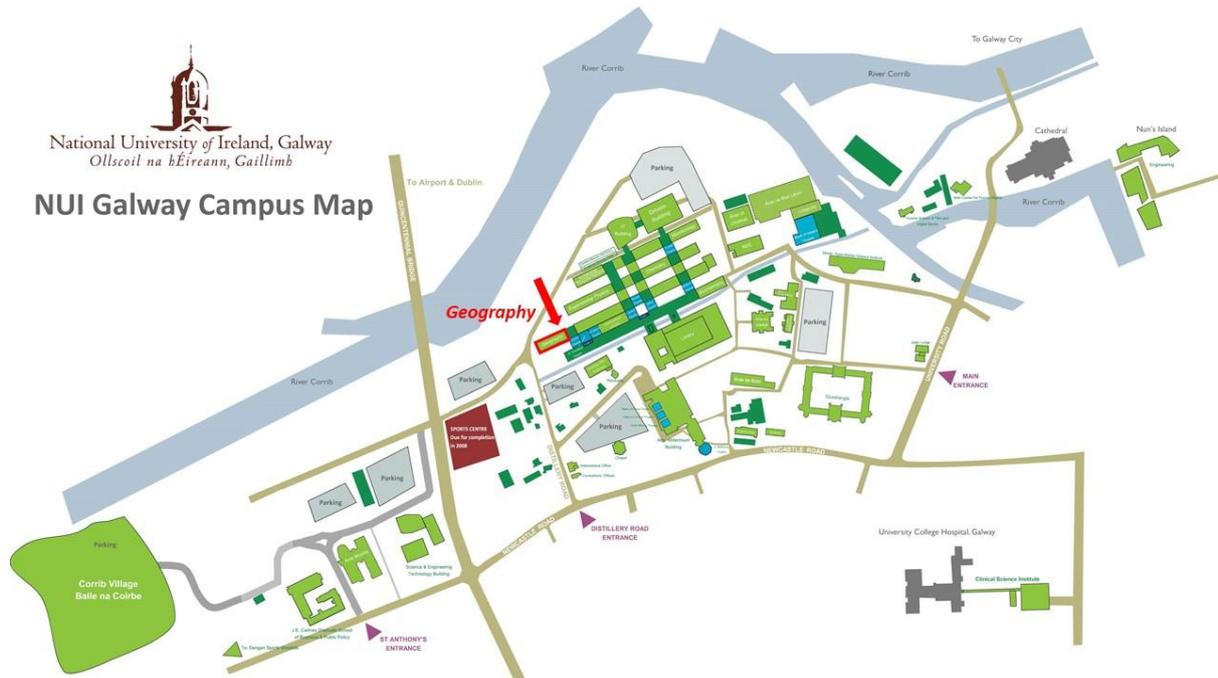
**Academic Year 2021/2022  
Year Coordinator: Dr Audrey Morley**

The Discipline of Geography welcomes you to the BSc Geography and Geosystems Programme!

Over the course of the next four years, you will be trained in human-environment relationships with a focus on the spatial dynamics of the natural world and management of our natural resources. The BSc (Geography and Geosystems) addresses the challenge of mapping and understanding spatial and temporal variability of natural systems and measuring the impacts of climate change and human activities on their health and resilience at various scales. The overall motivation of the programme is the conviction that informed decision-making must be based upon scientific data as we try to project how these natural systems will respond to short- and long-term forcing.

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
09:00 09:30		BO101 L (G2)			
10:00 10:30	CP102 L	MA161	MA161	MA161	
11:00 11:30		BO101 L (G2)		BO101 L (G2)	
12:00 12:30		CP102 L	TI150 TI1100	CP102 L	BO101 P
13:00 13:30	MA161				
14:00 14:30					CP102 P
15:00 15:30	TI150 TI1100				
16:00 16:30					
17:00 17:30		TI150 TI1100			
18:00 18:30					

*Reflecting the possibility of schedule adjustments due to COVID-19 restrictions, only the timetable for Semester 1 is provided below. A revised handbook containing the finalised timetable for Semester 2 will be provided to all 1BGS students before the end of Semester 1. L – Lecture; T – Tutorial; P – Practical*



## **Module Outlines:**

### **BO101 Biology**

Coordinator: Dr Peter Creighton ([peter.creighton@nuigalway.ie](mailto:peter.creighton@nuigalway.ie))

Biology is an integrative and interdisciplinary field that aims to investigate the dynamic and complex nature of living systems in terms of their molecular components and the interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environment. This module will introduce students to fundamental concepts of biology. The course is intended to provide the necessary biological background to allow learners in general and specialised Science courses, Foundation Medicine and Biomedical Engineering to progress into more specialised topics in later years. First, the nature of biomolecules and the basis for cellular form and function are discussed. Then students are introduced to the structure, function, diversity and impact of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

BY101 comprises three lectures and one lab practical per week. **All lectures will be delivered online in 2020/21; All practicals will be delivered on campus.** You will be assigned a time slot for the practical upon registration.

### **CP102 Chemistry & Physics**

Coordinator 1: Dr Patrick O'Leary, Chemistry [patrick.oleary@nuigalway.ie](mailto:patrick.oleary@nuigalway.ie)

Coordinator 2: Dr Liz Coleman, Physics ([mary.coleman@nuigalway.ie](mailto:mary.coleman@nuigalway.ie))

This module lays a broad foundation in chemistry and physics for students who need an introductory level knowledge of the physical sciences for the denominated courses in Marine Science and Health and Safety Systems. Some of the students may have level 4/5 knowledge of either or both subjects but no prior knowledge

is assumed in the course design. The level of mathematics required for the physics component is simple algebra and trigonometry.

CP102 comprises three lectures and one tutorial per week. **All lectures will be delivered online in 2021/2022.** The module also includes 8 practicals per semester, occurring every second week. You will be informed of times and venues for practicals during class.

### **MA161 Mathematical Studies**

Coordinator: Dr John Burns ([john.burns@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.burns@nuigalway.ie)) and Dr Angela Carnevale ([angela.carnevale@nuigalway.ie](mailto:angela.carnevale@nuigalway.ie))

Mathematical Studies MA161 is an introduction to university mathematics aimed at students studying the physical and life sciences. The majority of MA161 students will have studied ordinary level mathematics at Leaving Certificate, though some will have studied the subject at higher level. Although students are unable to proceed from this module to a Mathematics BSc, the module does lead on to a range of second- and third-year Mathematical Studies modules relevant to the physical and life sciences. (By taking a total of 60 ECTS of appropriate Mathematical Studies modules during their undergraduate studies, students can satisfy the Teaching Council's subject requirements for mathematics teachers while majoring in another Science subject.)

MA161 comprises four lectures and one tutorial per week. **All lectures will be delivered online, but tutorials will be on Campus (Time to be confirmed)**

### **Geography Modules:**

<b>Semester 1</b>				
<b>ECTs</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Day, Time</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
5	TI150 Principles of Human Geography	Dr John McDonagh	Asynchronous online lectures; support sessions for smaller groups: <b>Group 1:</b> Mon 3pm; OhEocha Theatre <b>Group 2:</b> Tue 5pm; Anderson Theatre <b>Group 3:</b> Wed 12pm; O'Flaherty Theatre	CA / MCQ
10	TI1100/TI1101 Geography in Practice (GiP)	Dr Valerie Ledwith	Asynchronous online lectures; in-person tutorials. Details in GiP handbook	CA
<b>Semester 2</b>				
5	TI151 Principles of Physical Geography	Dr John McDonagh	Asynchronous online lectures; support sessions for smaller groups.	CA / MCQ
10	TI1100/TI1101 Geography in Practice (GiP)	Dr Valerie Ledwith	Asynchronous online lectures; in-person tutorials. Details in GiP handbook	CA

To ensure that all students have a meaningful and safe on-campus experience, the first-year cohort will be divided into three smaller groups for geography information sessions and tutorials.

Students will be assigned as follows:

- Group 1 – Students with last names beginning with A-G  
O’hEocha Theatre, Arts Millenium Building (Mondays at 3pm)
- Group 2 - Students with last names beginning with H-M  
Anderson Theatre, Arts Science Concourse (Tuesdays at 5pm)
- Group 3 - Students with last names beginning with N-Z  
O’Flaherty Theatre, Arts Science Concourse (Wednesdays at noon)

To ensure compliance with COVID-19 health and safety requirements, students must only attend their assigned sessions. This is to ensure adequate social distancing and efficient contact tracing, should the need arise.

### **SCHEDULE FOR ON CAMPUS LEARNING**

**Week 1** - Students will be introduced to TI150 (Human Geography) and TI1100 /TI1101 (Geography in Practice). This is an opportunity to meet the team in person and ask questions about course delivery and/or assessment.

**Week 2** - Students will be given an overview of how the remaining weeks will run. This is another opportunity to ask the course coordinator questions about geography. Recorded lectures for TI150 will be available on Blackboard from Week 2.

**Week 3-12** - Students should avail of tutorial support to help with TI150 material and Geography in Practice exercises.

### **Week 12 - MCQ Course Examination**

#### **Key contacts in Geography**

Head of Geography	Dr John McDonagh
Geography Administrator	Christina Costello
Senior Technician/Cartographer	Dr Siubhan Comer
1 BA Programme Coordinator	Dr John McDonagh
1 BA Geography in Practice Coordinator	Dr Valerie Ledwith
1 BSc Geography and Geosystems Coordinator	Dr Audrey Morley

### **TI 150 Principles of Human Geography**

Coordinator: Dr John McDonagh ([john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie))

This course seeks to introduce key problems, concepts and contexts within human geography. Its focus is a contemporary one: it strives to illuminate the world of today by exploring and analysing the origin of central issues that make the headlines (or not) in the media and beyond. The course places lectures alongside the information given in the textbook; for examination purposes, both are essential. Major Themes covered in TI 150 (subject to change depending on staff availability) Rural Geographies, Cultural Geographies, Environment and Society, Social Geographies, Economic Geographies, Political Geographies, Development Geographies, Urban Geographies.

Note: Due to the large numbers and the consequent restrictions this module will be delivered through Asynchronous online lectures, all lecture material will be available through Blackboard.

In terms of broader support for this module (TI150), students will be divided into 3 groups – a Monday; Tues and Wednesday group (see above) to avail of in class teaching in the form of smaller group tutorials

### **TI 151 Principles of Physical Geography**

Coordinator: Dr John McDonagh ([john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.mcdonagh@nuigalway.ie))

This course is designed to provide insight and understanding to the fundamental concepts and principles of physical geography as an academic discipline. In doing this, the course explores how the physical environment functions; how different environmental systems interact and how the physical environment impacts on human activities. The course explores the various components that make up these environmental systems, such as the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and geosphere. In addition, the course also provides some understanding of how these fundamentals apply to Ireland and in so doing gives an insight into the richness of the physical geography of Ireland. Major Themes covered in TI 151: The Biosphere: Biogeography – species distribution and ecosystems; The Atmosphere: Weather and Climate, Glaciers and Glaciation; The Hydrosphere: Rivers The Geosphere: Coasts.

### **TI 1100 Geography in Practice (GiP)**

Coordinator: Dr Valerie Ledwith ([Valerie.ledwith@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Valerie.ledwith@nuigalway.ie))

This module introduces first year geography students to a range of skill-based exercises designed to enhance their learning experience and develop their research competences. Supported by on-line lectures and class-based tutorials, students undertake a series of exercises on referencing, academic writing, mapping, data analysis and fieldwork that will reinforce the skills geographers use every day. Further information on each exercise and submission dates is available in the TI1100/TI1101 handbook on Blackboard.

**CÉIM** is NUIG's acclaimed peer learning programme initiated by the Students' Union and offered to all Geography first year students. This student-led support and academic network is a highly effective way for students to get to know their cohort and to obtain help and/or guidance on their academic careers from their fellow NUIG students. This year more than ever, with the majority of your programme being delivered online, we encourage all BSc students to engage with the CÉIM shared learning community. Please see an introductory video at this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5GYEWW\\_etQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5GYEWW_etQ&feature=youtu.be)



*For further information about CÉIM, please feel free to contact Valerie Ledwith (Valerie.ledwith@nuigalway.ie)*