



## Irish Studies (major, minor, joint, full and part-time)

### Introduction

Since its inception in 1988, the Irish Studies programme has developed a wide range of units and now has an intake of over 40 full-time students each year. The part-time degree and certificate have also proved very popular. The programme is an interdisciplinary one embracing three main strands:

- 1) The migration and settlement of the Irish abroad.
- 2) The historical and contemporary contexts of Irish society
- 3) The literature, language and culture of Ireland

The principal aims of Irish Studies are as follows:

- 1) To provide a study of Irish culture and society from political, historical, sociological, cultural, literary and linguistic perspectives
- 2) To enable students to appreciate the significance of religion, nationalism, gender and class in Irish society.
- 3) To extend students' awareness and critical understanding of the significance of migration as a factor in Irish life, in the experience of the Irish in Britain and of other Irish communities world-wide.
- 4) To promote an understanding of the nature and significance of relations between Ireland and Britain at political, social, economic and cultural levels.
- 5) To cater for the local Irish community through the provision and development of courses related to Irish emigration and the experience of the Irish in Britain.

The Irish Studies programme promotes the development of skills particularly relevant to work in education, the media and community work after graduation. Other graduates proceed to post-graduate research.

### Irish Studies Courses

#### PRELIMINARY LEVEL

IR101	Irish Migration to Britain
IR103	The Political History of Modern Ireland
IR120	Introduction to Irish Cultural Studies

At preliminary level students normally take these three Irish Studies units as well as the methodological unit EU107, Introduction to Sociology.

#### ADVANCED LEVEL

IR201	The Irish in London (Compulsory)
IR202	The Political and Social Structure of Modern Ireland
IR203	Women and Irish Society
IR204	Comparative Emigration Experiences (Compulsory)
IR206	Modern Irish Fiction in English
IR207	Representations of Irishness
IR210	Irish Language 1
IR212	Postcolonialism, Postmodernism and Irish Culture
IR213	Perspectives on Northern Ireland
IR214	Modern Irish Poetry in English
IR250	Irish Literature in Irish

IR251	Law, Politics and Rights in Contemporary Ireland
IR253	Irish Language II
GS232	The Evolution of the Irish Landscape
EU214	Ireland and the European Community
HS368	Irish Home Rule
EN220	James Joyce
EN281	Contemporary Irish Drama

At advanced level, those students majoring in Irish Studies must also do a dissertation in Irish Studies which counts as a double unit (IR208/209)

### Teaching Methods and Assessment

All Units are taught by a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials, aimed at developing the students' understanding of the unit content and related methodological issues. Students are encouraged to examine questions from a variety of perspectives and analyses of the issues. There is a regular use of video, film and guest speakers.

Seminars aim to stimulate critical as well as creative thinking and effective communication. Students are encouraged to develop research and interviewing skills.

Assessment is by a combination of examination and coursework. At advanced level most units are assessed by 100% coursework. This is usually by essays although some units are assessed by project, an extended piece of writing or seminar presentation.

### Certificate in Irish Studies

The Certificate in Irish Studies is a popular option among those who wish to improve their understanding of Irish Studies but are not interested in taking another subject or a degree. The Certificate programme consists of any eight Irish Studies units. These may include a double-unit dissertation. Units may be taken during the day or evening. It is possible for Certificate students to convert to the degree programme.

### Foundation Courses in Irish Studies

This is a one year part-time course for those students who are keen to do a degree but lack the necessary qualifications. The course involves a study of Irish politics, history, emigration and culture. As well as this there will be a strong emphasis on improving the study skills of students. For further information contact Jonathan Moore on 0171-607 2789 ext 2773.

#### Introductory Reading List

Dermot Bolger (ed), *An Tonn Gheal: The Bright Wave* (Raven Arts Press 1987)

Peter Gray, *The Irish Famine. New Horizons.* (Thames and Hudson 1995)

David Harkness, *Ireland in the Twentieth Century.* (Macmillan 1995)

Dermot Keogh, *Twentieth Century Ireland. Nation and State* (Gill and Macmillan 1992)

Mary Lennon, Mary McAdam and Jane O'Brien, *Across the Water. Irish Women's Lives in Britain.* (Virago 1988)

Sean O'Faolain, *The Irish* (Penguin 1980)

If you require further information on Irish Studies, please contact:

The Admissions Tutor for Irish Studies  
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### **Irish Studies Staff**

Dr Mary Harris, *MA (National University of Ireland) HDipEd1 (National University of Ireland) PhD (Cambridge)* – Irish history, especially church-state relations in Northern Ireland; Irish language and Irish literature in Irish.

Dr Mary J Hickman, *BA (Liverpool) PGCE (London) MSC (South Bank), PhD (London)* – Irish Emigration and the Irish diaspora especially the Irish in Britain.

Mr Jonathan Moore, *BA (Leeds) MA (Essex)* – Northern Irish politics, Anglo-Irish relations, Law and civil rights in Ireland.

Mr Paul Sheehan, *BA (North London), MA (Sussex)* – Irish Cultural Studies, James Joyce, Twentieth Century Poetry.

### **School Secretary**

Helen Camplin (ext 2432)

### **The Irish Studies Centre (ISC)**

Irish Studies is a relatively new academic area in British universities and the ISC has pioneered developments in this area. The centre co-ordinates research, community liaison and income generation activities. In its original objectives the centre aimed to bring together academic and community concerns through research about the Irish in Britain, the history, politics and culture of Ireland and the significance of the EU for both parts of Ireland. The reputation of the ISC for this work has been established through the biannual Irish in Britain Research forum, the Occasional Papers Series and the Archive and Resource Centre. The archive is particularly rich in materials covering the various phases of migration to Britain in the 20th century and has an increasing body of materials relating to events in Northern Ireland since 1968 (including a significant collection of film and television documentaries and dramas on video). The ISC also holds public lectures and conferences to disseminate its work. Recent highlights include a major conference on Northern Ireland in 1995 and the completion of a research project about discrimination and the Irish community in Britain for the Commission for Racial Equality. Opportunities exist in the Centre for postgraduate research in Irish Studies.

#### **Director**

Dr Mary J Hickman

#### **Administrator**

Tony Murray, *BA (North London) MA (East London)*

#### **Enquiries**

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