

Irish studies centre

Foundation Course
Certificate
Diploma
Degree
Honours Degree

- **Community Interaction**
- **Information Resources
& Archive Publications**

The Irish Studies Centre

The Irish Studies Centre was established by the University of North London in October 1986. By means of teaching, research and community interaction the Centre aims to explore the experience of the Irish in Britain, and of the Irish in London in particular. The Irish Studies Centre was formed to increase the understanding and appreciation of:

- The Irish contribution to all aspects of British economic, cultural, political and social life
- The historical and contemporary contexts of Irish society
- The unique relationship which exists between Ireland and Britain

The Irish Studies Centre seeks to bring together academic and community concerns. In addition to providing courses, the Centre co-ordinates a number of other activities, such as the Irish in Britain Research Forum, the publication of an Occasional Papers Series, and a comprehensive bank of resources.

The Irish in Britain Research Forum

The Research Forum has met regularly since 1986. It aims to set out new work in the field of Irish Studies, to discuss the problems of the research process itself, and to encourage further work. The Forum has considered a wide range of topics at its meetings, including: housing conditions and homelessness, Irish women and the English feminist movement, education and the identity of the second generation Irish, the Irish born in nursing, new data on recent patterns of migration and on the political activities of the Irish community in Britain.

Publications

The Irish Studies Occasional Papers series, published by the University Press, focuses on topics which have arisen from the Research Forum. Current titles include:

The Housing of the Irish – *Chris Bennett*

Working Wives & Working Mothers – *Lara Marks*

Irish Immigrants Today – *Ellen Hazelkorn*

The Iconography of Rape – *Sabina Sharkey*

Further titles are expected throughout the year.

Irish Studies Centre Research Programme

The research activities of the Centre focus in particular on the Irish in Britain. Current research projects include a study of the Contemporary Racialisation of the Irish, involving an investigation of the impact of the British media's reporting of Ireland and Irish issues on the Irish community in Britain. Identity is also a research area of major interest encompassing two strands: one being research into second generation Irish and Catholic education; the second being a study of Irish political, cultural and social organisations. All research projects aim towards the development of a structural and longitudinal analysis of the position of the Irish in British society. The Centre is also developing research on the politics and culture of Irish society, especially Northern Ireland. This includes research about church-state relationships in Northern Ireland and about the Northern Irish Labour politician Billy McMullen.

Irish Studies Teaching Materials Project

An important goal of the Irish Studies Centre is to establish Irish Studies more generally as a subject in the curriculum of further and adult education. In February 1991 a project jointly funded by the Lawlor Foundation, the University of North London and the Irish in Britain History Group, was established to produce teaching materials and provide training in order to encourage local colleges and Adult Education institutions linked to the University to begin this process. It is hoped that the design and packaging of the materials are such that they can be used flexibly for assessment and accreditation purposes.

Community Liaison

The Irish Studies Centre maintains links with local Irish community groups especially in the London boroughs of Camden, Islington and Haringey. Joint activities are occasionally arranged; joint research initiatives are undertaken and support given wherever appropriate for an academic institution.

The Irish Studies Resource Centre and Archive

The Irish Studies archive is housed in the University library at Kentish Town. On permanent loan from the Irish in Britain History Group, archive material focuses on a vast array of topics including: the Irish in London, the experience of migration, racism, homelessness, and Irish Culture. The archive is particularly rich in materials covering the experience of the 1940s/50s migrants who remain very under-researched. Recent additions to the archive have included material on HIV/Aids, Irish youth, mental health and alcoholism. Bound volumes of The Irish Post are also available within the library. Access to the archive is available by arrangement with the Irish Studies Centre.

We are interested to talk to groups and individuals about placing archive material or memorabilia with us in order to expand the archive.

The Foundation Course

This course runs in the evening in the second semester of each year for 14 weeks. The Foundation Course can be taken as an introduction to the Irish Studies Half Degree or as a short course. The course introduces students to the major elements of Irish Studies and the University:

- Irish Migration to Britain
- Irish Communities in Britain
- The History and Politics of Modern Ireland
- Irish Culture – Literature, Drama, Film
- Representatives of Irishness and Irish Identity

Application forms for the Foundation Course can be obtained from the Irish Studies Centre.



Irish Studies Degree Course

Irish Studies can be taken as part of a Combined Honours Degree, in combination with another subject in the Humanities Scheme, or with a subject from another faculty. Within the Humanities Scheme it is possible for part-time evening and interfaculty students to combine Irish Studies with Caribbean Studies, Classical Civilisation, English, History, Philosophy and Women's Studies. Daytime Irish Studies students can also choose from French, German, Spanish and Latin American Studies. For details of the Irish Studies degree programme and for a copy of the Humanities Scheme course leaflet contact the Irish Studies Centre.

Preliminary Level courses include:

- Irish Migration to Britain
- The Political History of Modern Ireland
- Ireland and the Irish Landscape
- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Irish Cultural Studies (from 1994-5)

Entry Requirements

The University of North London is committed to the principal of access to higher education, and particularly welcomes applications from mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) where formal qualifications may not be necessary.

Links with Irish Institutions

An important aim of the University is to encourage educational links with the European Community. Students of the Irish Studies Centre are frequently recent migrants or second and third generation Irish, and in order to gain a proper understanding of their position in Britain and to become citizens of the European Community, Irish placements are advantageous. Students coming to the University on exchange from Ireland can study migration in the midst of a large Irish community, gain experience of European mobility, and study in a foreign country and avail themselves of courses not offered at their home institution.

The Centre is currently involved in an Inter-university co-operation programme, funded by ERASMUS Bureau in Brussels, co-ordinated by the University of Limerick.

Advanced Level courses include:

- The Irish in London
- The Political and Social Structure of Modern Ireland
- Woman and Irish Society
- Comparative Emigration Experiences: the Irish in Britain, the USA and Australia
- Constitutional Issues in Ireland
- Modern Irish Fiction in English
- Representations of Irishness
- Irish Home Rule, 1870-1922
- Drama at the Abbey Theatre: Yeats, Synge, O'Casey
- James Joyce
- Racism
- Project
- Post Colonialism, Post Modernism & Irish Culture
- Perspectives on Northern Ireland
- Irish Language

Further Information

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with either the Full-time or Part-time Prospectus and the Humanities Scheme course leaflet, each of which contain general information on studying at the University. Copies are available from:

Course Enquiries Office
University of North London
166 - 220 Holloway Road
London N7 8DB
Tel: 071-753 5066/7
24-hour answering service: 071 607 5755

Further information on the Irish Studies Centre and course can be obtained from:

The Irish Studies Centre
University of North London
1 Prince of Wales Road
London NW5 3LB
Tel: 071-753 5018
Fax: 071-753 7069