



## **Irish Studies Courses**

Since its inception in 1988, the Irish Studies degree course has developed a wide range of units and now has an intake of approximately 35 full-time and 10 part-time students each year. The programme is interdisciplinary and embraces three main strands:

- The migration and settlement of the Irish abroad
  - The historical and contemporary contexts of Irish society
  - The literature, language and culture of Ireland
- Irish Studies is combined with another course (usually in Humanities or the Social Sciences) and can be studied in major, minor, joint, full and part-time modes. Alternatively, it is possible to take the shorter Certificate course.

The Foundation Course in Irish Studies is available for students wishing to sample what is on offer on the degree and for students wishing to take a one year access course in Irish Studies.

The Irish Studies Centre also organises short courses such as the annual Irish Writers in London Summer School, established in 1996.

An MA in Irish Studies is planned for 1998-99.

## **The James Joyce Society of London**

The Society exists to provide a forum for all those interested in Joyce and to discuss and learn more about his life and work. It holds regular meetings at the university's Holloway Road site, normally in the form of a paper presentation followed by a discussion. It also holds readings, shows films and occasionally puts on plays. The Society produces its own publication *Odyssey*, which carries news, articles and book reviews.

For more information contact Paul Sheehan on 0171 607 2789 (ext 2395)

## **Links with Irish Institutions**

The Irish Studies Centre is currently involved in an Inter-University Co-operation Programme, funded by the SOCRATES Bureau in Brussels. Since 1991 Irish Studies students at University of North London have been able to spend one semester of their course in Ireland at the University of Limerick or University College Galway. Further links with higher education institutions in Ireland and elsewhere in the European Union are planned.



## **The Irish Studies Centre**

**The Irish Studies Centre was established by the University of North London in October 1986 and an undergraduate course in Irish Studies began in September 1988. By means of teaching, research and community liaison the Centre aims to promote Irish Studies as an academic area. The Irish Studies Centre aims to increase the understanding and appreciation of:**

- Irish migration and the Irish diaspora worldwide
- 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, especially in how it shapes politics and culture in Northern Ireland

## **Research Programme**

The research activities of the Centre are determined both by the individual interests of academics attached to the Centre and by a planned programme of raising funds to develop the specialism of the Centre in research about the Irish in Britain. Both literary and cultural studies interests and the study of the history and politics of Northern Ireland are also particularly well covered.

The Irish Studies Centre undertakes contracted research and consultancy for local authorities, statutory organisations, community groups and other bodies. It recently completed a study for the Commission for Racial Equality to establish the extent to which Irish people in Britain experience racial discrimination.

## Resource Centre

The Resource Centre contains two archives. The Irish in Britain Archive contains material focusing on a wide array of topics including: the Irish in London, the experience of migration, racism, homelessness, women's issues and Irish culture. The Archive is particularly rich in materials covering the experience of the 1940s/50s migrants who remain very under researched. Bound volumes of *The Irish Post* newspaper are also kept.

A major new Archive consisting of materials relating to human rights issues in Northern Ireland is now also housed in the Resource Centre. This includes materials on the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s, Internment, the campaigns for Political Status for Prisoners in the H-Blocks and the campaign against Strip-searching in Armagh Prison.

Past dissertations and projects by Irish Studies students are also housed in the Resource Centre.

Access to the Resource Centre is available by arrangement with the Administrator of the Irish Studies Centre.

## 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 and support given wherever appropriate for an academic institution. The Irish Studies Centre keeps a substantial database of Irish academic and community organisations in both Britain and abroad.

## 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 in Britain Studies, to discuss the problems of the research process itself, and to encourage further work. The Forum also acts as a means by which researchers of Irish Studies can network and mutually benefit each other's work. Postgraduates working on masters or doctoral dissertations are especially encouraged to present their work.



## **Publications**

The *Irish Studies Occasional Papers Series* focuses on a wide range of topics that cover both the Irish in Britain and the historical and contemporary contexts of Irish society.

A report on the proceedings of the 'Northern Ireland: What Next?' conference has also been published containing an account of all the debates of the conference and including papers from John Hume (*SDLP*), Chris McGimpsey (*Ulster Unionist Party*), Mitchel McLoughlin (*Sinn Féin*), David Ervine (*Progressive Unionist Party*), Gregory Campbell (*Democratic Unionist Party*), Marjorie Mowlam (*Labour Party*) and Dr. Martin Mansergh (*Fianna Fáil*).

The *Introductory Course Teaching Pack* for Irish Studies is designed to be used either as a stand-alone course or by teachers on Cultural Studies, Women's Studies, Politics, Social Studies, History and English programmes who can select individual sections to include in their own courses. It comprises 15 weekly sessions with substantive text, bibliographies and suggestions for groupwork and homework.

## **Conferences**

A major conference was held by the Irish Studies Centre in February 1995, entitled 'Northern Ireland: What Next?'. The conference brought together politicians, academics, journalists and community activists from all political perspectives in Northern Ireland and enabled Irish people in Britain to participate in debates about the future of Northern Ireland. This was the first in an occasional series of conferences planned by the Irish Studies Centre.

## **Public Lecture Series**

Initiated in 1995, this is a series of free open lectures which take place annually each autumn. Visiting lecturers have included Professor Roy Foster, Dr. Declan Kiberd, Professor Joseph Lee, Bernadette McAliskey, Judge Catherine McGuinness, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Professor Micheál Ó Súilleabháin and Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh.

## **Further Information**

Further information on the various aspects of the Irish Studies Centre's work is available by contacting:

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Further information about Irish Studies courses can be obtained from the Admissions Tutor on 0171 753 3208 or by contacting:

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