



British Association for Irish Studies

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WHAT BAIS IS

The Association was set up in 1986. It is a non-political, non-sectarian organisation. The membership is largely composed of those with a professional involvement in Irish Studies. Membership is by payment of an annual subscription. BAIS has charitable status, and is controlled by its elected Officers and Executive Committee, while day-to-day matters are in the hands of a full-time Executive Director. Subcommittees advise, develop policies, and initiate programmes in the areas of higher education, adult and further education, compulsory education, the Irish language, and cultural matters. The Association co-ordinates activities at all levels of education and across the many disciplines which make up Irish Studies and liaises with government and educational bodies.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

BAIS supports those already involved in Irish Studies. It also aims to promote and expand Irish Studies at all levels of the education system throughout the United Kingdom by

- * establishing Irish Studies on a firm basis in the higher education system
- * giving the school-going population access to Irish Studies
- * developing Irish Studies programmes for adult education.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

BAIS organises a biennial Irish Studies conference and an annual series of public lectures. It publishes the Survey of Irish Studies in Britain and a twice-yearly Irish Studies Review, which are distributed free to members along with the Irish Literary Supplement. It offers financial support to a number of independent initiatives, including the highly successful annual conference at Soar Valley College, Leicester, on "Irish Dimensions in British Education".

ACHIEVED SO FAR

In 1986 the University Grants Committee stressed the importance of Irish Studies provision. Since that time BAIS has achieved funding from the British and Irish governments, the AIB Bank, Bord na Gaeilge, the European Commission, the Ireland Funds of the USA and Great Britain, Johnson Matthey and the Rowntree Reform Trust. The Association has been instrumental in obtaining sponsorship from the corporate sector for projects in higher education. The partnership between BAIS and Institute of Irish Studies, Liverpool, has resulted in two A/S level syllabuses, "The Irish in Britain 1815-1914" and "History, Literature and the Irish identity 1890-1926", which together make up an A level in Modern Irish History. BAIS has also developed a series of Irish language examinations for adult learners in co-operation with the Institute of Linguists. It publishes a newsletter for Irish-language teachers in Britain, for whom it also organises regular dayschools. Since 1989, the Association has held an annual series of Sixth Form History Conferences in Northern Ireland.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

BAIS's current priorities are:

- * to promote the firm establishment of Irish Studies in universities, polytechnics, colleges;
- * to develop education programmes for the schools and for adult/further education;
- * to provide in-service training and back-up materials to support Irish Studies in schools and in adult/further education.

The Executive Director
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enrol me as a Member/ Renew my Membership
(delete as applicable)
of the British Association for Irish Studies

Subscriptions [] £ 7.50 (\$12) Student and Unwaged
[] £18.00 (\$30) Waged
[] £40.00 (\$66) Corporate

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Please make cheques or orders (no cash) payable to British Association for
Irish Studies (Membership Account) and forward your completed application
to:

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