IRISH AND CELTIC LANGUAGES
Junior Sophister (3rd Year) Early Irish Modules

IR3407 History of the Irish language (A & B) (10 ECTS, year-long)

History of the Language component
On successful completion of this module, students will be able to
- describe in detail the structure, development and use of the Ogam alphabet
- assign any individual Ogam inscription to the appropriate linguistic period of the Irish language
- provide detailed definitions of the main periods of linguistic development of Early Irish, in particular Primitive Irish, Archaic Irish and Early Old Irish
- give an account of the main phonological changes between these linguistic periods (lenition, vowel affections, palatalisation, apocope, syncope)
- transfer this knowledge to a detailed formal analysis of Latin loanwords and their relative dates of adoption into Early Irish

Introduction to Middle Irish component
On successful completion of this module the student will be able to
- outline the sources of Middle Irish
- account for the appearance of ‘Middle Irish’ in manuscripts of the Old Irish period
- explain the main Middle Irish developments in the area of orthography and phonology
- describe and discuss the Middle Irish noun vis-à-vis its Old Irish original
- outline and account for the simplification of the Old Irish compound verb in Middle Irish

IR3403 Middle Irish texts (5 ECTS, HT)
On successful completion of this module the student will be able to
- read and translate a selection of Middle Irish texts in their original state of manuscript transmission
- compare and contrast the transmission of Middle Irish texts in sources of different periods
- identify and account for the main Middle Irish features in a given text
- compare multiple copies of a given text and formulate and defend a case for selecting a particular reading in a critical edition
- apply the analytic skills acquired elsewhere in the course to a linguistic and literary analysis of Middle Irish texts

IR3404 Early Irish poetry (5 ECTS, MT)
On successful completion of this module, students will be able to
- translate on their own Old Irish syllabic poetry at an intermediate level of difficulty
- analyse the most common metrical structures used in Early Irish syllabic poetry, with regard to the basic features of rhyme and syllable-count and the subsidiary features of aicill-rhyme, consonance and internal rhyme as well as alliteration
- use the findings of their metrical analysis to determine the linguistic date of a poem
- provide a basic account of non-linguistic dating criteria for the poetry covered
- provide a basic account of the literary content and context of the poetry covered
**IR3405 Ecclesiastical prose texts (5 ECTS, MT)**

On successful completion of this module the student will be able to
- understand and discuss the different genres of Early Irish ecclesiastical prose
- explain the main features of Early Irish hagiography
- translate advanced Early Irish ecclesiastical prose texts in their original state of manuscript transmission
- compare and contrast multiple copies of a given text and formulate and defend a case for selecting a particular reading in a critical edition
- provide a basic account of linguistic criteria for dating a text
- provide a basic account of the literary content and context of a text
- engage in independent research in the area of Early Irish textual criticism

**IR 3406 Secular narrative (5 ECTS, HT)**

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to
- translate Early Irish prose texts of intermediate level in their original state of manuscript transmission
- formulate and defend a case for selecting the most appropriate of diverging manuscript readings and adopting it into a critical edition of the text (textual criticism)
- provide a basic account of linguistic criteria for dating a text, as well as of different linguistic strata when appropriate
- provide a basic account of non-linguistic criteria for dating a text
- provide a basic account of the literary content and context of a text