

## **IRISH AND CELTIC LANGUAGES**

### **Junior Sophister (3<sup>rd</sup> 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