



Roinn na Gaeilge

Department of Irish & Celtic Languages



Modules in the Irish Department appropriate for Visiting Students

- **IRU1152 Irish Language and Literature:** Topics cover the history of the language and students read / discuss the literature written Irish, but read in translation. A module designed with Visiting Students in mind.
- **IRU22052 Early Irish Saga:** This is a course in early (i.e. pre twelfth-century) Irish saga literature in which a variety of texts, mainly from the Ulster, Mythological and King cycles will be read in translation and discussed in class.
- **IRU22182 Early Irish Law & Society:** This module will give you an overview of the early Irish legal system ('Brehon Law') and the society in which it evolved.
- **Core Modern Irish** modules require a fluency in Irish. If you have this, má tá Gaeilge agat, you would be welcome to try our courses.



Would you like to learn to speak some Irish while you're in Ireland?



We also run an 'Elementary Irish' course two hours a week in the evenings for visiting staff / students. It's **not for credit**, but you'll pick up a bit of Irish while you're here!

Beginners: Mondays and Thursdays at **7pm**, for an hour each. (TBC)

Not-quite-beginners: Mondays and Thursdays at **6pm**, for an hour each. (TBC)

Classes take place ONLINE in 2020-21. We'll try to find times to suit as many people as possible.



RoinnNaGaeilgeTCD



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TCD Roinn na Gaeilge

Lean muid! Follow us!

More information at
www.tcd.ie/irish

IRU11152 Irish Language & Literature (10 ECTS)

Two main areas of Irish Literature are covered

1. Modern Irish Literature

20th and 21st century literature in Irish is a miracle. Given the cultural traumas of the previous centuries, it is incredible that the Irish language has survived at all. The fact that it has a flourishing literature and vibrant cultural scene is nothing short of miraculous. This course outlines the origins of modern Irish literature in the language renaissance of the late 19th century and its development up to today. The efforts to save and promote Irish and the heated debates and politics of the language movement provide the background for understanding a literature whose very existence is a triumph of the human spirit.



2. The Sources of Early Irish Literature

This component will cover the following aspects of the transmission and wider context of Early Irish documents:

- Periods of Early Irish up to the beginning of Modern Irish (c. 1200 AD);
- Development of the Irish script;
- Irish manuscripts and their dating;
- Irish glosses explaining Latin texts;
- Other (more personal) Irish notes in manuscripts;
- Irish as a Celtic language and a brief comparison with Gaulish;
- Ogam inscriptions;
- Early Irish metrics and poetry.

Two hours per week: Mondays 4pm (ONLINE) and Thursdays 11am (ONLINE)

Assessment: Two short essays to be written over the course of the semester @ c.2,500 – 3,000 words per essay, or one longer essay @ 4,500-5,000 words.

IRU11192 (5 ECTS) allows students to take the ‘Sources’ part of the module only, with one shorter essay as the assessment. (Thursdays 11am ONLINE)

**Drop in to 4055 in the Arts Building if you have any queries,
or currently email may be best – nibhraoc@tcd.ie.**

www.tcd.ie/Irish

IRU22052 Early Irish Saga (5 ECTS):

This is a course in early (i.e. pre twelfth-century) Irish saga literature in which a variety of texts, mainly from the Ulster, Mythological and King cycles will be read in translation and discussed in class. Sagas to be read will include

- the timeless war of the Gods, Good v Evil in the exemplary myth, *The Battle of Moytura*;
- the *Saga of Fergus mac Léti* and its scandalous treatment of a young mother of an illegitimate child, forced into slavery to save her son;
- the *Death of Conchobar*, a case of posthumous revenge and delayed execution allowing for baptism by blood on the night of Christ's persecution and death,
- the *Death of Conla* at the hands of his own father, the famous Cú Chulainn, despite the protests and warnings of his wife, Emer;
- the pseudo-historical prologue to the *Senchas Már* incorporating the showdown at Tara, i.e. the battle between Christianity and Paganism;
- the hound, hero and hospitaller triptych incorporating 'hound and hero', 'hound and bogus hero' and 'hound and anti-hero';
- the *Birth-tale of Niall of the Nine Hostages* incorporating the loathly Lady at the well, the Irish sovereignty Goddess.

One hour per week (2pm Wednesdays, ONLINE).

Assessment: 1 essay (1500-2000 words) (60%) and one examination (40%)

IRU22182 Early Irish Law & Society (5 ECTS): This module will give you an overview of the early Irish legal system ('Brehon law'). During your course of study, you will learn about the structure of early Irish society and its institutions – in particular:

- the early Irish system of law enforcement in the absence of a centralised state and associated police force
- the status of women in early Irish society, including marriage arrangements
- early Irish family structures
- an overview of farming and food in early Ireland
- the nature and background of Irish 'sacral' kingship and the concept of 'truth'

One hour per week (3pm Tuesdays, ONLINE).

Assessment: 1 essay (3000 words)

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