

Foundation Scholarship - Examination Requirements	
Course of Study:	[UBLL-EIMI-2F] Early and Modern Irish
School/Discipline:	Department of Irish and Celtic Languages
Academic Year:	2025/26
Foundation Scholarship involves a searching examination, set and assessed so as to select students of outstanding ability. The objective of the Foundation Scholarship examination is to identify students who can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects. The examination requires candidates to demonstrate: skill in synthesising and integrating knowledge across the full range of the set examination materials; rigorous and informed critical thought; and, in appropriate disciplines, a highly-developed ability to solve problems and apply knowledge.	
Please include a brief statement below which explains how your examinations succeed in identifying the qualities associated with Scholarship.	
Foundation Scholarship candidates reading Early Irish will take two examination papers, one on Language Competence (three hours), the other on Course Work (one-and-a-half hours). The three-hour paper will test the candidates in a number of ways. Their understanding of complex aspects of Old Irish grammar will be tested by their ability to analyse, under specific headings, glosses they have already read in class, and, more crucially, by the ability to apply the same kind of analysis to unseen and untranslated glosses. Their skills of interpretation and their ability to translate will be tested further by an unseen passage from Early Irish literature. The context to this will be explained to them and they will be given help with specific elements of vocabulary. This test is designed to assess the candidates' understanding of grammar, sentence-structure and idiom, and will be crucial in determining whether they have the skills required for the Foundation Scholarship. In addition to the application of these practical skills, candidates will be tested on their expertise in explaining specific aspects of morphology, phonology, syntax and orthography, on their control of the grammatical terminology and underlying concepts specific to the analysis of Old Irish, and on their understanding of the position of Old Irish vis-à-vis Modern Irish. The last section of this paper will allow candidates to demonstrate their analytical and interpretative skills in both grammar and metrics on a selection of texts in prose and verse, some of which, in the case of the verse texts, will not have been read in class. The course-work paper tests the candidates' knowledge of the sources of Early Irish and the saga world of medieval Ireland. Here their responses must be analytic and discursive in nature and must show a keen grasp of the basics as well as a broad range of reading in the secondary sources. Mere listing of facts or relating of incidents from saga material will not be sufficient. Beidh ceithre cheist le freagairt ar an bpáipéar Cumas Teanga, dhá aistriúchán, ceist faoin ngramadach agus ceist ghinearálta. Beidh aistriúcháin ó Ghaeilge go Béarla agus ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge le déanamh. Measfar cumas aistrithe na n-iarrthóirí faoi na ceannteidil saibhreas foclóra, líofacht stíle agus cruinneas teanga (gramadach, litriú, poncaíocht srl.). Ní mór don aistriúchán a bheith dílis don bhuntéacs ar an láimh amháin agus do chor nádúrtha cainte na sprioctheanga ar an láimh eile. Tástálfar máistreacht na n-iarrthóirí ar ghramadach na Gaeilge ar an bpáipéar seo freisin le ceachtanna gramadaí. Beidh ceist ghinearálta le freagairt acu fosta (i bhfoirm aiste). Litríocht na Nua-Ghaeilge agus an Dán Díreach a scrúdaítear ar Ábhar an Chúrsa, agus beidh ceist ghinearálta ar an bpáipéar seo freisin. Tástálfar cumas na n-iarrthóirí sa léirmheastóireacht chriticiúil i réimse na nualitríochta, idir phrós agus fhilíocht, le haistí léirmheasa. Beidh scileanna ar leith critice le taispeáint ag an iarrthóir chomh maith le leithne léitheoireachta, soiléire argóna agus líofacht stíle. I gcuid an Dána Dhírih beidh ar na hiarrthóirí rialacha meadarachta a thabhairt chun cuimhne agus a chur i bhfeidhm ar ábhar nár léadh sa rang. I ngach freagra ní mór don iarrthóir buntuisctintí a léiriú chomh maith le leithne léitheoireachta sa réimse agus máistreacht ar an nGaeilge. Beidh máistreacht ar an nGaeilge le taispeáint ag na hiarrthóirí sna freagraí ar fad.	
Completed by: An Dr Eoin Mac Cárthaigh	
Date: 3/3/25	