Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

ECU22021 — Economy of Ireland A

Module Information	
Module Code	*ECU22021*
Module Title	*Economy of Ireland A*
Department	*Economics*
Year Group	*Senior Fresh*
Module Personnel	*Barra Roantree*
Academic Year	*2026-27*
Credit Weighting	*5 ECTS*
Semester	*Semester 1*
Contact Hours	*2 lectures per week + tutorials*

Module Content	
Module Description	This module examines the Irish economy through the lens of public policy. It explores how economic tools and evidence can be used to understand and evaluate the choices facing Irish policymakers, and how these choices have shaped the economy's development over recent decades. Topics include the measurement of living standards, income and wealth inequality and poverty, the design of the tax and social welfare systems, the economics of housing, and the challenge of climate change. Throughout, an emphasis is placed on interpreting empirical evidence and communicating economic arguments about policy clearly and concisely.
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to: • Provide students with the analytical tools needed to understand and evaluate public policy-making in Ireland • Show how economic and political pressures have shaped the development of the Irish economy over time • Develop students' ability to interpret empirical evidence on living standards, inequality, taxation, welfare, housing and climate policy • Facilitate the clear and concise use of economic language and argument required to communicate about policy

Module Content	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, you will be able to: • Explain how living standards in Ireland are measured, and critically assess the limitations of GDP/GNI-based measures relative to alternatives • Describe patterns and trends in income and wealth inequality and poverty in Ireland, and evaluate the role of the tax and welfare system in redistribution • Analyse the design of the Irish tax system, including the balance of taxation, taxation of wealth, tax expenditures and international tax competition • Evaluate the role of social insurance and social assistance in protecting households against shocks, including the long-run sustainability of the State Pension • Explain the economics of the Irish housing market and critically assess policy options for addressing house price and rent affordability • Assess Irish climate policy, including the role of carbon pricing, in the context of national emissions reduction targets • Communicate economic arguments about Irish policy issues clearly and concisely, both in writing and orally
Indicative Reading / Resources	The Economy of Ireland: Policy Making in a Global Context, John O'Hagan, Francis O'Toole and Ciara Whelan (eds). 15e. Bloomsbury: Dublin.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Tutorial assignment (25%); Exam (75%)
Assessment Details	*n/a*

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	*n/a*
Co-requisites	*n/a*
Any other information	*n/a*