



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

School of Law

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020



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Rankings by Subject 2020

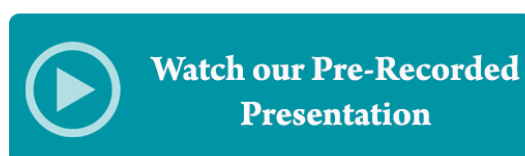
Introduction to the Subject Law for First Year BA Joint-Honours and BA Connect Students

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Watch our Pre-Recorded Presentation

In addition to this document we have also created a pre-recorded presentation titled 'Introduction to Studying Law through your BA Degree'. Click on the icon below to watch.



1. Introduction

Law plays a pivotal role in every aspect of human life; it protects fundamental rights, punishes wrongdoing, regulates contracts, commerce and finance, and sets standards for environmental, occupational and food safety. Studying Law in the BA exposes you to a range of legal subjects including Constitutional Law, Irish Legal Systems, Criminal Law, European Union Law, Tort Law, and Human Rights. It prepares you to undertake further study in Law, provides a foundation for further professional training to become a barrister or a solicitor, or to pursue a career in other areas, including the NGO sector, Government or in the European Union institutions. It is a programme ideally suited both to students who have decided on a career in Law and to students who are considering a career in the Law or related professions.

What are the main themes that will be covered over the three/four years of the programme?

Over the course of the programme students will be introduced in the first year to the functioning of the Irish legal system and will begin to develop legal research and writing skills. They will also be introduced to their first substantive law module – Tort Law – where they will learn the legal rules in this area and begin to develop skills in applying the law. Future years will build on this knowledge, with students taking further substantive law modules including Constitutional Law, Contract Law, European Union Law and Criminal Law and legal skills modules such as Legal Methods and Research.

What will be the focus of first year?

The first year will provide an introduction to the law and the Irish legal system, and an introduction to legal research and writing skills. It will also introduce students to the first of the substantive legal subjects they will study: Tort Law. Tort Law is considered a core law

module, and covers broad areas of civil liability including negligence, trespass to the person and defamation.

How does the subject Law relate to what you have studied at second level?

The study of Law is distinct and not directly relatable to subjects taken in secondary school. However, some of the concepts considered in the study of Law, such as the nature of legal rules, the concept of citizenship, the limits of government, and what laws should govern society, will relate to some of the topics covered in CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education) and Politics and Society. Students who have taken History will also find parallels with some of the material covered in the history of the Irish legal system and in Constitutional Law.

How does the subject Law relate to current events in society?

Law is directly relatable to current events. The law and its application is the focus of daily news reports, and many facets of Irish society including politics, commerce, education, housing, health, and work are governed by legal rules. Similarly, many international news stories are affected by the law of that country or by international human rights norms and principles.

What subjects are complementary to studying Law?

English

Law revolves around language – legal practitioners must read cases and statutes, interpret texts, and persuade others to their point of view both in writing and orally. Studying English in addition to law will help develop your ability to interpret texts, to use language precisely and objectively, and develop your writing and critical thinking skills.

Language (Irish, French, German, Spanish)

Studying Law in addition to a second language like Irish, French, German and Spanish opens up a range of exciting job opportunities working through your chosen language. Having another language will give you the competitive edge when applying to work in international law firms who provide services in multiple languages, thus giving you the opportunity to work abroad. If you study Irish there are also international job opportunities working as an Irish Lawyer Linguist in the Institutions of the European Union. You may also seek opportunities to work as an EU Lawyer Linguist through Spanish, German or French. EU Lawyer Linguists ensure that all new legislation has the same meaning in every European language.

Studying Irish and Law will also open up opportunities for employment in legal departments of an Irish-language organisation, law firms which provide legal advice through the Irish-language, the public sector, legal translation and interpretation, and in the media.

Note: Study abroad is highly recommended for students undertaking a language as part of their degree.

Sociological and Political Studies

Sociology and Political Science are strongly interlinked with the law and thus combining these two subjects will greatly complement your law studies. Studying Sociology and Political Science will give you the skills to analyse contemporary issues which will enhance your understanding of the law, how the government works and how public policy can be improved.

History

Historical events have helped shaped our legal system today. Studying historical events will support you in understanding the modern world and the current legal system and issues.

2. Why Choose Law as a Subject?

Wide Variety of Careers

A degree with Law is a passport to many different types of careers. Many of our BA Law graduates practice as barristers or solicitors in Ireland and throughout the world. Our graduates include members of the judiciary, managing partners of law firms and legal counsel for leading organisations and businesses. Many graduates decide to pursue careers outside legal practice. Graduates may choose to work in the public sector (government departments, local government, and the Law Reform Commission) while others may opt for graduate training programmes or for careers in journalism, human resources, accountancy, banking, taxation, insurance, compliance or with institutions such as the European Commission, the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

Further Study LLB: Those who wish to qualify as a solicitor or barrister or who want to obtain a full law degree may proceed into the final year of the LLB (Bachelor of Laws) programme. The LLB offers all the subjects currently required for the entrance examinations to the legal professions (solicitors and barristers) in Ireland. Upon graduation from the LLB programme students can pursue professional legal training as a solicitor (with the Law Society of Ireland) or as a barrister (with the King's Inns).

3 years BA (Joint Honours) in Law/ 4 years BA Connect with Law + 1 year of LLB =

Full Law Degree

Gain Highly Sought Knowledge and Transferable Skills

Studying Law will allow you to acquire knowledge and transferable skills that are attractive to a range of employers.

- Problem solving
- Research skills
- Critical thinking

- Analytical skills
- Writing skills
- Ability to synthesise large amounts of information
- Communication skills

Access to Expert Staff from the Award-Winning School of Law

The School of Law at NUI Galway delivers innovative legal education in a dynamic school dedicated to impactful, high quality legal research. Our academic staff are nationally and internationally recognised experts in their fields and many are also industry experienced. Their invaluable knowledge and experience give students a unique learning experience, ensuring that they develop the skills necessary to put theory into practice. The School of Law is also a centre of excellence in research with our internationally recognised research centres. Our students have access to academics who lead research projects and influence national and international policy making.



Unique Opportunities

Meet and learn from leading legal experts. Our close links to the legal profession and industry mean we regularly host guest lecturers with leading expertise in law, the legal profession, human rights, disability, and business. Guest lecturers give an insight into current trends in law and society and help inform your future career choices. Previous guest lectures/events include:



Dr Mary Robinson on 'The Necessity for Advocacy'



Annual Distinguished Lecture with Justice Leona Theron



Supreme Court Visit, interactive student seminars led by members of the Supreme Court

3. Structure of Studying Law through your Arts Degree

Module offerings and details may be subject to change. Assessment details are also subject to change.

BA (Joint Honours) in Law and BA Connect

The [BA \(Joint Honours\) in Law](#) and the [BA Connect with Law programmes](#) give students a solid grounding in law while also providing a broad, multi-disciplinary education.

Students who take Law as one of their subjects in first year can progress with Law as one of their subjects to degree level if they successfully pass all of their subjects in the first sitting exams in first year and are among the top 130 students in Law in first year.

BA (Joint Honours) in Law

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Irish Legal System Tort Law Legal Skills	Constitutional Law Contract Law Legal Methods & Research Optional Modules: European Human Rights, Comparative Disability Law, Sociology of Law	European Union Law Criminal Law Administrative Law
+	+	+
Two subjects from the Arts subject groupings	One of the other Arts subjects chosen in first year	The other Arts subject chosen in second year

Study Abroad: At the end of second year, interested students may opt to spend their third year studying at a university in mainland Europe or other countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia or China. These students then return to complete their programme in Galway in their fourth year. Students who opt for a language as one of their arts subjects can participate in Erasmus.

BA Connect

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Irish Legal System Tort Law	Constitutional Law Contract Law Legal Methods & Research	No Law Modules See Course Outline of your BA Connect programme for details on modules, work placement and study abroad.	European Union Law Criminal Law Administrative Law
+	+		+
Two subjects from the Arts subject groupings + your Specialism	One of the other Arts subjects chosen in first year + your Specialism		Other Arts subject + your Specialism

First Year Modules

Tort Law Semester 1 and Semester 2 | Credits: 10

BA (Joint Honours) in Law and BA Connect

This module provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the statutory and judge-made principles which permit recovery for recognised Torts (civil wrongs). The module focuses on the most common torts and requires students to become proficient in the key principles and their application, develop an understanding of the legal and societal context in which the torts are litigated, and adopt a critical approach to the application of the principles. The primary focus is on the law of torts in Ireland, however frequent reference will be made to other common law jurisdictions where many of the legal principles governing this area have been developed.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a firm understanding of the fundamental principles governing Irish Tort Law
2. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a number of selected torts
3. Apply the principles of Tort Law to factual situations
4. Understand the legal and societal context in which tort litigation arises
5. Think critically in relation to the material covered

Assessments

- Written Assessment (60%)
- Continuous Assessment made up of two Multiple-Choice-Tests (40%)

Irish Legal System Semester 1 | Credits: 5

BA (Joint Honours) in Law and BA Connect

In order to grasp fully the effect of substantive legal rules, it is essential to understand the context in which those rules occur – namely, the legal system. The objective of this module is to provide students with an effective understanding of the sources of Irish law, and, more importantly, of how our system works. It will also give students an opportunity to begin developing the basic skills that all lawyers must have in order to function properly. This course offers a general introduction to the Irish legal system, rather than a detailed examination of areas of substantive law.

Learning Outcomes

1. Upon completion of this module, students should be well versed in the sources of Irish law
2. Students should be familiar with basic legal terminology
3. Students should be familiar with the Irish court structure
4. Students should be aware of the impact that international law and EU law have on the Irish legal system
5. Capable of developing their abilities in the effective use of the primary sources of law

Assessments

Continuous Assessment (100%)

- Two-hour written examination at end of Semester 1: 90%
- Courthouse selfie exercise: 4
- Reflective journal entries: 6%

Legal Skills Semester 2 | Credits: 5

BA (Joint Honours) in Law Module

The purpose of this module is to introduce you to some of the practical research and writing skills that you will need in order to successfully complete your degree in law. These skills will also be essential in pursuing a career in legal practice, legal research or other employment requiring a graduate with a law degree.

Learning Outcomes

1. Be able to read and analyse primary and secondary legal sources of law
2. Learn how to provide a legal citation for cases
3. Be able to cite and correct reference legal sources
4. Develop writing skills
5. Develop oratory skills and improve your ability to express yourself orally
6. Have an enhanced capacity for reflective thought.

Assessments

Continuous Assessment (100%)

- Legal submissions on a case: 40% of the overall mark
- Research and Citation Assignment: 20% of the overall mark
- Oral Argument Exercise: 40% of the overall mark

Online and On-Campus Learning and Teaching

What activities will take place on online?

Most lectures in Tort Law and approximately 50% of lectures in Irish Legal Systems will take place online. The weekly online materials will comprise of a video clip from the lecturer who will outline the work for that week, one or more recorded clips to cover the topic materials, and detail on work to be completed for that week. Each module will have a Discussion Board where students can post questions.

Please note that any on-campus sessions (lectures or tutorials) will be replicated online for those who cannot attend University for health reasons.

Weekly on-line office hours will be arranged by the lecturer where students can discuss any questions they have about the module, their assessments, or any other aspect of their studies.

What activities will take place on-campus?

Students will be expected to attend one-hour on-campus session weekly. These sessions will comprise of lectures and tutorials in Irish Legal Systems and Tort Law. As stated above in order to meet the needs of students who for health reasons cannot attend campus the material covered in on campus sessions will be replicated online.

It is important that students follow Covid-19 guidelines and etiquette while on campus. Students can monitor updates at: www.nuigalway.ie/alert.

How to approach online learning?

Students should engage fully with their online learning by accessing their NUI Galway email account and their Blackboard modules on a daily basis. Lecturers will provide detailed guidance on the work to be completed and how students should approach their work through their Blackboard modules and by email.

Students should always contact their lecturers or their 1st BA Law Class Advisor (ursula.connolly@nuigalway.ie) with any questions.

Assessments

How will assessments take place?

Students will be assessed by way of continuous assessment and end-of-semester or end-of-year exams. See the 'First Year Modules' section for further details.

Format of assessments

The format of the assessment differs for each module. See the 'First Year Modules' section for further details.

What will be assessed?

Assessments will assess students' research and writing skills, their ability to apply the law, their understanding of the functioning of the Irish legal system, their ability to critically reflect on the law, and their knowledge of substantive legal rules.

4. Live Introductory Lecture 23rd and 25th September

The Live Introductory Lectures will include a brief overview of the programme allowing time for you to ask any questions that you may have. The live sessions will take place on Blackboard Collaborate, click on the links below to join.

- [Wednesday 23rd September 2-3pm](#)
- [Friday 25th September 1-2pm](#)

5. Important Links

- [Pre-recorded Presentation 'Introduction to Studying Law through your BA Degree'](#)
- [BA \(Joint-Honours\) in Law](#)
- [BA Connect Programmes](#)
- [First year timetable for BA Law students will be uploaded here once available](#)

6. Contact Us and Find Out More

If you have any queries, contact us at: law@nuigalway.ie or contact our First Year BA Law Class Advisor.



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Find out more about the School of Law

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