



## Discipline of Geography, Climate & Sustainability 3rd year timetable 2026/2027

| ECTS              | Module                                                                                                                                                                             | Coordinator                                                                                   | Day, Time & Location                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Semester 1</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5                 | TI335 Research Development and Design<br>(compulsory/core)                                                                                                                         | Prof John McDonagh                                                                            | Thurs 9am: CSB-1006                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5                 | <b>Please select only one</b><br>TI303 Coastal Dynamics<br><br>OR<br><br>TI3127 Critical Geographies of Children                                                                   | Dr Kevin Lynch<br><br><br>Dr Kathy Reilly                                                     | Mon 10am: CSB-G005<br>Mon 2pm: MRA201<br><br><br>Mon 10am: AMB 1023 Mairtin O tNuthail Theatre<br>Mon 2pm: AMB 1023 Mairtin O tNuthail Theatre                           |
| 5                 | <b>Please select only one</b><br>TI326 War & Representation<br><br>OR<br>TI324 Urban Geography Planning the Modern City<br><br>OR<br>TI3128 Palaeoceanography                      | Prof John Morrissey<br><br>Prof Ulf Strohmayr<br><br>Dr Audrey Morley                         | Tues 4pm: CSB-1006<br>Wed 1pm: MRA 201<br><br>Tues 4pm: AC214<br>Wed 1pm: ENG2002<br><br>Tues 4pm: MY120<br>Tues 5pm: MY120                                              |
| <b>Semester 2</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5                 | <b>Please select only one</b><br>TI3117 Migration, MObility & Belonging<br><br>OR<br>TI311 Advanced GIS<br><br>OR<br>TI338 Palaeoecology<br><br>OR<br>GCS3100 Environment & Health | Dr Valerie Ledwith<br><br>Dr Oisín Callery<br><br>Dr Karen Molloy<br><br>Prof Chaosheng Zhang | Mon 10am: AM 1021 Colm O HEocha Theatre<br>Mon 2pm: Dillon Theatre<br><br>Tues 4pm: CSB-G005 Theatre<br><br>Mon 2pm: Larmour Theatre<br>Wed 1pm: AC215<br><br>TBC<br>TBC |
| 10                | Research Seminar/Supervised Research                                                                                                                                               | TBC                                                                                           | Supervised Research<br><i>Not available to occasional or visiting students</i>                                                                                           |

### **\*\*Important information for Module Selection\*\*:**

**\*15 ECTs are required for each semester, 30 ECTs in total.** The 10 ECT Research Seminar/Supervised research module will be applied to student records by the discipline and registration mid semester 1, students **CANNOT** select their own dissertation code. As such you will only need to register for 20 ECTs for your Geography subject.

**Students must ensure they have credits (ECTs) as follows per semester:**

- **Semester 1:** TI335 core module (5 ECTs) + 2 optional modules (5 ECTs per module)
- **Semester 2:** 1 Research Seminar/Supervised research module (10 ECTs) + 1 optional module (5 ECTs)
- **\*Transdisciplinary module:** Students can only pick one such module per subject per year.

It is the responsibility of students to ensure their registration record is correct.

## Key contacts

|                                                |                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Head of Geography, Climate & Sustainability    | <a href="#">Dr Pat Collins</a>           |
| Geography Administrator                        | <a href="#">Christina Costello</a>       |
| Senior Technician/Cartographer                 | <a href="#">Billy Hamilton</a>           |
|                                                |                                          |
| 3 & 4 BA Programme Coordinator                 | <a href="#">Prof John McDonagh</a>       |
| Dissertation Coordinator                       | <a href="#">Prof Chaosheng Zhang</a>     |
| BA International / Visiting Students / Erasmus | <a href="#">Professor Ulf Strohmayer</a> |
| Staff-Student Liaison Officer                  | <a href="#">Billy Hamilton</a>           |
| Plagiarism Matters                             | <a href="#">Dr Kathy Reilly</a>          |
| Safety Officer                                 | <a href="#">Billy Hamilton</a>           |

## Academic Calendar 2026/2027

| Academic Year 2026-2027     |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Orientation 1st years       | Thursday 3rd September to Friday 4th September*                                                      |
| Start of teaching all years | Monday 7th September ( <i>*1st Year Undergrad to be confirmed</i> )                                  |
| End of teaching all years   | Friday 27th November (12 weeks of teaching)                                                          |
| Study week                  | Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December                                                          |
| Semester 1 exams start      | Monday 7th December                                                                                  |
| Semester 1 exams end        | Friday 18th December (10 days of exams)                                                              |
| Christmas Holiday           | Saturday 19th December                                                                               |
|                             |                                                                                                      |
| <b>2027</b>                 |                                                                                                      |
| Start of Teaching           | Monday 11th January 2027                                                                             |
| <b>Easter</b>               | <b>Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March</b>                                            |
| End of Teaching             | Friday 2nd April (12 weeks of teaching)                                                              |
| Field Trips                 | Monday 5th to Friday 9th April                                                                       |
| Study Week                  | Monday 12th to Friday 16th April                                                                     |
| Semester 2 Exams Start      | Monday 19th April                                                                                    |
| Semester 2 Exams End        | Thursday 6th May                                                                                     |
| Autumn Repeat Exams         | Tuesday 3rd August to Friday 13 August (9 days of exams)                                             |
|                             |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Holidays</b>             | <b>Easter: Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March 2027</b>                               |
|                             | <b>Bank Holidays: Monday 26th October 2026 / Monday 1st February 2027/ Wednesday 17th March 2027</b> |
|                             | <b>Monday 3rd May 2027/ Monday 7th June 2027 / Monday 2nd August 2027</b>                            |
|                             |                                                                                                      |

# 3BA Geography, Climate & Sustainability

## Module Outlines 2026/2027

**Module:** TI 335 - Research Project Design & Development

**Lecturer:** Prof Chaosheng Zhang

This course builds upon TI2111: Theory & Practice in Geography in Geography II in second year, and is designed to prepare you for undertaking your research seminar in Semester 2 of 3/4 BA. This includes guidance in literature searching, academic writing, and the design of a research proposal. You will also be introduced to some of the principal analytical methodologies used by geographers, learning highly relevant and transferable skills in the process.

### *Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Understand what constitutes a geographical research problem;
- Have developed an awareness of the fundamental steps involved in the design and execution of an ethical research project;
- Design their own research project in the form of a research proposal;
- Feel confident in their own ability to complete a research project.

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**Module:** TI 3127 Critical Geographies of Children

**Lecturer:** Dr Kathy Reilly

This module is designed to further student understanding of key concepts and issues associated with the ever-growing body of work within the geographies of children, young people and families. In particular the course explores the everyday experiences of children and young people across local, national and global contexts. The course engages contemporary geographic perspectives relating to how understandings of childhood and youth are socially constructed, and in-doing-so provides a platform for exploring geographic research relating to mobility, migration, in/exclusion and identity at a variety of scales. In addressing these themes the module also highlights the importance and ubiquitous nature of place and space in the everyday lives of children and young people, incorporating a focus on 'traditional' sites such as home, school, and neighbourhood contexts. The module also engages with literature challenging what may be considered 'non-traditional' sites for children (for example street children, working children and care-giving children).

### *Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Gain knowledge of key themes and issues stemming from an exploration of the geographies of children, young people and families;
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of key concepts and methodological advances used to collect and analyse data associated with the geographies of children, young people and families;
- Evidence student capacity for individual study and research in written format;
- Apply and evidence criticality in interpretation of module content.

**Module:** TI 303 - Coastal Dynamics  
**Lecturer:** Dr Kevin Lynch

The coastal zone exists at the interface of land, sea and atmosphere, making it a highly complex environment. Only through improved understanding of the processes operating in this zone can we hope to understand and manage this valuable resource in a sustainable manner. This course introduces the basic concepts of coastal science. The role of waves, wind and sea-level in shaping the coast are explored. Conversely, the shape of coastal landforms affects these processes; this interaction between process and form is considered within a morphodynamic framework.

**Topics include:** Coastal systems, Wave processes, Sediments, Shoreface, Nearshore-Zone, Aeolian processes, Beaches, Coastal Dunes, Tidal processes, Beach dune ecology and Beach dune management.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of using the systems approach to coastal environments;
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary coastal processes and landforms;
- Through fieldwork appreciate and develop skills that are used in the investigation of coastal environments;
- Be able to identify complex constraints on, and opportunities for, human exploitation of coastal resources;
- Comprehend and evaluate the patterns and processes controlling long-term coastal evolution and relative sea-level change.

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**Module:** TI 326 - War and Representation  
**Lecturer:** Professor John Morrissey

Representation is a key concept in political and cultural geography, given that so much of our human geographical knowledge is dependent upon its multiple forms. In the West, very few of us have ever seen war, for example; it is typically waged externally in foreign fields. Therefore, how it is discursively (re)presented to us from afar is paramount. Our geographical imaginings of difference and conflict legitimise and frame both our waging and subsequent representations of war. Images and narratives of war serve to translate, prioritise and frequently distort and destroy knowledge. They not only help us to sanitise and forget the wounds of history, but also play pivotal roles in legitimising and contesting the geopolitics of new wars in the multimedia context of the modern world. Drawing on recent work in critical geopolitics, this module is centred on interrogating the enduring significance of the scripting of imaginative geographies of war in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. It explores the production of, and resistance to, multiple material, textual and audio-visual discourses of war as the products and producers of geopolitical power. Focusing in particular on World War 1, the Vietnam War and the global war on terror, the module aims to cultivate students' capacities to recognise Foucault's 'power/knowledge couplet' within all forms of discourse, and prompts a systematic deconstructing of the subtle but purposeful connections between discourse and practice in contemporary geopolitics.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- To learn to interrogate diverse accounts of war from different and conflicting media and to deconstruct the various geopolitical, ideological and cultural logics of their creation;
- To recognise the selectivity, politics and power relations of all forms of discourse and to appreciate how prioritised geographical knowledge is scripted, disseminated and contested;
- More broadly, to see the critical significance of representation in the modern world and to decipher the integral connections between geopolitical discourse and geopolitical practice.

**Module:** TI 311 - Advanced GIS  
**Lecturer:** Dr Oisín Callery

Based on the basic concepts and simple applications of GIS that were covered in the course “Introduction to GIS”, this course focuses on the advanced topics and advanced functions of GIS, which are more practical and problem-solving. The concepts of advanced analysis functions of network analysis and spatial interpolation are explained, and the topic Google Earth is discussed. Actual applications in geography are demonstrated. Students will understand the latest development of these advanced GIS topics and obtain the practical skills of a GIS project design.

The extensions of ArcGIS are selected as the software package for this course. Students will acquire these useful techniques of making more practical maps and performing advanced analyses through computer practical classes.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Introduction and Review of GIS Basics;
  - Advanced Analyses (Network Analysis, Spatial Interpolation);
  - Advanced Topics (Google Earth, Applications in GIS projects);
  - ArcGIS Extensions (Network Analyst, Geostatistical Analyst);
  - Practical skills of Google Earth and GIS project.
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**Module:** TI 338 - Palaeoecology - Reconstructing Past Environments  
**Lecturer:** Dr Karen Molloy

The Irish landscape as we know it today is governed by what has happened in the past. Both climate change and anthropogenic factors have played significant roles in shaping the development of the landscape. The objectives of this module are to introduce the student to palaeoenvironmental methods, in particular pollen analysis, as a means of interpreting the past 15, 000 years of vegetation and environmental change in Ireland. The course will consist of a series of lectures, a field excursion and 3 laboratory sessions where students will use microscope techniques to identify and count fossil pollen grains.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Evaluate the main methods both direct and indirect of reconstructing past environments;
- understand the main principles of pollen analysis;
- understand the key vegetation changes that have occurred in Ireland since the end of the Ice Age;
- have an appreciation of the role people have played in shaping the Irish landscape from the arrival of the first farmers in Neolithic times;
- have a greater understanding of the natural world;
- use a microscope and identify the pollen of the most common Irish trees;
- interpret and evaluate a pollen diagram;
- Demonstrate an understanding of long-term environmental change as it relates to modern environmental systems;
- Critique the array of methodologies which are used in reconstructing past environments;
- Assess long-term human-environment interactions through time;
- Apply theoretical concepts in a real-world context through hands-on field-based instruction.

**Module:** TI 324 Urban Geography: Planning the Modern City  
**Lecturer:** Professor Ulf Strohmayer

Using the lens provided by the city of Paris, France, this course details the history of urban planning as a series of conceptual and practical interventions. The principal aims of this course are therefore:

- (a) to recognize the city as a historically changing and complex environment.
- (b) to analyse the history and contemporary practice of planning as a multi-faceted and ongoing process; and
- (c) to study the changing structures and consequences of a host of different planned and unplanned public spaces.

A city is always shaped by an array of previous interventions that meet a set of present-day changes and challenges – it is the resulting urban plaimpsest that we aim to understand. If ‘planning’ is our contemporary word for such interventions, it is arguably as much about the forward-looking momentum of anticipating change and adopting space to such change as it concerns the need to ‘live with’ existing, pre-formatted spaces – both of which characterize one of the key problems areas planners have had — and continue — to address.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- analyse the material and discursive richness of ‘Western’ modernity;
  - identify historical responses to emerging urban problems;
  - explain different structural and agencial interventions in urban planning;
  - distinguish between ‘public’ and ‘private’ causal factors;
  - identify different urban technologies and their consequences;
  - demonstrate an ability to engage a diverse range of urban representations and articulations.
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**Module:** GCS3100 **Environment** **and** **Health**  
**Lecturer:** Professor Chaosheng Zhang

This course examines the dynamic interplay between environmental conditions and human health outcomes. Students will explore how natural environment, human activities, and global environmental changes influence patterns of disease, well-being, and public health. Key topics include air and water quality, climate change, waste management, environmental toxins, and urbanization, with a focus on both local and global perspectives. Students will learn to identify environmental risk factors, analyze their health impacts, and evaluate strategies for prevention and mitigation. The course emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches, integrating principles from environmental science, epidemiology, policy, and the current international organizations to address pressing health challenges. By the end of the semester, students will be equipped with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to understand and respond to environmental health issues in a rapidly changing world.

*Key Learning Outcomes:*

- Explain the fundamental principles and scope of environment and public health.
- Identify key environmental materials and processes that influence human and animal health.
- Understand methodologies such as sampling, geochemical analysis, and GIS mapping to assess health risks.
- Evaluate recent developments and emerging issues in environment and health, including climate change impacts.
- Discuss the role and activities of the international organizations in environment and health and global collaboration opportunities.

**Module:** TI 3117 – Migration, Mobility & Belonging  
**Lecturer:** Dr Valerie Ledwith

Human migration involves the movement of people from one place to another. It is an intrinsically geographical process. While short distance mobility is more frequent than long distance mobility, migration research in geography is increasingly interested in international migrations and their effects. This course begins with a consideration of the relationship between globalisation and international migration, considering the role that economic forces play in the decision to move. The course also examines the role of the nation-state in regulating migration and migrants, and in managing and policing borders. Following this, the course focuses on migrant identities and the relationship between mobility and belonging. The final part of the course examines contemporary backlash towards international mobility, evident in anti-immigrant populism and nativism.

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**Module:** TI3128 Palaeoceanography  
**Lecturer:** Dr Audrey Morley

Climate change is not a modern phenomenon, as Earth's systems are dynamic and rarely stable over extended periods of time. Climate variability occurs across multiple spatial and temporal scales, but we generally lack long enough scientific or historical records to directly measure most long-term patterns of climate change. Palaeoceanography fills this void providing evidence of past changes in ocean conditions including temperature, salinity, productivity, circulation, and ecology. These variables are typically reconstructed through analyses of the geochemistry, microfossil composition, and organic contents of ancient marine sediments that have either been exposed on land or collected through seafloor drilling. Palaeoceanography offers an opportunity to reconstruct past climate change across timescales, providing a broader context for studying modern climate change.

- Demonstrate an understanding of long-term environmental change as it relates to modern environmental systems
- Critique the array of methodologies which are used in reconstructing past environments
- Assess long-term human-environment interactions through time
- Apply theoretical concepts in a real-world context through hands-on field-based instruction