

DIPLOMA IN IRISH ARCHÆOLOGY

St Angela's College, Sligo

2017 - 2019



OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway



The Department of Archaeology at NUI, Galway is pleased to offer the Diploma in Archaeology at St. Angela's College, Sligo, commencing in September 2017.

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human societies. The discipline covers a remarkable span of time and investigates some of the most profoundly important developments of the past. The wide scope of archaeology, in time, space and methodology is one of the features which makes the subject so attractive to professional and amateur alike. There is something to interest everyone - whether their interests lie in outdoor fieldwork and exploring ancient monuments, the study of artefacts, the history of technology, local studies, or simply in the rich heritage of Ireland's past.



This NUI, Galway programme is delivered part-time (**Thursday evenings, 6.30 – 9.30pm**), over two years, on the St. Angela's College campus, Lough Gill, Sligo. There are three Saturday field-trips each year.

The programme begins in September and has breaks at Christmas and summer.

Successful completion earns a diploma in Archaeology (with a 30 ECTS weighting, NQ level 7).

Programme Structure

Year 1

Introduction to Archaeology

An introduction to the discipline of archaeology, providing the theoretical and methodological foundations for later courses.

The Archaeology of Prehistoric Ireland

Topics include the earliest settlers, megalithic tombs, the Bronze Age, and the arrival of Celtic influences.

The Archaeology of Historic Ireland

Topics include settlement, the early Christian Church, Ireland and the Viking world, Medieval castles, churches and towns.

Year 2

Approaching the Past

The different ways that archaeological evidence is retrieved in the field, and used to explain past societies and social change.

Prehistoric Landscapes

The prehistoric landscapes of north-western and western Ireland.

Historic Landscapes

The historic-period landscapes of north-western and western Ireland.

Further Information: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses/adult-and-continuing-education-courses/archaeology.html>

To apply (system opens April 2017): <http://www.nuigalway.ie/adult-learning/how-to-apply/>

Programme Structure

Year 1

Module 1: Introduction to Archaeology

This general course will introduce students to the discipline of archaeology and provide the theoretical and methodological foundations for later courses. The first weeks will be devoted to *Exploring the Past*, a series of lectures designed to introduce participants to aspects of modern archaeology, its historical development, aims and practices. This is followed in the latter weeks by lectures devoted to *Fundamentals of Archaeological Explanation* where students are introduced to the techniques involved in archaeological analyses.

Module 2: The Archaeology of Prehistoric Ireland

An introduction to the prehistory of Ireland. The first lectures deal with the earliest settlers in Ireland, the arrival of farming and megalithic tombs. This is followed by lectures considering the many developments that marked the transition to the Bronze Age, from the introduction of metallurgy to changes in the structure of society and ritual practices. The arrival of Celtic influences to Ireland and the process of Celticisation in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age are explored.

Module 3: The Archaeology of Historic Ireland

An introduction to Irish archaeology from the arrival of Christianity in the 5th century AD to the end of the Medieval period. The weeks of *Early Medieval and Viking Ireland* look at the period between the fifth and twelfth centuries AD, covering topics such as settlement, economy and craft, the early Christian Church, and Ireland and the Viking world. This is followed by lectures on Anglo-Norman and Gaelic Ireland that deal with the Medieval period in Ireland, covering such areas as the archaeology of Medieval castles, churches and towns.



Year 2

Module 1: Approaching the Past

This course deals with the different ways that archaeologists use archaeological evidence to explain past societies and social change. It also explores how archaeologists retrieve evidence about the past in the field – exploring the processes involved in archaeological survey, excavation, and post-excavation analyses. The module also incorporates a fieldwork project where students learn the basic skills of recording archaeological sites/monuments (supported by a field class).



Module 2: Prehistoric Landscapes

This course focuses on the prehistoric landscapes of north-western and western Ireland and includes topics such as the megalithic tombs of the Burren, prehistoric landscapes of counties Sligo and Mayo, and selected prehistoric evidence from county Galway. Supported by an accompanying field-trip.

Module 3: Historic Landscapes

This course focuses on the historic-period landscapes of north-western and western Ireland and includes topics such as Christianity in the west, secular settlement, and the towns, castles and other remnants of the Anglo-Norman and Medieval Gaelic period. Supported by an accompanying field-trip.



Further Information:

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