



Fully funded PhD scholarship in Classics, National University of Ireland, Galway

Project

Classics at the University of Galway is pleased to invite applications for a four-year PhD scholarship, with an anticipated starting date from **September 2025** on the project ‘Connect 4: Uncovering Knowledge Exchange within the Early Medieval Insular World through Linguistic Idiosyncrasies in Obscure Letters, Words, Phrases, and Texts’. The PhD student will participate in a new funded project directed by Dr Ciaran Arthur, investigating the role of linguistic obscurity in medieval texts and its impact on education, scholarship, and knowledge-transfer between Britain and Ireland at home and abroad.

The specific role of the PhD student within the project will be to evaluate the extent of correspondence in patterns of textual ambiguity in British and Irish texts spanning the period 700–1200 CE. In essence, the major question of the project is ‘what can be considered to be textually obscure’? Key examples could include charms, remedies, medical texts, and riddles. However, case studies are open to the scope and trajectory of the PhD project.

This task will provide the opportunity for a PhD student to develop advanced research skills in the transmission and reception of Late Antique and early medieval texts generally—in both vernacular and Latin—as well as in early medieval manuscript studies. The student will be expected to develop their own research agenda within the broader framework, which they will pursue under the supervision of Dr Arthur and Dr Pádraic Moran, as part of the University of Galway’s four-year Structured PhD in Classics or Medieval Studies.

Supports

The award consists of an annual stipend of €25,000, plus tuition fees, plus expenses for travel and equipment.

As well as joining a project team, the student will have the support of a lively research environment in Classics at the University of Galway, as well as the University Galway’s Centre for Antique, Medieval, and Pre-modern Research (CAMPS). Since the broader project will have a significant Digital Humanities element, there will be training opportunities there too.



Requirements

Essential:

- A Master's degree in Classics, Medieval Studies or a related discipline, with a result in the first class or upper second class category (or international equivalent).
- Evidence of good knowledge of Latin and/or a medieval vernacular language (e.g., Old English, Old Irish, Old Saxon, Old Welsh, etc.)
- Excellent writing ability in English.
- Excellent organisation and communication skills.
- A strong motivation to pursue independent research and dissemination.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of early medieval palaeography.
- Knowledge of Old Irish / Celtic / Old English / Germanic philology.
- Experience with transcription and work with medieval manuscripts.

Application process

E-mail ciaran.arthur@universityofgalway.ie with the following documents (in one PDF file):

- Cover letter (maximum 2 pages) explaining your motivation to undertake an independent project thematically related to Connect 4 and outlining your proposed research topic.
- Detailed CV.
- Sample of academic writing (e.g. academic essay or MA dissertation, up to 5000 words).
- Two academic references.

Deadline: Friday 20 June 2025 5pm (Irish Standard Time).

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee and short-listed candidates will be interviewed (online), ideally in early July.