



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

MA IN IRISH-GERMAN STUDIES

The University of Limerick undertakes programmes of education and research to doctorate level in the following areas: **business, computing, dance, education, engineering, humanities, mathematics, music, social science and science.** The extensive modern campus of the University is located on the banks of the River Shannon at the heart of the 640 acre National Technological Park, approximately 3 miles from the centre of Limerick city. The University has excellent educational, cultural, sporting and residential facilities and accommodates some 12,500 students.

INTRODUCTION

The new MA in Irish-German Studies is a unique **one-year programme** harnessing particular strengths in UL while combining with complementary existing MA programmes in Ireland, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It aims to attract highly qualified students who will benefit from a strongly interdisciplinary and internationally focussed academic programme and enables them to work and research in international contexts. All participating exchange programmes for the second semester have been chosen in order to provide students with expertise interrelated with and complementary to their studies in UL in semester one, giving students the chance to specialize in areas of their choice. In accordance with the University's strategic plan, the programme will encourage and support the internationalisation of postgraduate studies. While students from the German-speaking countries will benefit from UL's strategic alliance with NUI Galway, a study abroad period at either Berlin, Bern, Jena, Lüneburg or Vienna is incorporated for postgraduates from Irish universities and non-German-speaking countries. The intellectual outcomes consist of in-depth knowledge of cultural, political, and historical dimensions of Irish-German relations as well as a high level of linguistic competence and intercultural skills, gained both inside the classroom and through international experience. The interdisciplinary academic dimension will contribute to the development of analytical and research skills needed for high-level international positions, whether in the fields of business, culture or politics and education.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ✦ To provide students with the knowledge of cultural, political, and historical contexts of Irish-German relations and to explore the inter-relationship between Ireland and the German-speaking countries
- ✦ To enable students to evaluate critically theoretical approaches to the study of literature, culture, history and intercultural relations
- ✦ To enable students to hone their oral and written communication skills in German and in English
- ✦ To provide students with the knowledge and skills to design and conduct independent research required to proceed to doctoral degree studies

- ✦ To study themes and concepts that occur in the context of bilateral relations, i.e. identity, ethnicity, history, memory, language and home
- ✦ To give students the opportunity to benefit from the excellent research links of the Centre of Irish-German Studies in German-speaking countries and to study in an international setting and at different academic institutions

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Students will complete 60 credits of taught modules and complete a dissertation worth 30 credits in one year, making the programme worth 90 ECTS credits. In the autumn semester, students will take three modules of 9 credits each plus one 3-credit module at the University of Limerick. In the spring semester they will take modules for 30 ECTS credits at the relevant partner university. In exceptional circumstances (in line with current practice at undergraduate level in relation to exemptions for external study placements) students can remain in Limerick in the spring semester and take elective modules from programmes involved in semester one, following agreement with the course director.

The programme combines lectures, tutorial discussions, film screenings, assigned and recommended reading and viewing and research-based critical writing both in Limerick and at another university. Attendance of guest lectures and readings by academics, writers, artists and practitioners in the relevant fields will be expected as well as student seminar presentations and individual library-based and, if applicable, archive-based research. Students also undertake a research dissertation during the summer at the University of Limerick under the guidance of a supervisor on a topic of their choice in the area of Irish-German relations (ca 15,000 words, Summer Semester).

CAREERS

Opportunities include international positions in the fields of culture, tourism, business, politics and education. The programme also provides a sound basis for doctoral research.



PROGRAMME OUTLINE

AUTUMN SEMESTER

Irish-German Cultural Connections (9 credits)

Literature of Migration (9 credits)

One of these research modules:

Research Methodology in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (3 credits)

or

Research Methodologies in Applied Language Studies (3 credits)

Plus **one** of the following modules (each 9 credits)

Cultural Constructions of the Past

The European Nobility, 1500-1789

Language Systems I

Graduate Seminar in Institutions and Policies of the European Union

Multi Level Governance: Concepts and Practice

SLA Theories and Classroom Applications

SPRING SEMESTER*

Erasmus semester in one of the following (for students from English-speaking universities):

a. Freie Universität Berlin (MA in DaF – German as Foreign Language)

b. Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena (MA in IWPK – Intercultural Business Communication)

c. Leuphana Universität Lüneburg (MA KuWi – Culture, Arts and Media)

d. Universität Wien (MAs in

1) Austrian Studies

2) Deutsche Philologie - German Studies

3) Anglophone Literatures and Cultures)

e. Universität Bern (German Studies)

(30 credits)

Mode B - Semester NUI Galway

(for students from German-speaking universities)

Modules from MA in German Studies and MA in

International Contemporary Literatures and Media;

also, if available, from MA in English (Literature and Publishing)

(30 credits)

SUMMER SEMESTER

Research dissertation in the area of

Irish-German relations (ca. 15,000 words, 30 credits)

* Places at the partner universities in Semester Two are allocated in consultation with the Course Director, Dr. Gisela Holfter.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A primary degree (with first or second class honours) in an appropriate discipline e.g. Languages, Literature, Cultural Studies, European Studies, History, Politics. Applicants with an approved equivalent qualification will be considered. Good proficiency in English and German is essential (see also language requirements for International students on the Graduate School website)

FEES

Information on fees and semester dates are available on the UL webpage www.ul.ie

FEE WAIVERS or a reduction of fees will be available for outstanding students. Applicants for fee waivers must be enrolled in the programme. Please contact the course director.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Applicants who wish to discuss detailed elements of the programme or apply for a fee waiver may contact the Course Director:

Dr Gisela Holfter

Centre for Irish-German Studies
School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, University of Limerick, IRL-Limerick
Email: Gisela.Holfter@ul.ie

HOW TO APPLY

Online at www.ul.ie/graduateschool/taught-programmes

Postgraduate Admissions Office
Graduate School
Foundation Building
University of Limerick
Tel: +353 61 234377
Fax: +353-61-233287
Web: www.graduatestudies.ul.ie

Please see website for application deadlines.

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