



**Maynooth
University**

National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Department of Geography

FIRST YEAR GEOGRAPHY 2021/22

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 27 Sep 2021:	<i>First Year Geography GY161 Global Environments lectures start at 11.00 am.</i>
Mon 27 Sep 2021:	<i>First Year Geography GY151 Living Landscapes lectures start. See GY151 Moodle page</i>
Fri 22 Oct 2021	<i>Change of Subject Deadline for First Year Students</i>
Mon 25 Oct - Fri 29 Oct 2021	<i>Study Week</i>
Fri 17 Dec 2021	<i>Conclusion of First Semester lectures</i>
Mon 20 Dec 2021-Fri 31 Jan 2022	<i>Christmas Vacation (students)</i>
Mon 3 to Fri 6 Jan 2022	<i>Study period</i>
Fri 7 Jan 2022:	<i>Semester 1 module examinations commence</i>
Mon 31 Jan 2022:	<i>Semester 2 lectures start</i>
Mon 14 Mar to Fri 18 Mar 2022:	<i>Semester 2 Study Week</i>
Fri 18 Apr to Fri 22 Apr 2022:	<i>Easter vacation, including Good Friday</i>
Fri 6 May 2022:	<i>Conclusion of Second Semester lectures</i>
Fri 13 May 2022:	<i>Semester 2 module examinations commence</i>

See: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/registrar/key-term-dates for more details. There is also a Geography Year Planner on p.25 of *this* guide.

Welcome to Geography!

Welcome!

Dear First Year Geographers

Congratulations on choosing Geography. On behalf of all Department of Geography staff I welcome you to Maynooth Campus and the Department of Geography. I really hope that you enjoy Geography and our first-year programme.

Climate and environmental change, and even this pandemic, are current issues which show how important it is that we understand our Earth from physical and societal perspectives. Across natural hazards, ecosystem management, global poverty, economic crises, health and wellbeing, rural planning, urban regeneration, migration and refugee flows, and associated geopolitical tensions, space place and time are important perspectives.

Geography examines issues from many disciplinary viewpoints across space place and time. We need to understand political and social geography to develop sustainable pathways to the future and we need empathy and to understand our responsibilities towards others; as I write this, our support and understanding of political geography and displaced people is highlighted by current affairs. It is hardly surprising that geography and geographers are never out of the news.

Geographers at Maynooth are held in very high esteem, our research provides information to both the international academic community and to wider society at global, national, and local levels. Colleagues are active in producing new knowledge and insights on a wide variety of topics including the origins of the Irish physical landscape, the causes and consequences of climate change and environmental change, adaptive policies in rural and urban landscapes, social, cultural and historical trends in Ireland, migration policy and social justice.

The Department prides itself on supporting our students and your lecturers pride themselves in contributing to the unique 'Maynooth learning experience'. Many of you will have achieved your leaving cert in tough times and have shown resilience and determination to get here – well done! Of course, the year ahead remains a little different and there are some uncertainties as society and education opens. You may still have some blended online learning experiences in addition to live classes. We can assure you that however your individual modules are delivered, we will continue to support you as students and will work hard to make your first-year learning experience productive and memorable.

We wish you well for your exciting first year in higher education and look forward to getting to know you better as the year unfolds.

I hope you enjoy geography, work hard, stay safe and enjoy the year.

Helen

Dr Helen Shaw
Lecturer in Biogeography and Palaeoecology
and Head of Department of Geography



A note about studying under COVID restrictions

Most of you completed your second level education in challenging circumstances and as you make the transition to third level education, it seems likely that we can expect further challenges in the year ahead.

COVID restrictions will affect the way you attend lectures, tutorials and other classes, the way you move around campus, and the way you interact with lecturers and fellow students. Study will be different during the coming semester and probably the whole year. We may transition back to normality, or, of course, further restrictions may be imposed at short notice.

There is an official university position on teaching and Covid which you should read. You can keep up to date at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/coronavirus>. This may be especially important if the situation changes.

From a Geography perspective, we want to assure you that we are doing everything we can. However your modules are delivered we will do our very best to make sure that you have a high quality equivalent learning opportunity. Staff, including module leaders, administration, IT support and library supports have been working hard all summer to develop flexible content. We have new resources we can access through Moodle to assist with teaching delivery and some lectures will be recorded and delivered to you online. In particular, online access has been extended for many resources through the library. Universities spend a great deal on library resources each year; as part of your registration at Maynooth you have the privilege of free online access to a wide range of high-quality academic resources, please do make sure you use these to enhance your studies.

You will be aware that lecture hall capacities are reduced by social distancing requirements. Classes may be split into module groups, or delivered wholly or partially online if restrictions are increased. One method that module leaders might use is that of a “flipped classroom”¹. This means that you may be asked to prepare ahead of a lecture, by reading a chapter, watching an online lecture, doing an exercise etc. then come to the lecture room, or TEAMS site, or outside field walk, ready to contribute to a discussion.

The good news is that a range of pedagogic research shows that flipped classroom teaching can actually enhance learning². The main challenge for you as a student will be **remaining dedicated to your studies and keeping up with module content**. Flipped classroom models may rely on an increase in regular short continuous assessment work. Please do ensure that you are clear about the assessment strategy for each module and keep a timetable of your deadlines.

We will all have to get used to new ways of working and new technologies. Sometimes internet connections may not work, or we might struggle with technology. We ask that you are patient it will be important to develop resilience and flexible approaches. We will get there. Remember, many additional skills that you may learn will continue to develop in the workplaces of the future and learning them now is a benefit. In addition, you will be able to discuss your resilience, flexibility, independence, and enhanced planning and technical skills in your future CVs and in job interviews.

Lastly, if you are struggling, please let us know. We are not accepting office visits but, we can arrange times and places to meet, in person or remotely. So, don't let worries build up, just email us for help or advice.

¹ Bergmann, J. and Sams, A., 2012. Flip your classroom: Reach every student in every class every day. International society for technology in education.

² e.g. Zeren, M.G., 2016. The flipped geography lecture. Marmara Coğrafya Dergisi, (33), pp.25-57.

Staff involved in the First Year Geography Programmes

Please see the following page for who you need to contact in particular circumstances

Lecturers for GY151 and 152 Living Landscapes

Dr Stephen McCarron (S1)	Stephen.Mccarron@mu.ie	01 708 6147	R-14
Dr Lisa Orme (S1)	Lisa.Orme@mu.ie	01 708 3769	LH-2.4
Professor Mary Gilmartin (S2)	Mary.Gilmartin@mu.ie	01 708 6617	R-9
TBC (S2)			

Lecturers for GY161 and 162 Global Environments

Dr Alistair Fraser (S1)	Alistair.Fraser@mu.ie	01 708 6156	R-21
Professor Mark Boyle (S1)	Mark.G.Boyle@mu.ie	01 708 3756	
Dr Ro Charlton (S2)	Ro.Charlton@mu.ie	01 708 3679	R-23
TBC (S2)			

Head of Department

Dr Helen Shaw	Helen.Shaw@mu.ie	01 708 6153	R-23B
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Deputy Head of Department

Dr Adrian Kavanagh	Adrian.P.Kavanagh@mu.ie	01 708 6014	R-6
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Tutorial Coordinator

Tutorial Coordinator	geogtutorials1@mu.ie	Use email to contact tutorial coordinator	
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Support staff

Neasa Hogan	Geography.Department@mu.ie	01 708 3610	R-23C
Norma Murphy	Geography.Department@mu.ie	01 708 4760	R-23C
Mick Bolger, Technician	Michael.Bolger@mu.ie	01 708 4762	Opp. PG Lab

*R = Rhetoric House (South Campus); LH = Laraghbryan House(North Campus);
PG = Physical Geography Lab (Rhetoric House Ground Floor)*

Staff are to be contacted during office hours or by appointment only. Office Hours for each member of staff are posted on Moodle [MC:GY_01 All 1st Year Geog \(2021:22\)](#) As most staff will be working from home where possible, you are advised to contact staff by email rather than phoning.

First Year Manager

Dr Ro Charlton Room 23, Top Floor, Rhetoric House (South Campus)
Office hours (Semester 1): By appointment

First Year Geography Programme Adviser

Dr Stephen McCarron, Room 14, Top Floor, Rhetoric House (South Campus)
Office hours (Semester 1): By appointment

Tutorial Coordinator

Send all questions relating to tutorial group allocations to geogtutorials1@mu.ie giving your name, student number, the Geography modules you are taking and your other subject(s)

I have a question - who do I contact?

It may well be the case that an answer to your problem can be found in this handbook, on Moodle, or on Departmental webpages. If you cannot find an answer using these sources, you should consult the relevant member of staff (see below), the Year Manager, Ro Charlton, or Neasa Hogan and Norma Murphy in the Geography Administrative Office (Room 23C). See also page 9 for ways you can make contact with the Department of Geography.

Where can I get advice on my degree programme and subject choice?

The Programme Advisory Team are available to advise you on the choices you make about your programme, including subject choice, and can answer any questions students may have. See their website for further information: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office Email: choices@mu.ie Tel.: 01 474 7428

How do I know which classes to attend in person and which ones are online?

You should go to the Moodle page for the relevant module for further information:

How do I sign up for module groups and tutorials?

Note: there are NO module groups for GY161/162 Global Environments
There are NO tutorials for GY161 Global Environments I

- If you are taking **GY151/152 Living Landscapes** you need to sign up for a **GY151 Module Group AND a GY151 Tutorial Group** on the [GY151 Moodle page](#) for full details.
- In Semester 2, if you are taking **GY152 Living Landscapes II**, you will be in the same tutorial group as for GY151.
- In Semester 2, if you are taking **GY162 Global Environments II**, you will need to sign up for a **GY162 Tutorial Group** on the [GY162 Moodle page](#). We will remind you to do this nearer the time.

There is a timetable clash with my tutorial time, what should I do? How do I change tutorial groups?

You should contact the Tutorial Coordinator by email at geogtutorials1@mu.ie, giving your **full name, student number**, which **Geography module(s)** you are taking and your **other subject(s)**

When do tutorials start?

GY151 tutorials start in the week beginning Monday 8 Nov and will take place online. You need to sign up for GY151 tutorials on the [GY151 Moodle page](#) as soon as possible even if you are still deciding whether or not to do this module.

There are no tutorials for GY161 Global Environments I.

I am thinking of changing from another subject to Geography GY151/2 *Living Landscapes* and/or GY161/2 *Geography Global Environments*. Who can I talk to and what do I need to do?

- You should check that your new choice is compatible with the other subject(s) you wish to study (GY151/2 *Living Landscapes* is in Timetable Group 1; GY161/2 *Global Environments* is in Timetable Group 6).
- You can read an outline of the two 15 credit programmes offered by the Geography Department on pages 10–14 of *this* guide. While you are deciding, you should attend classes for both the subjects you are deciding between to help you make your choice and ensure you don't fall behind. This means that you need to **sign up for a GY151 module group** if changing to GY151 on the [GY151 Moodle page](#). If you do not yet have access to this Moodle page(s) you can self-enrol (see page 15).
- If joining **GY151 *Living Landscapes I***, you also need to sign up for **GY151 tutorials** on the [GY151 Moodle page](#) as soon as possible. There are no tutorials for GY161 *Global Environments 1*.
- To change subjects, you need to amend your registration. This may be completed online via the **Registration Amendment Menu** in [Student Web Services](#). The **Change of Subject deadline is Fri 18 Oct**. After this deadline special permission is required from Professor Kearns (Head of the Geography Department).
- For further questions about the Geography programmes, you can contact the First Year Geography Programme Adviser Dr Stephen McCarron, or the First Year Manager Dr Ro Charlton.

I am changing from 30 to 15 credits of Geography or have decided not to do Geography. What do I need to let the Geography Department know?

If you have already signed up for a GY151 *Global Environments* tutorial group, then **please contact the Tutorial Coordinators** by email geogtutorials1@mu.ie, giving your **full name, student number**, and the **Geography modules** you are discontinuing (i.e. GY151, GY152 or GY162).

I have a question about something covered in one of my Geography lectures

You can consult the lecturer who is teaching the relevant module (see page 5 for contact details).

I am having problems with a Geography assignment

Make sure you have read all the instructions and supporting material for that assignment on Moodle. If you are still having problems, you should contact your tutor or the lecturer who set the assignment.

If you wish to request an extension you should follow the procedure explained on page 15 of this guide and submit a [Personal and Medical Circumstances \(PMC\) form](#). Requests for extensions are **only granted when there are extenuating circumstances**.

What should I do if I miss an assessment, tutorial or examination, or need an extension for an assignment?

You need to complete a [Personal and Medical Circumstances \(PMC\) Form](#) and provide supporting documentation. See page 16 of this guide and Moodle for the procedure you need to follow.

I am worried about falling behind because illness or personal circumstances are affecting my ability to work effectively. Who do I contact?

You need to complete a [Personal and Medical Circumstances \(PMC\) Form](#) and provide supporting documentation. See page 15 of this guide and Moodle for the two-step procedure you need to follow. Should you wish to discuss your circumstances please email geography.department@mu.ie with a subject line **PMC**. Covid restrictions will impact on options for meeting in person throughout the semester and possibly the whole year. Please do not let this prevent you contacting us, we can work out a way to meet or help. However, please do not come to staff offices on a drop-in basis. Please email in the first instance. A meeting, virtual or in person, will be arranged to suit the circumstances. *All discussions are confidential.*

How much reading is expected of me?

University level study assumes a significant degree of student reading beyond the lectures and tutorials. You should expect in an average week to spend at least two hours reading for each hour you spend in a lecture. You will be asked to purchase recommended texts and module lecturers will regularly refer you to the sections of the texts most appropriate to the work you are learning in class. In addition, module lecturers may ask for additional reading which they will either provide or direct students to. Clearly, the more you read around a topic the deeper and broader your knowledge will be and therefore the better marks you will get.

I would like to improve the quality of my written work. Is there any assistance with this?

The University has a Centre for Teaching and Learning which provides students with opportunities to address many general issues relating to learning and assessment. As part of its programme there is a [Writing Centre](#) where students can drop in and receive support to develop further their writing skills.

What are some of the reasons why students fail or do badly in 1st Year Geography (and their other subjects)?

Reasons include: (a) not attending tutorial classes; (b) not attending lectures/only attending a few or not paying attention in lectures; (c) not completing continuous assessment assignments; (d) not reading widely enough – depending on lecture notes only; (e) leaving all assignments until the last minute; (f) not following the instructions provided.

Make sure you read carefully all feedback provided by markers so that you can improve your performance in subsequent assignments.

Keeping in touch with the Geography Department

You can keep in touch with the Department using one of the following four methods:

1. **Moodle:** This online learning environment is accessible both on and off campus [[Moodle Maynooth 2021-22](#)] We use it for: (a) administration work by the Year Manager (e.g. posting notices and announcements, signing up by students for modules and events) (b) to pass on information/ resources about individual modules and assignments. You will have access to all MOODLE areas relating to the modules for which you are registered as well as to a general information area for first years. **All general information will be communicated through a single first year Moodle page:** [MC:GY_01—GY_01 All 1st Year Geog \(2021-22:Year-long\)](#).
2. **Email:** Messages TO individual students from Year Managers/ Staff will normally ONLY be made via e-mail, **using the student’s Maynooth University e-mail address.**

You should **check your Maynooth University e-mail on a regular basis**, and clear your inbox when it is getting full. Please note that **staff will only answer emails sent from your Maynooth University e-mail address.** Messages FROM students to staff involving other than a short reply should NOT be sent by e-mail. E-Mails referring to information that is already available in this Guide, on Moodle, the Department website, or provided in lectures will NOT receive a reply. If discussion or advice of a general nature is required this should be done through a meeting with the staff member concerned during his/her office hours. All messages should have a relevant heading in the subject line.

3. **Office Hours:** All lecturers have times set aside to meet students to discuss matters relating to their work in the Department of Geography. These 'office hours' are listed on the relevant staff pages on the website and the relevant Moodle pages. Students should always check the relevant Moodle pages before seeking information from staff. Special appointments may be arranged with individual staff members. General matters relating to First Year Geography (not specific to individual modules) should be addressed to the First Year Manager (Ro Charlton).
4. **Microsoft Teams:** Tutorials will be held on Microsoft Teams. On-line meetings with geography department staff will normally be held on Teams.
5. **Department of Geography website:** Students will find useful information on the undergraduate geography programmes including an overview of each year, modules offered, course requirements, Year Guides and other documentation and details on staff office hours. Information about upcoming events and more general departmental news is posted regularly on this site www.maynoothuniversity.ie/geography

	Moodle	Email	Office Hours	Phone
<i>When you should use this medium</i>	Frequently, for most information regarding modules and courses	<u>Only if FAQs or Moodle or notice boards don't help.</u> For queries that only require a <u>brief response</u>	For queries requiring a more detailed response/discussion from a staff member. See page 5 of this guide.	Most staff will be working from home for part of the working week. You are advised to use email as your first point of contact.

Becoming involved

Staff-Student liaison committee:

Class representatives (elected by students during the first semester) will have scheduled meetings with the Staff-Student Committee during the year to discuss matters of mutual concern. If you are interested in being a First Year Geography class representative, please note that the Deputy Head of Department / First Year Manager will be emailing the class in early October to look for expressions of interest.

Students who wish to have particular matters relating to the First-Year programme discussed should bring these to the attention of their class representatives.

Student Geography Society:

The student Geography Society organises social events during the year and publishes an annual magazine, *Milieu*. You are strongly encouraged to support the Society's activities: contact a member of the Geography Society committee as soon as possible. Also join the Society on Fairs Day! First Year students are strongly encouraged to submit articles and photos to the Society for inclusion in the 2021/22 issue of *Milieu*. The closing date for submissions to *Milieu* usually occurs around the end of February. *Milieu* offers students – especially those with an interest in postgraduate studies in Geography – with the opportunity to get their first geographical article published.

Geography blogs

You should also check out the blogs hosted by the Department. In MU Geography's Eye on the World academics from the Department post about current geographical issues in the news or relating to the study of Geography more broadly. Feel free to add polite commentary of your own in response to our posts. You might also find interesting these other blogs that our colleagues direct. In *Ireland after NAMA*, you will find posts about the unfolding crisis in the Irish economy. You will also find our geographers posting about Irish politics at Political Reform.

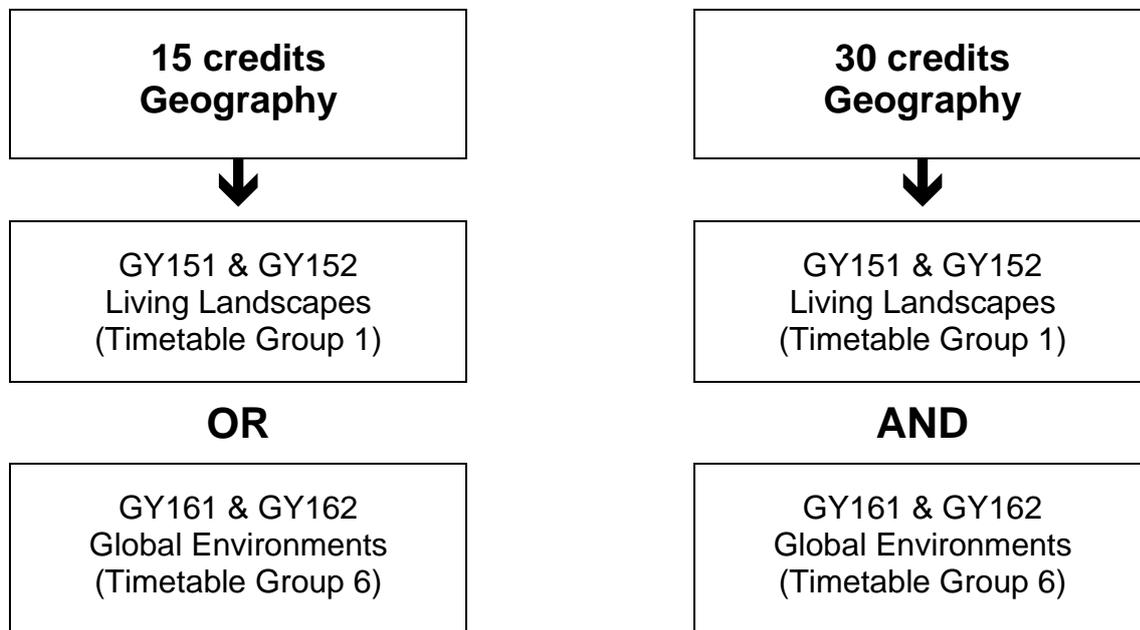
Social media

The Department has a [You Tube page](#) for videos, a Twitter feed [@maynoothgeog](#), a [Facebook](#) page and a [Flickr page](#) for photographs that document the many activities within the Department. If you have relevant submissions, please contact the Department Technician, Mick Bolger (michael.bolger@mu.ie) or Tweet us at feed [@maynoothgeog](#)

First year Geography: Your Options

MH101 Students can take single (15 credits) or double (30 credits) Geography in First Year. Either of these options will allow you, on successful completion, to progress to Second Year Geography. You can opt for either Living Landscapes or Global Environments, or do double Geography by taking both. **Living Landscapes and Global Environments both cover the same key skills and concepts. The difference is in the contextual framework provided by the themes and case-studies examined.**

Students who register for 15 credits of Geography in September/October but later decide that they would like to do more Geography may register for an extra 7.5 credits of Geography, with Departmental permission, in January/February. For example, a student who registers initially for Living Landscapes (GY151/GY152) in the Autumn could opt to register also for GY162 in January/February, if they decide they want to do more Geography at that point.



See p.7 & 21 in the [Maynooth University First Year Guide for MH101 Arts Students](#) for further information on subject groupings.

Note: If choosing Geography (GY161 Global Environments) in Group 6, you may choose a Group 1 subject (other than Geography) with the written permission from the Department. You should approach the Head of Department to discuss this.

GY151 and GY152: Living Landscapes

Living landscapes introduces students to the diversity of human and physical landscapes across the modern world. Landscapes are both 'vast and past', shaped by physical and human geographical processes, which are often interdependent. Living Landscapes will allow students to investigate world-forming processes by introduction to the platform geographical skills of analysis, description and communication via a blend of traditional lecture and small group learning environments. The unit content will examine how humans across the world are part of, and also create, unique landscapes that have issues including hazard prevention, poverty and resource depletion. **NOTE: you cannot take Living Landscapes with any of the other subjects in TIMETABLE GROUP 1.** See p.7 and 21 in the [Maynooth University Undergraduate Handbook](#) You should speak to Dr Stephen McCarron or Dr Ro Charlton - contact details on p.5 of *this* guide). Sign up for GY151 module groups here: [GY151\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#)

GY151: Living Landscapes Part 1 (Dr Stephen McCarron and Lisa Orme) (Semester One)

See the [GY151\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#) Moodle page to sign up for a GY151 module group and to find out which classes are in-person / online for your module group

Monday 15.00 John Hume Lecture Theatre 1 [see [GY151\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#) for details]
 Wednesday 12.00 Iontas Lecture Theatre

Friday 10.00 Arts Lecture Theatre 1
Tutorials Three one-hour online tutorials (see box below)

100% continuous assessment

This module introduces Geoscience as a component of geographical knowledge underpinning much of Physical Geography education throughout undergraduate studies. A systems approach to studying the Earth and its processes is taken. Themes covered include a scientific appraisal of what we understand (or don't) about the Earth, the geological and geomorphological processes (e.g., geological time) controlling the form and operation of the Earth system, rock types (basic geology) and geohazards. See the [GY151\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#) Moodle page for further information.

As part of this GY151 module students are required to attend three tutorial sessions. Tutorials are held remotely on Microsoft Teams at different times – you need to sign up for one session via the Moodle [GY151\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#) page before you are assigned to a tutorial group. Further information will be given during class times (above) and on Moodle. **Tutorials form part of the assessment for the GY151 module.** For questions relating to tutorial group allocations see pages 6 to 8 of this guide.

GY152: Living Landscapes Part 2 (Prof. Mary Gilmartin & TBC)

Semester Two

Monday 15.00 John Hume Lecture Theatre 1
Wednesday 12.00 Iontas Lecture Theatre
Friday 10.00 Iontas Lecture Theatre
Tutorials: Three one-hour tutorials (see box on the next page)

100% continuous assessment

Following on from GY151, in semester two we look at the human dimensions of Living Landscapes. Landscape is important for human geographers, because it highlights the relationship between people and place. In GY152, we will consider this relationship in a number of ways. We will investigate the types of disagreements and conflicts that arise over people's use of landscape. We will look at how new landscapes emerge, paying particular attention to food, and to the impacts of migration. Throughout, we will draw on a wide range of contemporary topics, which may include fracking in Ireland, the migrant crisis in Europe, and global food surpluses and shortages. We will also use the Arctic as a case study in both GY151 and GY152, so that you can clearly see the links between human and physical geography perspectives on Living Landscapes. No prior knowledge of Human Geography is required or expected. The aim of this module is to introduce you to the relevance and importance of human geography for understanding the world we live in, and to provide you with key skills and knowledge for further study in Geography. See the [GY152\[A\] \(2022:S2\)](#) Moodle page for further information.

As part of the GY152 module students are required to attend three tutorial sessions. You will be in the same tutorial group as you were for GY151 and your tutorial will take place on Microsoft Teams at the same time as in the First Semester. **Tutorials form part of the assessment for the GY152 module.**

GY161 and GY162: Global Environments

Global Environments will introduce students to the issues involved in modern global development within a highly modified, rapidly changing natural environment. Modern environments are globally interconnected physical-societal systems formed by a range of spatially variable processes, which interact to create unique regional and global management issues. Global Environments will allow students to investigate environment-forming processes by introduction to the platform geographical skills of analysis, description and communication via a blend of traditional lecture and small group learning environments. The unit content will examine how humans across the world are part of, and also create, unique locations that have issues including hazard prevention, poverty and resource depletion. **NOTE: you cannot take Global Environments with any of the other subjects in TIMETABLE GROUP 6** (See p. 7 & 21 in the [Maynooth University Undergraduate Handbook](#)).

GY161: Global Environments Part 1 (Dr Alistair Fraser & Prof. Mark Boyle)

Semester One

Monday	11.00	John Hume Lecture Theatre 2
Tuesday	10.00	John Hume Lecture Theatre 7
Friday	12.00	John Hume Lecture Theatre 2

100% continuous assessment

The Geography Global Environments unit runs across both semesters and examines the growth and geographical distribution of the human population, uneven geographical development across the face of the earth and the ways in which both have been shaped by and in turn have impacted upon the equally uneven mosaic of climate regimes and physical environments which mark planet earth. Across both semesters, the overarching aim of the Geographical Environments unit will be to call upon students to reflect upon symbiotic relationships between population and climate and how these relationships have changed over time. In GY161 we enquire into this relationship principally from the perspective of human geography. You will be asked to think about human development in terms of its relationships with highly modified, rapidly changing natural environments and to see the discipline of Geography as a whole in terms of the study of interconnected physical-societal systems which operate differently in different places and which create unique global, regional and local management issues. The specific purpose of GY161 is to provide for beginning students a clear and concise introduction to Human Geography, including its key concepts, seminal thinkers and their theories, contemporary debates and controversies, and celebrated case studies. No prior knowledge of Human Geography is required or expected. See the [GY161\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#) Moodle page for further information. Sign up for a GY161 module group here: [GY161\[A\] \(2022:S1\)](#)

Students taking GY161 should follow guidance and information regarding group allocations on the GY161 Moodle page.

GY162: Global Environments Part 2 (Dr Ro Charlton and TBC)

Semester Two

Note: **Global Environments is in Timetable Group 6** (see pp.7 & 21 in the [Maynooth University Undergraduate Handbook](#))

Monday 11.00 John Hume Lecture Theatre 7

Tuesday 10.00 Arts Annex Lecture Theatre

Friday 12.00 Arts Building Hall F

Tutorials: Three one-hour tutorials (see box below)

100% continuous assessment

Following on from GY161, in semester two, we will examine the complex relationship between population and climate from the perspective of physical geography in GY162. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, human activities have contributed to climate change by adding carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, mainly as a result of burning fossil fuels. Today climate change is one of the most urgent issues facing humankind as global temperatures rise, sea ice disappears, ice sheets melt, and extreme events such as droughts, storms and floods become more frequent. In the first part of this module, we will examine the physical processes that influence patterns of weather and climate. This is approached in an integrated manner using a systems-based approach and predominantly a global perspective. Basic aspects of atmospheric energy flow, moisture and moving air are introduced, examining their role in causing spatial variation in environmental challenges and human responses. In the second part of the module we will look at the ways in which human activities affect the climate, the evidence for natural and anthropogenic climate change, the changes we can expect over coming decades, and ways in which we can meet the challenges posed by climate change. As geographers, we will examine the unequal impacts of climate change on populations over space and time. No prior knowledge of physical geography is needed or expected. See the [GY162\[A\] \(21-22:S2\)](#) Moodle page for further information.

As part of this module students are required to attend three tutorial sessions. Tutorials are held remotely on Microsoft Teams at different times.

At the beginning of Semester 2, you will be asked to sign up for tutorials - we will remind you about this nearer the time. **Tutorials form part of the assessment for the GY162 module.**

First Year Tutorials and Assignments

Tutorials (Note: there are NO tutorials for GY161 Global Environments I)

For GY151&152 (Living Landscapes I and II) and GY162 (Global Environments II), you are required to attend tutorials. There are three **for each module (i.e., three for GY151, three for GY152, and three for GY162)** and these are each worth 5% of your overall mark for the module. Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. Marks for tutorials are allocated as follows:

Mark	Comment
0	Did not attend tutorial
1 mark	Attendance
2 marks	Carried out preparation
1 mark	Contributed to the tutorial
1 mark	Excellent preparation and/or contribution

What should I do if I miss a Tutorial?

If you have a genuine reason for missing a tutorial (for example, illness, bereavement etc), you are required to complete a [PMC Form](#) PMC form (personal and medical circumstances form: see p. 16 of this guide) detailing your group number, tutor name and the reasons that you have missed the tutorial. If your PMC is approved by the Geography Department, then you will be awarded marks for attendance and preparation (if you emailed your tutor any preparation work that you completed).

Assignments

There are a number of assignments associated with each module. For each module, specific details on these are in the module outlines and on the appropriate Moodle pages (GY151, GY161, GY152, GY162). Assignments must be submitted by the deadlines indicated for each module.

What do I do if I miss an Assignment Deadline?

There is **no late submission of assignments without a valid reason**. If you have a valid reason for missing an assignment deadline you must submit a [PMC Form](#) (See below).

If you do this, and the PMC is approved, you will get a 3-day extension to submit that assignment and your tutor will be notified of this. This means that you get extra time to submit.

NOTE: an extension is NOT an exemption from completing and submitting the assignment.

NOTE: In all cases, students have 2 weeks to submit a PMC for a missed tutorial or assignment.

Accessing module/course spaces in Moodle

- To access the Moodle space for geography modules, first log in to Moodle via the quick link on the University home page, using your MUmial username and password.
- Moodle has been set up to display automatically the modules for which you are registered as a student on your dashboard. under the heading **My Courses** on your Moodle dashboard.
- If the Geography modules do not appear under the heading My Courses, you can still access your courses in Moodle by self-enrolling to them.

Module code	Moodle web link
MC:GY_01 — GY_01	General information for First-Year Geography students
GY151	GY151 Living Landscapes I
GY152	GY152 Living Landscapes II
GY161	GY161 Global Environments I
GY162	GY162 Global Environments II

- **Getting Help:** If you have any problems with Moodle, you can find further help on the main Moodle homepage, under Main Menu. You can also contact moodlesupport@mu.ie for help. If you are working in the Public Access Cluster Rooms, a Computer Assistant may be able to help you log in to Moodle and find your course. For any questions relating to a particular module, please check with your lecturer.

Missed Assessments / Deadlines/ Tutorials / Examinations

You **MUST** complete and submit a [1st Year Personal & Medical Circumstances\[PMC\] form](#) if you:

- miss, or have difficulties during, a written examination;
- miss a required in-class assessment;
- fail to meet a deadline for submitting a project report or essay, or a piece of work in tutorials;
- are absent from regular classes for a significant period of time (more than one week);
- miss a tutorial session;
- have ongoing issues that are affecting your ability to engage with the course

PMC forms **must be completed online** through the [META:PMC \(2021-22\)](#) page on Moodle. You must also submit medical certificates and/or other supporting documentation where appropriate through Moodle or to the Department Office. (All medical certificates and other documentation **must be dated** and include **name, address, year of study** and **student number**. Copies of all documents submitted should be retained by the student, who may be required to produce them later.) When this form is completed you may be asked to schedule an appointment to meet with the Department of Geography administration staff and/or the Year Manager (through the Moodle Scheduler function) within **two weeks** of the relevant event. **This is a two-stage process** and you **MUST** follow-up your PMC as explained below.

If you know that you will be absent ahead of an event (e.g. medical appointment), then the PMC (and supporting documents) should be submitted ahead of that event.

Please note that submission of a medical cert must always be accompanied by a 1st Year PMC Form.

Follow-up procedure: In most circumstances if the reason is acceptable, students will be notified by email. If it is considered that further information is required, the student will be given guidance at the time about what is needed. If further discussion is required about information provided, students will be required to make an appointment to see the relevant year manager. Where the reasons given in the PMC form are accepted, the following outcomes will apply (as appropriate):

Circumstances	Outcome (if successful)
Late submission of assignment / essay / project	<i>Later submission date set by Lecturer/Tutor/Year Manager</i>
Extended absence from class	<i>Details brought to attention of the examination board at the end of the year for consideration</i>

Cases when no marks/extension/assignment re-sit will be awarded:

- Where the reasons given are not deemed to be acceptable.
- Where a PMC form is submitted more than two weeks after the exercise/deadline.
- Where a late-submitted project is submitted later than the extension date which had been agreed with Geography staff.
- Where no PMC form is submitted, or required support documents are missing.

Grading System

GRADING SYSTEM: Marks awarded for individual modules are divided into the following grades:

- First Class Honours: 70% and higher
- Second Class Honours Grade I: 60-69%
- Second Class Honours Grade II: 50-59%
- Third Class Honours: 45-49%
- Pass 40-44%
- Fail < 40%
- Non-compensatable fail < 35%

Specific grade-related criteria for First-Year Geography modules will be posted on Moodle.

You should refer to the Maynooth University [Marks and Standards document](#) for full information.

Provisional grades for First Semester lecture modules will be posted during the second semester. A few days after this posting, an opportunity will be provided for students with specific queries to discuss their results with a designated member of the academic staff. All grades are officially confirmed by University examination boards and results are released sometime in late-June / early-July and again a few days after this there will be a further opportunity for students to consult a designated member of the academic staff. After the university examination boards have confirmed the results, students can access them via the university webpage – choose “Student Web Services,” type in your user name and password, choose “Student Enquiry,” choose “Exam Results.” The University’s examination policies are managed by the Examinations Office and on their webpage you can find out about appeals procedures and other related matters.

Rules regarding deficits:

First Year:

- Students can carry one deficit as long as they have passed 15 credits in Geography. (This includes modules that are passed by compensation.) This effectively limits this option to students who have done either 22.5 credits or 30 credits.
- Students will also need to have an average mark of 40 (39.1%) for First Year Geography AND will need to have passed at least half of their modules (not including modules that are passed by compensation).
- Deficits will be allowed to be carried for all First Year modules - i.e. there will be no special rules for individual modules.
- Deficit to be made up by means of retaking the module that students failed in First Year, or an extra/extra Second Year module(s). (*They could also make up this deficit by taking on an Elective steam (10 credits) across Second Year.*)
- Even if a decision is made in June to allow a student to carry a deficit into the following academic year, students **are strongly advised** to re-sit the failed module in the Autumn in order to avoid the extra pressure/expense of taking on an extra module in the following year.
- Students who are carrying a deficit at the start of the following academic year should make an appointment with the Second Year Manager to discuss the implications of this and to plot a way forward as regards timetable pressures and other concerns.

Plagiarism and collusion

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT PLAGIARISM

The **Reference Point** (MU guide to referencing) can be found here:

[The Reference Point](#)

The **Maynooth University policy on plagiarism** can be found here: [MU Policy on Plagiarism \(2019\)](#)

Plagiarism is presenting other people's work as if it were your own. It is a serious matter, and the University has a set procedure to deal with this. Confirmed cases may result in students failing all or part of the module and may also be referred to the University authorities for further consideration. **Avoid even the risk of plagiarism:**

- As far as possible, summarise, in your own words, material from outside sources;
- Do not copy out chunks of a book/article/report, or cut and paste
- Always name the sources you have drawn upon. For the Department's conventions on referencing see: [The Reference Point](#)
Use exact quotations of another author's words, use quotation marks to indicate this, and reference the source fully, both in the text and in the reference list;
- Reference all material, **including ideas**, which is not either your own work or common knowledge.

Collusion occurs when two or more students co-operate to produce work, which is then submitted for assessment as the work of a single student. Collusion does not include work which is required to be submitted by a team as part of the assessment. Collusion occurs when a student:

- Knowingly submits work done in collaboration with others without the approval of the assessor.
- Collaborates with another student in completion of work which he/ she knows is intended to be submitted as that student's own, unaided work.
- Knowingly permits another student to copy all or part of his/her work and to submit it as the other student's unaided work.

This deception is a serious form of cheating and again the Department will investigate suspected cases and where it confirms that collusion has taken place, both parties will fail all or part of the module and again the case may be referred to the University authorities for further consideration.

Essential guidance for avoiding plagiarism

Advice from Professor Gerry Kearns

Academic Integrity

University work must meet the professional standards of honest and moral behaviour for academic work. The organisation that validates the quality and standards of universities in Ireland, [Quality and Qualifications Ireland](#), reminds us that the purpose of assessment is 'to ascertain understanding and

demonstrate the achievement of specific learning outcomes.’ It is illegal, according to the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Act 2019, to do work on behalf of someone else and the QQI is empowered to prosecute those who cheat for others. The university is committed to making cheating difficult and to prevent students cheating their way to a degree. We all have a role to play if we are to have a community based on honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students need also to have the courage to do the right thing even they face serious challenges. The QQI tells us that students must ‘ensure that all submitted work for assessment purposes in an academic setting [...] correctly acknowledges the source of any data which is not original to the learner.’ To understand what this requires you need to familiarise yourself with the natures and risks of plagiarism.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking credit for the work of someone else. When you are asked to submit work for evaluation we are testing your understanding of the concepts, information, and debates within some field of Geography. This is why the essay, dissertation or short answer should be your own work. Of course, your work will draw upon the ideas, data, and discussions presented wither by your lecturers or in the articles or books that have been recommended to you or that you have found for yourself. You avoid plagiarism by composing your answer for yourself while giving credit to your sources.

A. The forms of plagiarism

There are three main ways that plagiarism arises.

1. Using the words of someone else without proper acknowledgement

Sometimes you will think it helpful to use the words of someone else in your essay. This may be because you want to discuss further something you have read. It may be because it is a particularly concise statement of something. In any such case you must indicate that the phrase, sentence or short paragraph is the work of another person. You should put their words in quotation marks—” “. You should also give a reference to the source. In the text of your essay and immediately following the quotation you should give the source in some form similar to this—(Bloggs, 2008: 33). The first part of the reference here is the author’s surname and the year of publication, and this tells me where in your I can find the full details bibliography (and this is why your essay must have a bibliography). The part at the end is the page number where I could find the quotation if I wanted to look it up. In this way you have told me your source and you have let me check it for myself. You can find further guidance to referencing in *The Reference Point: The Maynooth Guide to the Harvard Referencing System*, [available online here](#). You will also need to consult your lecturer, or module specific handbooks, and pay attention to the general practice in the particular subdiscipline of Geography you are working in. For example, quotation is more frequent in some areas of Human Geography than it is in many areas of Physical Geography.

Even if you use the words of another person and you put them in quotation marks and you give the source you used, you must still explain in your own words what this means or make it clear from the context in your essay that you understand the sense of the quotation. For example, it would be perfectly alright for you write something like this—‘The reasons why land values are generally high at the core of cities include accessibility and prestige, and these have been called the “benefits of centrality” (Christaller, 1945: 66).’ I am telling you where I learned about the causes of high land values at the centre of cities and it is clear from the context that I understand accessibility and prestige to be what Christaller referred to as the “benefits of centrality.”

2. Relying too heavily upon the words of others even with proper acknowledgement

Remember, that we are trying to assess your understanding of what you have read. We can’t do that if your essay is mainly composed of extracts from the works of others even if these are properly referenced both in text and in your bibliography. One way to avoid this is to remember that when you quote someone’s words you must show that you have understand what is being said. This will mean that most quotations will be

accompanied by explanatory text of your own relating to the quotation to the question you have been asked to consider. Also remember that there is little point quoting your source if there is no special reason for doing so. As I said above this might be because you specifically want to discuss in detail the claim made by the author or it might be because they have expressed things particularly clearly and your own explanation can best be developed by elaborating upon these quoted words. As a guide for you, it would be odd for quotations in a student essay in Geography to make up as much as a quarter of the essay although for some work in Literary Geography that might occasionally occur. **In physical geography the level of quotation would generally be much less.**

Therefore, you will also need to consult your lecturer, or module specific handbooks, and pay attention to the general practice in the particular sub-discipline of Geography you are working in.

3. Using the work of others without proper acknowledgement even where no direct quotation is included

You are always being asked questions that require you to draw upon the work of others to answer them. We need to know the source of your information. For example, if I were to be asked how central places develop in a predominantly agricultural society, I might talk about Walter Christaller's central place theory that I may read about in book by Peter Haggett. If so, I might write something like this—'In agricultural societies, the bringing of food to market may cause the development of market towns. Christaller argued that these would likely be relatively evenly spaced across the landscape (Haggett, 1965).' I am telling you that this idea comes from the work of Christaller and I am telling you that I learned about this in the book by Haggett, the details of which I will provide in the Bibliography at the end of the essay. In other words, I must give a source even where I do not directly quote words from that source.

B. Avoiding Plagiarism

1. Taking notes

It is very dangerous to take notes by cutting-and-pasting from things you read online. If you do make notes like this, then, at the very least put quotation marks around everything you insert from another place and make a note to yourself of its source. This is laborious but necessary. It is far better to make notes in your own words. Even if you download the source onto your laptop, notes in your own words can capture your understanding when the reading is fresh in your mind. You might read a paragraph and make a note to yourself if there is something there that could be useful in your essay and this, then, will be your understanding of the relevance of that part of the article you were reading. We might imagine note-taking as leaving a record for ourselves of what we understood when reading so that we can easily recover that understanding when later we need it again. No one remembers all they read and understand without such prompts. It is a sort of conversation with yourself, or at least with the future self who will read the notes at some later point. When you turn to your notes to compose your essay, it needs to be crystal clear to you which words are yours and which come directly from a source. Of course, in your notes you will need the full details of your sources so that they can be given in your bibliography. You will also want the page numbers for any sections of text you quote into your notes.

2. Writing your essay or assignment

Essays begin with a blank sheet and you have to compose your answer. You will want to show you have understood the question set and then you will draw upon your notes about your readings in order to compose your answer. It really will not do to copy paragraphs from online sources into your essay and then work at disguising this by swapping out certain words, or rearranging parts of sentences in a different order. Yes, these will in some sense be your words but it is not your understanding. You must read, understand and then explain. This is hard work and there is no short-cut. Start with your own words. How would you explain this to someone who had not read what you have read? You can go back to the sources for illustration and also to document where your ideas come from. But, start with your own understanding in your own words.

3. Collaborating with other students

It is a very good idea to talk about your essay with other students, even if they are not taking the same course. This helps you clarify your own ideas. Except in cases where group work is specifically required, however, the composition of the essay must entirely be your own. Remember, plagiarism is taking credit for work that is not your own. If you borrow chunks from another student's essay you both may be complicit in cheating. This is also called collusion. Of course, you may not ever submit work written by another person as if it were your own.

4. Using Turnitin

If you submit work via Moodle, it is very likely that you will be able to get a Turnitin report on your work. This will identify parts of your essay that have been seen elsewhere. There may be very good reasons for this. For example, the details of most of your bibliography is very likely to be found in other articles or essays so that these will be highlighted. Any quotations you include, even if you put them in quotation marks, will be highlighted but, provided you have given your source correctly (see A.1 above) and this does not make up too much of your total length of your essay (see A.2 above) there is no problem. Turnitin may suggest that various other common phrases (such as "central place theory" or "European agricultural history") are not original to you. This also is not a problem. However, if you see chunks of your essay highlighted by Turnitin and you have not given a source and it is not a commonly used phrase, then, you should ask yourself if you have inadvertently copied into your essay something from a source you were reading. You will want to rephrase this to ensure that you are writing in your own words.

A low "score" in Turnitin is no guarantee that there is no plagiarism in your work, particularly if you write your essay by copying into it chunks of text that you then amend. This is why it is so important to follow good practice in taking notes and composing essays.

C. Consequences of Plagiarism

The University has a clear and strict policy on plagiarism and you [can read it here](#).

If a lecturer suspects that your work shows evidence of plagiarism, it will be reported to the Head of Department. The Head of Department will look at the work and review the concerns of the lecturer. If it looks like you are claiming credit for work that is not your own, then, the Head of Department will first determine whether you have been reported previously for plagiarism.

If you have not been reported previously for plagiarism, either in Geography or elsewhere in the University, then, you will be invited to a meeting with the Head of Department. You will get an opportunity to explain how the appearance of plagiarism has arisen. If the Head of Department decides that this is a case of plagiarism you will be given the opportunity to submit a replacement assignment but that will have a cap of 40% to the mark it may be awarded. The Head of Department will make a report to the Registrar and you will then have a recorded case of plagiarism.

If you have been reported previously for plagiarism, then, the Head of Department will prepare a report on the suspected plagiarism and this will be referred directly to the Registrar and ultimately to the Academic Discipline Board—the members of the Board are [given here](#). At this point, the Board will offer you a hearing to answer the case. After that they will make a determination of the facts of the case and in light of that may impose various penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.

Athena SWAN

The Athena Swan Charter is a national strategy to promote gender equality in higher education and was launched in Ireland by the Higher Education Authority in 2015. The Department of Geography has committed itself to the Athena Swan process of critical self-assessment and after a rigorous application, we were one of the first departments at Maynooth to earn 'bronze status' two years ago. We are committed to

this process of advancing gender equity and opportunity, which means that during the year we will offer workshops that you can participate in. You will certainly be asked to let us know how we are doing through the end of semester and year questions about the modules and teaching we offer. The responses are anonymised by the University Athena SWAN officer and then passed back to the Department where they are considered by our Athena SWAN Committee. Recommendations are then passed to the Head of Department, and discussed in our Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Research Committees, and at Staff Meetings.

In this, we are supported by the University with [its policies](#) addressing: the under-representation of women in higher administrative and academic offices in the university; the need to make campus a place where diverse gender identity and expression are respected, including for our transgender and gender diverse staff and students; and a data collection and analysis system that alerts us to the many complex dimensions of equality, diversity, inclusion and interculturalism. We know that gender and sexuality intersect with other forms of discrimination in society, including around race, class, physical and mental challenges, citizenship-status, and nationality. You know it too, and with your help we will learn how to make Maynooth University a leader in recognising the needs and sustaining the flourishing of the diverse community of our state. There is a video link here: [Geography Department Athena Swan](#) and you can find further information from the university here: maynoothuniversity.ie/athena-swan. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact our Athena Swan Committee Chair, Professor Karen Till, karen.till@mu.ie.

Active* Consent Workshops

From the NUIG Active* Consent National Programme

SIGN UP FOR
ACTIVE* CONSENT

Learn how to talk about consent & what non-consent looks like.

Understanding consent means sexual activity is more enjoyable for everyone!

Help develop a campus culture which is safe, respectful, & supportive.

Don't worry, workshops involve minimal participation - no cameras & anonymous electronic voting.

MU Support Links

Student Services 01 708 4729
Student Health Centre 01 708 3878
Counselling Service 01 708 3554
Text about it - Free text 'MU' to 50808
Campus Security 01 708 3929
MU Campus Garda (Police) 01 708 4726
Maynooth Garda Station (Police) 01 629 2380
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 24hr helpline 1800 77 8888
Niteline - Student Support Line 1800 793 793

@maynoothuni_edu @equalitymu equality@mu.ie

Consent
at
Maynooth University
National University of Ireland, Maynooth

- All new students are expected to take one of these 30-minute online classes. They involve minimal participation
- To sign up for a consent class and to find MU support links see the website [Consent Framework | Maynooth University](#)

Bullying and Sexual Harassment

Bullying and sexual misconduct are unacceptable at Maynooth University. Bullying is where repeated mistreatment of a person undermines their capacity to thrive at university. In a university setting, this includes, but is not limited to, ridiculing a person or making abusive remarks. Sexual misconduct includes any sexual contact that is unwanted or to which someone did not or was not able to give consent. In full confidence of your complaint being received respectfully, seriously, and in confidence, you may contact the Head of Department, Dr Helen Shaw Helen.Shaw@mu.ie or you may contact the Maynooth Student Union Vice President for Welfare and Equality, Luke Buckley, welfare@msu.ie, (01) 708 6808, (087) 630 6433; the [Student Services Centre](#), 01 708 3554; or Maynooth University Access Office [Maynooth University Access Office](#), email access.office@mu.ie, (01)708 4600. There are also support services for victims of sexual violence including the 24-hour Rape Crisis Centre, counselling@rcc.ie, 1 800 77 8888; the [Student Health Centre](#), (01) 708 3878; and the [Student Counselling Service](#), (01) 708 3554.

We want Maynooth University to be a place where our students can fulfil their potential and to do that we must treat each other with respect. We must address the situations in which bullying and harassment can occur. We have committed ourselves to following the strategies offered as part of the [National Consent Framework](#) of the Department of Education and Skills. To make Maynooth a place that is safe, respectful, supportive and positive, there are a number of initiatives now underway. First, the university will host workshops about what consent really means. These will be offered to staff and to students over the coming years. These are based on a [programme](#) developed at National University of Ireland Galway. Second the University will host a training programme to help us all learn how to intervene effectively when we see others suffering bullying or harassment. This programme is [based on one](#) developed by University College Cork. Staff and students can help our community by taking advantage of these workshops so that we all develop our awareness and make our commitment to a safe, respectful, supportive, and positive environment more effective. If you would like to be more pro-active still, you can volunteer for training to become a Facilitator for either the Consent Workshops or the Bystander Intervention Workshops by emailing equality@mu.ie.

Geography options for Second and Third Year

Can I progress with Geography into second year?

Any student wishing to progress with Geography into second year must have obtained an overall average mark of at least 40% in Geography, and have met all other requirements to pass through the year by the end of the resit examinations period. Students who fail Geography will not be permitted to progress.

What are my options for taking Geography next year?

Students can take the following options:

- **Double Major** students take Geography as one of two subjects to degree level, with equal study of each
- **Single Major** students specialise in Geography after the first year
- **Major with Minor** students take roughly two-thirds of their study after first year in Geography, and take a second subject as a minor
- **Minor** students: A minor involves about one-third of your time, and is intended for students who are specialising in their major, but who also want some expertise in a second subject

Note that some of these options will require you to take compulsory modules in Geography in addition to optional thematic modules.

Can all 2nd Year students do a Single Major in Geography, or a Geography Major with Minor? As long as you have passed 1st year geography, your 1st year marks do not affect your ability to sign up for the Geography Single Major or Geography Major with a Minor in another subject.

Is a Single Major or a Major with Minor Degree Less Valuable than a Double Major Degree? No, Double Honours, Single Honours and Major with Minor all result in the same qualification – i.e. a Bachelor in Arts or B.A. degree.

Is a Single Major or a Major with Minor Degree More Valuable than a Double Major Degree? No, for the same reasons as the previous question. However, depending upon what you want to do after you graduate, there may be some advantages in doing a Single Major, Major with Minor, or Double Major degree (see below).

Do Double Major, Single Major or Major with Minor Students Do Less Work / More work? The workload in the Double Major, Single Major and Major with Minor programmes should be the same. The main difference is that Single Major Students take 60 credits in Geography each year, Major students take 40 credits in Geography and 20 in another subject, Double Major Students take 30 credits in each of two subjects, while Minor students take 20 credits in Geography.

Do Single Major Students Need to Give Up Their Other Subject(s) Completely? No. Single Major students may take 5 or 10 credits each year in another subject (or subjects) in lieu of 1 or 2 of the 5-credit thematic modules, subject to approval of the Heads of both Departments. You could therefore retain an interest in aspects of another subject whilst specializing in Geography.

Is There Anyone with Whom I Can Discuss This Further? Yes. Alistair Fraser, Room 21 Rhetoric House, looks after the Single Major and Major/Minor Programmes and is available for consultation by appointment. You can contact him by email Alistair.Fraser@mu.ie

First Year Geography 2021-22: Year Planner

Week Beginning:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mon Sep 20	FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION WEEK				
Mon Sep 27	GY161 Global Envts I starts 11.00 See GY161 on Moodle GY151 Living Lscapes I starts 15.00 see GY151 on Moodle	GY161 Global Envts I 10.00 See GY161 on Moodle	GY151 Living Lscapes I 12.00 see GY151 on Moodle		GY151 Living Lscapes I 10.00 See GY151 on Moodle GY161 Global Envts I 12.00 See GY161 on Moodle
Mon Oct 04					
Mon Oct 11					
Mon Oct 18					Subject change deadline: Fri Oct 18
Mon Oct 25	STUDY PERIOD (break from lectures) Oct 25 to 29				Deadline to withdraw from studies with "Free Fee Status" for following year
Mon Nov 01					
Mon Nov 08					
Mon Nov 15					
Mon Nov 22					
Mon Nov 29					
Mon Dec 06					
Mon Dec 13	<i>Last week lectures (S1)</i>				Semester 1 lectures end
Dec 21 to Jan 07	CHRISTMAS VACATION (Dec 20 to 31) & STUDY PERIOD (Jan 3 to 6)				
Jan 08 to 29	EXAMINATIONS (Jan 07-21) & INTER-SEMESTER BREAK (Jan 24-28)				Deadline to withdraw from studies with 50% "Free Fee Status" (Jan 31)
Mon Jan 31	GY162 Global Envts II starts 11.00 See GY162 on Moodle GY152 Living Lscaps II Starts 15.00 See GY152 on Moodle	GY162 Global Environments II 10.00 See GY162 on Moodle	GY152 Living Landscapes II 15.00 See GY152 on Moodle		GY152 Living Lscapes II 10.00 See GY152 on Moodle GY162 Global Envts II 12.00 See GY162 on Moodle
Mon Feb 07					Module change deadline: Feb 12
Mon Feb 14					
Mon Feb 21					
Mon Feb 28					
Mon Mar 7	STUDY WEEK (BREAK FROM LECTURES) MARCH 14-18				
Mon Mar 14					
Mon Mar 21					
Mon Mar 28					
Mon Apr 04					
Mon Apr 11					<i>Good Friday: no classes</i>
Mon Apr 18	EASTER VACATION (STUDENTS) APRIL 18-22				
Mon Apr 25					
Mon May 02	<i>Bank Hol.: no classes</i>	<i>Last week lectures (S2)</i>			Semester 2 lectures end
Mon May 9-13	STUDY PERIOD, 9– 12 MAY				Semester 2 exams start, Fri 13 May
Mon May 17-28	UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS START ON FRIDAY 13 MAY AND RUN FOR THE FOLLOWING 2 WEEKS				

Maynooth University Library

Welcome to Maynooth University and we look forward to meeting you during your studies. **MU Library** will be essential to you for:

- finding the right e-books and online material you will need for your study,
- accessing physical books and journals, subject to Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place,
- attending short training sessions (LIST) that will hugely improve your knowledge and skills, and
- give you a source of support in your studies; we are here to help you.

Our Library homepage is: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>



Fig 1. The search-box, LibrarySearch; it searches the entire collection in MU Library

At the time of writing, there was limited access to the library, due to Covid-19 restrictions. We expect this to change over the coming months as we enter different phases. Our library homepage will always have;

- up-to-date information about accessing the library,
- information on using all our services and classes (including remotely) and
- advice on connecting with us to get the support you need for your studies and assignments.

Even during lockdown, all the library staff continued to work remotely, so we will ensure that we can give you the information and support you need, whatever level of physical access is in place.

We are located on the South Campus beside the Kilcock road in the iconic MU Library building. Choose from a variety of study spaces; from the open-access area on the ground floor (where food, drink and chat is allowed) with access to over 50 laptops and print facilities, to the quieter areas on levels 1 and 2, with training rooms and meeting rooms. Our energy-pods on level 1 are a great option if you need to re-charge. Use the [bookable group study-rooms](#) (see links at the end of this piece) for your group and project-work. We host exhibitions and events in the foyer during the year, so there is nearly always something new to view.

MU Library is the portal to a vast collection of academic resources that you will need for your essays and research. Using the correct sources of information is key to success in your studies. We have excellent information, supports, and services that will help you with this. We also provide a dedicated section on our website for each subject (see Fig. 3 for an example) that we recommend you bookmark; it is a great source of relevant subject-specific material and news. On the main library homepage, open the “*Guides & Tutorials*” box and you will see a link to your subject guide.

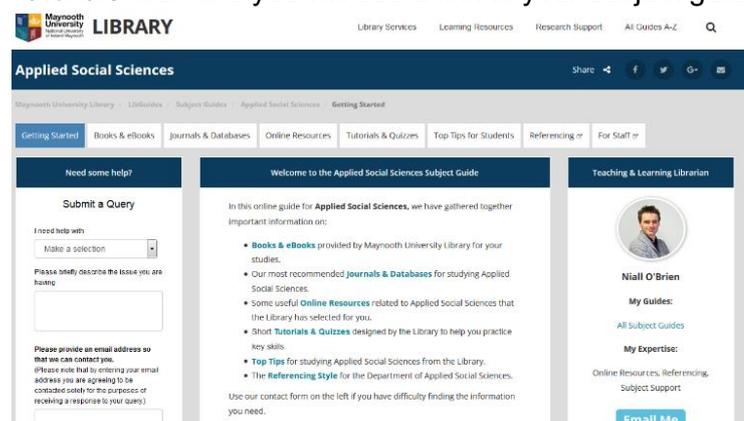


Fig 2. Applied Social Studies subject guide

Use **LibrarySearch** (see Fig.1 above) on the library homepage to discover everything MU Library holds on your subject and topics. It gives you the location and details of thousands of e-books and e-journals you can read on your devices, on or off campus, as well as information on books, journal articles, and

databases on your subject. We also have online e-dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and e-books; everything you need to write successful assignments. If it seems like a lot start with your subject guide (see links below) for basic suggestions and help.

You have options for using basic or advanced search features to find exactly what you are looking for. View our free **LIST Online tutorials** (see links below) to build the information skills you need to succeed; they cover everything from finding items on your reading lists, to using e-books, avoiding plagiarism in your essays, and how to evaluate information; all essential skills for students. Come to our **LIST training sessions** in the library to learn skills that will help in your essays and assignments.

If you have any queries about finding material, whether it is online, or on the shelf, library staff are happy to help you; just ask at the Library desk, use the live “Library Chat” box on our homepage, or email us library.information@mu.ie. We hope that you will see us around campus in Semester 1 as we hold “pop-up” events (depending on Covid19 restrictions), where you can find out more about what the library can offer you.

Your **MyCard** (student card) entitles you to borrow material from the Library. Find out how many items you can borrow; click "Using the Library" (see Fig. 3 below) on the library homepage for information.

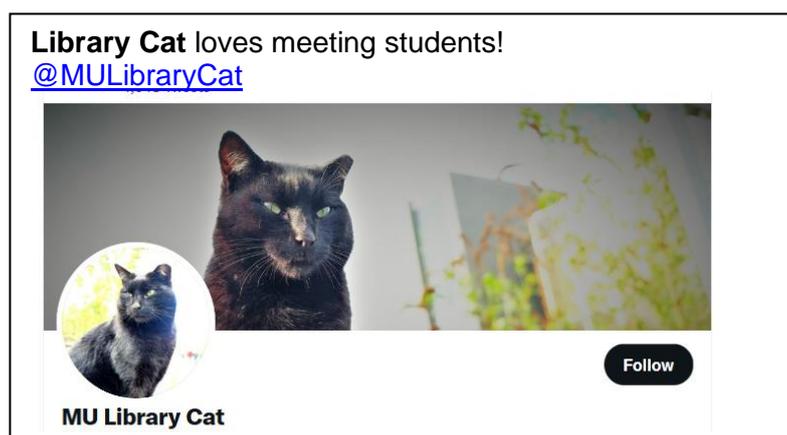
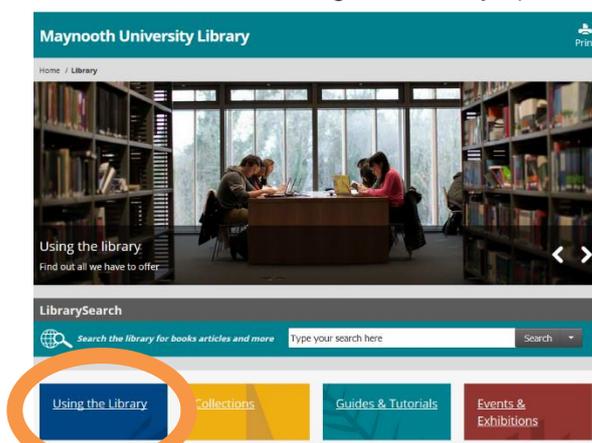


Fig. 3. Library Homepage with arrow to the “Using the Library” section

You can borrow a laptop from the laptop-bank, opposite the library desk, to use within the library, or you can log on to one of the library PC’s to do your essays, and you can use your own laptop in the library too. We have a **3D printer** available (ask us at the Library desk) as well as a **colour photocopier**, in addition to numerous black and white photocopiers. You use your MyCard to load it with credit to print. **IT Services** have a dedicated space at the main library desk where you can go if you need IT help. The **Maths Support Centre** [Maths Support Centre](#) (ground floor) is also located in the library. Make sure to follow us on **Instagram** [@library_mu](#), **Facebook** [@MaynoothUniLibrary](#), or on **Twitter** [@mu_library](#).

Contact us at library.information@mu.ie library.information@mu.ie with your **queries** about using the Library, finding information for your studies, or how to use any of the online material. We all know it can be a lot to take in when you start in university, but we are here to help you. The Library wishes you every success in your studies.

Library homepage: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>

Look at your dedicated **Subject Guide:** <https://nuim.libguides.com/?b=s>

Book a group study room: https://nuim.libcal.com/booking/MU_GroupStudyRooms

View our **short training courses for useful skills** - LIST online: <http://nuim.libguides.com/list-online>

Useful University Services:

The university's general policy on the conduct of students, academics and staff is set out as its Service Charter. This includes its commitment to equality, diversity and the dignity of staff and students. The University's Equality Policy includes commitments to non-discriminatory language and to combating 'all forms of harassment' against students and staff. You may read the Code of Conduct for NUIM Employees, which explains what courteous treatment of colleagues and students comprises. Furthermore, 'as part of the procedures adopted by the University [for protection against bullying and harassment], a staff member of a student who believes that he/she has been the subject of harassment may discuss the alleged harassment in an informal manner with his/her Head of Department or with any one of a number of contact persons appointed by the University.' The list of contact persons is available here.

Academic Advisory: (North Campus) Ext 3368. For your academic needs. The office offers 'a convenient first point of contact for students who wish to seek advice on general issues that may arise from their relationship with the University.' www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning

Access Office: The Maynooth University Access Programme (MAP) encourages under-represented groups to enter third level and provides these groups with support throughout their time in Maynooth. www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office

Chaplaincy: (North Campus) Ext 3320/ 3469/ 3588
www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-wellbeing-support

Disability Office: Coordinates a range of academic supports, services and facilities for students with disabilities. www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/supporting-students-disabilities.

Nightline: Freephone 1800 793 793 <https://niteline.ie/>. Confidential listening, support and information service run by students for students. Operating hours are 9pm until 2.30am every night of term. Students can also anonymously instant message Nightline via niteline.ie within the above hours.

Student Counselling: Student Services Building, North Campus (01) 708 3554. Provides a professional, confidential service to all registered students at the university and is free of charge. Counselling offers an opportunity to individuals to discuss in private any concerns they feel may be impacting on academic performance or personal health and well-being. Located in the Student Services Centre on the North Campus. [Student-wellbeing-support](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-wellbeing-support)

Health & Safety (South Campus) (01) 708 4720 www.maynoothuniversity.ie/health-safety

Programme Advisory Office: (North Campus) (01) 474 7428. Available to assist and advise students, including first year students, with programme related decisions they may be unsure about before and after the registration period. The Programme Advisory Office is a guide for students as they navigate their own way through the programme options. [Programme Advisory Office](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office)

Security: Can be contacted 24 hours a day on (01) 708 3929 (General) and (01) 708 3333 (Emergency). The website below includes a very helpful booklet about remaining safe on and around campus. www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-security

Student Budgeting Advice Service. Offers support with budgeting for University, with managing your money and advice on fees, grants, and social welfare entitlements. Also advice about the financial supports (internal and external) available to full time students at Maynooth University. <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-services/student-budgeting-advice-service>

Student Health Centre: Student Services Centre (North Campus) (01) 708 3878. See website for list of services. www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-services/student-health-centre

Students' Union: SU Building, North Campus. (01) 708 6000. Offers a one-stop-shop for information and representation. A good place to start if you're not sure what service you need or where to start. www.msu.ie. <https://www.msu.ie/>