

# IRISH CULTURAL HERITAGE

## UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE



## ABOUT THE CERTIFICATE

This **20 credit certificate** on Irish Cultural Heritage is available to students visiting Maynooth University for a **single semester** and for the **full academic year**.

The program offers an **inter-disciplinary evaluation of early Irish cultural history** with particular emphasis on archaeological, literary, historical and linguistic evidence. Modules are delivered by academic experts while there is an exciting program of **Field Seminars** that bring students to some of the most iconic archaeological and historical sites. There are **no prerequisites** and **no exams**: all assessment is through written assignments.

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00			ID004	ID012	
11:00		ID003	ID004	ID012	
12:00		ID003			
13:00			ID005	ID013/LC101	
14:00		ID001	ID005	ID013/LC101	
15:00		ID001	LC101		
16:00			LC101		

## CORE MODULES

Students choose **one core module** and **three optional ones** (all are Five Credits):

ID001 Introducing Irish Cultural Heritage (core)

ID012 Introducing Settlement & Society in Early Ireland (core)

## OPTIONAL MODULES

ID003 The Cultural Heritage of Newgrange (optional)

ID004 Cultural Heritage & the Irish Literary Tradition (optional)

ID005 Cultural Heritage & the Early Irish Heroic Tradition (optional)

ID013 The Cultural Heritage of 'Royal Sites' (optional)

LC101 Irish Language 1



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## FIELD SEMINARS



### NEWGRANGE, KNOWTH AND DOWTH:

The Boyne Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site. The extensive Neolithic (3300–3000 BC) passage tomb cemetery includes the three largest artificial structures in Neolithic Europe. In addition to their use as burial places the tombs were the focus of an elaborate 'Cult of the Ancestors'. Long after its prehistoric abandonment the Knowth mound was fortified and became the residence of the kings of North Brega, one of the most powerful new families of the Uí Neill dynasty descended from the legendary founder Niall Noígiallach.



### THE HILL OF TARA:

The Hill of Tara is a low eminence with commanding views over the central midlands of Ireland. The site is the most iconic place in Ireland with a wealth of associated archaeology, history, myth and literature. The archaeological complex on the hilltop includes a small Neolithic passage tomb, impressive Bronze Age burial monuments, Neolithic and Iron Age religious sanctuaries, and the great so-called 'Royal' enclosure and the 'Banqueting Hall'. In the early medieval period scholars gave names and ascribed histories to the various monuments at Tara.



### CLONMACNOISE:

The great monastery at Clonmacnoise is one of the most complete religious complexes of early medieval Ireland. Although reputedly founded in 548 AD by Ciarán most of the remains date to period between 900–1100 AD. Clonmacnoise became one of the most powerful, wealthy and influential monastic centres in Ireland on an important 'crossroads'. Since the early medieval period Clonmacnoise has been an important centre of Christian pilgrimage and spiritual devotion.



### EMAIN MACHA:

The prehistoric and medieval complex at Emain Macha (Navan Fort) contains archaeological sites dating from at least the Bronze Age (2200 BC –100 BC). This became the focus of important early medieval literary and mythological association identified as the 'capital' of the province of Ulster and the royal headquarters for a warrior aristocracy, led by King Conchobar and his chief hero, Cú Chulainn. His brave deeds feature prominently in the sagas of the Heroic Cycle, and most famously in the medieval story, the Cattle Raid of Cooley (Táin Bó Cúailnge).

For more information contact:

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