

M.A. PROGRAMME IN IRISH STUDIES

Entry requirements



Each criterion listed below will account for one-third of the admission grade:

- 1: graduation exam grade
2. undergraduate grade average
3. entrance exam (research proposal + oral interview)

The **entrance exam** consists in two parts:

1. A research proposal (essay) (50% of the entrance exam grade)
2. An oral interview (online) (50% of the entrance exam grade)

Candidates must pass both in order to be admitted to the programme.

1. Research proposal guidelines:

Candidates applying for the MA in Irish Studies will submit a written research proposal (1,800-2,000 words, including a list of 5-10 cited works) addressing a topic related to the following study areas: Irish literature, Irish film, Irish media, Irish history.

Some of the possible topics that may be developed in these research proposals are listed below, and so is an indicative bibliography, which may be of use to the prospective candidates.

Research proposals will be assessed in terms of their:

- relevance to the field of Irish Studies
- originality and innovative stance
- strength of the arguments
- coherence and feasibility of the project
- clarity of expression and language accuracy

Possible topics for the MA candidates' research proposals:

- Early medieval Irish literature (9th-12th centuries)
- The Great Famine in the Irish literary imagination
- The Ulster Troubles in literature: sectarianism and terror
- Irish Gothic fiction
- The Celtic Renaissance and the Anglo-Irish theatre
- Irish Modernisms and the novel: James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Flann O'Brien
- Modern Irish playwrights
- Samuel Beckett and Ireland
- *Après Joyce*: the afterlives of modern Irish literature
- The contemporary Irish novel
- Irish fiction and the ethical turn in literary studies

- Ireland's other voices: Irish literature and the diaspora
- Irish women writers
- The Irish media landscape today: the press, radio, television
- Representations of Irish history in literature/film
- Irish film in the 1980s and 1990s: clichés and changes in Ireland
- Outstanding Irish film makers. The Irish in Hollywood
- The Celtic Tiger and its cultural impact

2. The interview

During the interview, candidates will present the research proposal, motivate the choice of subject and its relevance for Irish Studies, and indicate how it can serve as the basis for more extensive research (including, but not limited to, a possible master's thesis). Candidates should also be prepared to answer questions that check their familiarity with the broader sphere of Irish Studies and their motivation in choosing this particular master's programme.

Indicative/suggested bibliography

- Brown, Terence. *Ireland, a Social and Cultural History*. London: Fontana Press, 1985.
- Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization. The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe*. Nan A. Talese, Doubleday, 2003.
- Cleary, Joe & Claire Connolly (eds.). *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture*. CUP, 2004.
- Cleary, Joe (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Irish Modernism*. CUP, 2014.
- Dawe, Gerald (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Irish Poets*. CUP, 2017.
- Dowd, Christopher. *The Construction of Irish Identity in American Literature*, New York: Routledge, 2011.
- Eagleton, Terry. *The Truth about the Irish*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.
- Falci, Eric & Paige Reynolds (eds.). *Irish Literature in Transition, 1980-2020*. CUP, 2020.
- Foster, John Wilson (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel*. CUP, 2006.
- Foster, Roy F. *The Irish Story: Telling Tales and Making It Up in Ireland*. London: Penguin, 2002.
- Gantz, Jeffrey (ed.). *Early Irish Myth and Saga*. London: Penguin, 1981.
- Harte, Liam & Michael Parker (eds.). *Contemporary Irish Fiction: Themes, Tropes, Theories*. London: Macmillan, 2000.
- Hindley, Reg. *The Death of the Irish Language: a Qualified Obituary*. London: Routledge, 1991.
- Kiberd, Declan. *After Ireland: Writing the Nation from Beckett to the Present*. Harvard UP, 2017.
- Kiberd, Declan. *Inventing Ireland. The Literature of the Modern Nation*. London: Vintage, 1996.
- Murray, Christopher. *Twentieth-Century Irish Drama. Mirror Up to the Nation*. Manchester UP, 1997.
- Ó Cróinín, Dáibhí (ed.). *A New History of Ireland: I. Prehistoric and Early Ireland*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007.
- O'Connell, Diog. *New Irish Storytellers, Narrative Strategies in Film*. Intellect, 2010.
- Patten, Eve (ed.). *Irish Literature in Transition, 1940-1980*. CUP, 2020.
- Patten, Eve. *Ireland, Revolution, and the English Modernist Imagination*. OUP, 2022.
- Wright, Julia M. (ed.) *A Companion to Irish Literature*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010.