

# M.A. PROGRAMME IN IRISH STUDIES

Admission criteria

12-18 July 2021



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

- 1: graduation exam grade
2. undergraduate grade average
3. grade for the research proposal submitted to the admission board

## **Research proposal guidelines:**

Candidates applying for the MA in Irish Studies will submit a written research proposal (1800-2000 words, including a list of 5-10 cited works) addressing a topic related to the following study areas: Irish mythology, 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:**

- Celtic mythology against its Indo-European background
- Irish Christianity, from Patrick to Columbanus (5th-7th centuries)
- Early medieval Irish literature (9th-12th centuries)
- The Great Famine in the Irish literary imagination
- The Ulster Troubles in literature: sectarianism and terror
- The status of the Irish language today
- Ireland's literary heritage and traditions
- The tradition of Irish Gothic literature
- The Anglo-Irish theatre
- The dramatic manifestation of the Celtic Renaissance
- Modern Irish playwrights. Samuel Beckett's dramatic genius
- Samuel Beckett and Ireland
- *Après Joyce*: the afterlives of modern Irish literature
- The Irish Gothic mode in contemporary fiction
- The Irish comic spirit
- Irish literature in history
- Irish fiction and the ethical turn in literary studies
- Irish Modernisms and the novel: James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Flann O'Brien

- Ireland's other voices: Irish literature and the diaspora
- Short fiction in Ireland
- Irish women writers
- The Irish media landscape today: the press, radio, television
- Irish film: representations of history
- Irish film in the 1980s and 1990s: clichés and changes in Ireland
- Outstanding Irish film makers. The Irish in Hollywood

### **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.
- Wright, Julia M. (ed.) *A Companion to Irish Literature*. Oxford; Blackwell, 2010.