

## **Irish Studies MA programme - admission details**

**Admission criteria (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 must submit a written research proposal (1500-2000 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 addressed 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, their originality and innovative stance, the strength of the arguments and the coherence and feasibility of the project.

### **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 (Regina Maria Roche, Maria Edgeworth, Sydney Owenson, Charles Robert Maturin, Joseph Thomas Sheridan Le Fanu, Bram Stoker)
- The Anglo-Irish theatre (George Farquhar, Oliver Goldsmith, Richard Brinsley Butler Sheridan, Oscar Wilde, G. B. Shaw)
- The dramatic manifestation of the Celtic Renaissance (William Butler Yeats, Lady Gregory, George W. Russell, George Moore, Edward Martyn, J. M. Synge, Denis Johnston, Sean O'Casey)
- Modern Irish playwrights (Thomas Kilroy, Brendan Behan, Tom Murphy, Stewart Parker, Marina Carr). Samuel Beckett's dramatic genius
- Samuel Beckett and Ireland
- *Après* Joyce: the afterlives of modern Irish literature
- The Irish Gothic mode in contemporary fiction (Caitriona Lally, Sara Baume, Patrick McCabe, Seamus Deane, John Banville, Patrick McGrath, Neil Jordan, Claire Keegan)
- The Irish comic spirit (Oscar Wilde, G. B. Shaw, Flann O'Brien)
- Irish literature in history (Sean O'Casey, Brian Friel, Sebastian Barry, Hugo Hamilton)
- Irish fiction and the ethical turn in literary studies (Samuel Beckett, John McGahern, Jennifer Johnston, Sebastian Barry, Colm Tóibín)
- Irish Modernisms: the novel (James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Flann O'Brien)
- Ireland's other voices: Irish literature and the diaspora (William Trevor, Robert McLiam Wilson, Emma Donoghue, Colum McCann)
- Short fiction in Ireland (James Joyce, Frank O'Connor)

- Irish women writers (Elizabeth Bowen, Kate O'Brien, Medbh McGuckian, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin)
- The Irish media landscape today: the press, radio, television
- Irish film: representations of history
- Irish film in the 1980s and '90s: clichés and changes in Ireland
- Outstanding Irish film makers. The Irish in Hollywood

### **Indicative/suggested bibliography**

- Boyce, George. *Nationalism in Ireland*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- 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, Cristopher. *The Construction of Irish Identity in American Literature*, New York: Routledge, 2011.
- Evans, Estyn (ed.). *Irish Folkways*. London: Routledge & Kegan, 1957.
- 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.
- O'Connor, Frank. *The Lonely Voice. A Study of the Short Story*. Cleveland: World Pub. Co., 1963
- Patten, Eve (ed.). *Irish Literature in Transition, 1940-1980*. CUP, 2020.
- Wright, Julia M. (ed.) *A Companion to Irish Literature*. Oxford; Blackwell, 2010.