

MA GEOGRAPHY

The MA in Geography at NUI Maynooth is a new postgraduate programme, to be offered for the first time in September 2014. This innovative and flexible degree programme offers students the opportunity to develop their understanding of human geography while working with internationally respected scholars and real-world partners to significantly enhance their research skills.

PAC CODE

MHN60

Full-time

MHN61

Part-time

DURATION

1 year full-time

2 years part-time

CLOSING DATE

30 May 2014

COMMENCES

Sept 2014

FACULTY

Social Science

Career Information

The MA in Geography at NUI Maynooth is a new postgraduate programme, to be offered for the first time in September 2014. This innovative and flexible degree programme offers students the opportunity to develop their understanding of human geography while working with internationally respected scholars and real-world partners to significantly enhance their research skills. The MA also offers specialist streams in 'Art, Culture and Environment' and 'Cities, Globalisation and Development', and is available on both a full-time (1 year) and part-time (2 year) basis.

Career Options

Graduates of the MA in Geography will have the knowledge, skills and competence to research and analyse contemporary issues and problems from a spatial perspective that is both synthetic and particular, and both local and global. Some will find employment in research, civil society, artistic and curatorial practice, heritage practice, urban or global development, NGOs, public policy, or advocacy roles; others may develop geographic research skills to enhance their work in existing posts and/or create employment in these or other areas. The MA in Geography also provides an excellent platform for those interested in progressing to PhD studies.

Course Structure

The MA in Geography offers a wide-ranging programme of taught modules designed to nurture independent and critical thinking from a human geography perspective. Core modules develop competencies in geographic thinking and field methods; methodological modules develop skills in analysis, ethical research and public engagement; and specialist modules provide the opportunity for research-led teaching and learning in such areas as place studies, socially engaged creative practices, therapeutic landscapes, urban planning, financialisation and economic geography. Innovative modules include 'real-world' research opportunities. These include 'Public Engagement', which offers students the possibility of working with partner organisations, such as the Burrenbeo Trust,

the Dublin Biennial, the Icon Factory or TransColonía, on relevant research projects, and the 'Dublin Urban Laboratory' which invites students to engage with community groups, policy makers, advocates and academics in the Dublin region. The MA in Geography also includes an independent research thesis that allows students to work in-depth on a research project of their choice.

Modules

- GY601 Field School
- GY602 Thinking Geographically
- GY603 Thesis
- GY604 Mapping, GIS and Critical Spatial Data
- GY605 Public Engagement
- NIR621 Quantitative Analysis
- S0620 Qualitative Analysis
- GY620 A World of Cities
- GY621 Dublin Urban Laboratory
- GY622 Globalisation and Social Movements
- GY623 Transnational Networks
- GY626 Bodies and Environment
- GY627 Places, Landscapes, and Mappings
- GY628 Landscapes and Healing
- GY629 Special Topics

Entry Requirements

The basic entry requirement is a degree with a minimum of Second Class Honours, Grade Two (2.2) in Geography or in a cognate discipline. We also ask for a personal statement that should include a brief description of work or other related experiences that you feel are relevant to the programme and how you hope the programme will benefit your practice in these areas.

How to apply

Online application only: www.pac.ie/nuim

Contact Details

Programme Director Dr Mary Gilmartin
Tel +353 (0)1 708 6617
Fax +353 (0)1 708 3573
Email mary.gilmartin@nuim.ie
Website <http://www.nuim.ie/geography/> our courses
Address Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare



Dear Aga and Barney,

I write this very strong letter of support for the continuation of your excellent project, the Icon Factory and Icon Walk. As a relative newcomer to Dublin, I have been impressed with the work I have seen over the past three and a half years that I've been in Ireland. Your project is innovative and original; it demonstrates how art can transform public environments into spaces that are at once educational and enjoyable. By creating a 'walk' around the series of lanes, you also are encouraging visitors to become curious about their city and encourage them to learn more about Irish heritage through 'iconic' figures.

Having observed people moving through the spaces, and having spoken to local businesses nearby, you have provided an important public service, not only to the Temple Bar community and to Dublin, but for international students and tourists. Your small gallery and shop have also contributed to making your street a more business- and pedestrian-friendly area. While your work has been voluntary, the thousands of hours of investment have clearly translated to economic success for Temple Bar and Dublin, through increased: public safety, the aesthetic value of the lanes through murals; international tourism through heritage walks; and educational contributions in the realm of public art and urbanism.

Because of your work, I invited you as director of the Space&Place Research Collaborative to participate in the first Dublin Biennial's 'Conversations' in 2012 that I co-curated with Dr. Marissa Ronan (at the time the convenor of DublIntellectual, now the director of CulturLab at UCD). In addition to the Icon Factory, other artistic collaboratives, including Upstart and City Art Squad, were invited to discuss 'Art as Public Life'. Your session attracted a full house of citizens, academics, artists, practitioners and tourists. Your presentation was dynamic and the larger discussion that ensued was an important contribution to this series. Subsequent 'conversations' referred to your discussion and installation as well. Because the Dublin Biennial is a not-for-profit arts event, the voluntary contributions of the artists and scholars who made the first Biennial 'Conversations' series a success were very much appreciated. Your contribution in your time, expertise and for the art installation in the walkway between exhibition spaces were positively commented upon by visitors, scholars, and academics attending, as well as the other Irish and international artists and practitioners who participated in the event.

Following this, we have worked together as partners for two 'Art and Geography' projects at Maynooth. Again, I appreciate your time and expertise. First, in 2013, you were an artistic and local partner for a community-service learning third-year Geography dissertation research project by Karen Williams, who studied the effects and history of the Icon Walk as a means of studying the role of public art in Temple Bar. She earned a first-class mark on her project. Karen said this 'real world' experience was a highlight of her undergraduate degree;

your mentoring, advice and professional skills training were invaluable to her. She went on to enroll as a Master's student. Second, having seen the success of this approach to educating our future generations, I invited the Icon Factory to be a Partner of a new Geography MA with a special stream on 'Art, Culture and Environment' that I direct. This is the only such degree of its sort in Geography in Europe, let alone Ireland. We are delighted you have agreed to partner with our new programme, and again thank you for sharing an image for our webpage advertising the new degree! As NUIM does not offer financial support for these educational projects, we appreciate of the generous contribution you made to our public educational system and our students.

I am aware that DCC and the Temple Bar Trust are advocating a new 'Love the Lanes' project, which notes your success, but plans to have competitions for some of the lanes of the Icon Walk. I am very puzzled by this move and hope they will identify other lanes for their competition. There are three major problems that I see with this proposal. First, there are many other lanes available for investments by other artists. Second, it would make sense for other artists to build upon your success, rather than replace your work, while being invited to propose new ideas. Why replace the large investment of your collaborative and other partners, and the successes of your project, including partnerships such as ours? Why not invite artists to learn from your experiences working with local partners and international organizations by sponsoring public workshops as part of the competition? Third, if the DCC and the TBT want to have a true 'partnership', which is listed as the third highlight of this programme, they need to be working with and supporting local partners, such as the Icon Factory and Walk, who have contributed to the success and momentum that they list as their first two highlighted points, rather than replace or close down those projects.

I hope the DCC/TBT would be open to such a practical approach and small change to what otherwise sounds like an excellent 'Love the Lanes' project.

As you know, I am on sabbatical in New Zealand at the moment, so cannot meet in person until September, but would be happy to attend such planning meetings with you and DCC and Temple Bar Trust staff in the future. Please feel free to use this letter of strong support in the meantime. Although I am travelling quite a bit for research until September, I might be able to schedule a Skype meeting in advance if need be.

I look forward to working with you in the future as a Partner for the NUIM Geography MA, and hope that the 'Love the Lanes' project can support your work and build upon your excellent track record of success with artists, students, practitioners and local businesses.

With best wishes,

Karen E. Till

Dr. Karen E. Till, Senior Lecturer of Cultural Geography