



Exploring the Indigenous Arts (NG160)

Exploring the Indigenous Arts offers visiting students from North America an exciting, practice-based, opportunity to learn about indigenous Irish music, song and dance, set in the unique landscape of Connemara. The semester long course seeks to analyze Irish identity and history – and its current position within a global context – and to examine the impact that Irish culture has had on the development of music, song and dance globally.

As part of a unique teaching collaboration between NUI Galway and TG4 (the Irish language television network), students also have the opportunity to study rare documentary, film, news footage and other recorded events relating to the indigenous arts in Ireland.

Exploring the Indigenous Arts is delivered via a two hour class each week at the main NUI Galway campus and two field trips to the Irish-speaking Connemara region, where students take part in master workshops led by leading artists from the west of Ireland.

1. Day trip to Inis Oirr, (Aran Islands) one of the most important Irish speaking and ancient Islands off the west coast of Galway.
2. Weekend event at NUI Galway University campus in Carna where students are immersed in cultural performances, lectures and local entertainment in the heart of the Irish-speaking region of Connemara.

Finally, students also attend a series of lunchtime concerts on main campus as part of the University's Arts in Action program.

Special features of the class include:

- Practice based learning via workshops and performances from leading Irish traditional musicians, including Sean Nós (Old Style) singers and dancers.
- Unique access to rare archives of traditional Irish art forms through collaboration with TG4, the Irish language television network based in Ballinahown, Connemara.
- Classes delivered on the main NUI Galway campus in Galway as well as the University's satellite Irish language campus in the heart of the Connemara Gaeltacht.
- Lunchtime concerts on main campus as part of the University's Arts in Action program.

Coarse Load and Assessment

Exploring the Indigenous Arts is worth 5 ECTS credits (2.5 Arcadia credits). The class is assessed exclusively by scholarly weekly writings presented in a journal format at the end of the program.