



2025 AHSS International Summer School

Programme Topic: Irish Studies

**Academic Lead: Peter
Gray**

Dates: 23 June – 3 July 2025

Topic Summary:

The 2-week Irish Studies programme takes a deeper dive into understanding identities in Ireland and their relationship with the wider world, through explorations of the country's history, culture and language, with particular reference to the acute divisions over identity in the north.

The first week looks at historical topics including:

- the origins and structural legacies of colonialism and religious change in shaping Ulster's conflicting 'ethno-religious' communities
- how the relationships between these communities have changed, sometimes in surprising ways, over time
- the wider contexts of Irish economic development, famine, gender relations, mass emigration and the rise of an overseas diaspora, alongside the political ideologies of nationalism and unionism
- the causes and consequences of the partition of Ireland through to the experience of the Northern Irish 'Troubles' of 1968-98 and their aftermaths
- how the 'difficult' past of Ireland is remembered and represented today, including in the Ulster Museum
- a visit to the Ulster-American Folk Park will focus on how migration and diaspora has and continues to mould Irish society and identity

In week two we will focus on the cultural expressions of Irish identity, looking at

- the decline and revival of the Irish language, with a visit to the Culturlann language centre
- the contribution to Irish culture and identities of some of the country's leading writers from the 18th century to the present
- how Troubles-era and contemporary Northern Ireland has been represented on screen, in poetry and in novels
- the week includes a field trip to Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney's 'Homeplace' at Bellaghy and a plantation 'big house' in the Ulster countryside.



Intended Learning Outcomes

- develop a more rounded understanding of the culture and history of the north of Ireland, and its relations with the rest of the island and overseas
- identify and analyse primary and secondary sources and literary texts relating to Ireland as appropriate
- undertake independent library-based research as appropriate



WEEK 2

Monday 23 June 2025

Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	History: The Plantation of Ulster and its Legacies (Dr Ian Campbell)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1.00pm	History: The Failed Revolution of 1798 in its Atlantic Contexts (Dr Andrew Holmes)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	History: Belfast – the Rise and Fall of an Industrial Giant (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003



Tuesday 24 June 2025			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	History: Famine and Land in the 19 th Century (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1.00pm	History: Mass Emigration and Irish Diaspora (Dr Sophie Cooper)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	History: Nationalism and Unionism in Ireland, 1830-1916 (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003

Wednesday 25 June 2025			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 5.00pm	Irish Studies Field Trip: Ulster-American Folk Park and Mellon Centre for Migration Studies (Prof Peter Gray / Dr Paddy Fitzgerald)	PG	



Thursday 26 June 2025			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	History: Revolution, Partition, Independence: Ireland, 1916-23' (Prof. Fearghal McGarry)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1.00pm	History: Women's Experience and identities in Modern Ireland (Prof Elaine Farrell)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	History: Northern Ireland from Partition to the Origins of the Troubles (Dr Peter McLoughlin)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003



Friday 27 June 2025

Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	History: From Troubles to Peace Process in Northern Ireland (Dr Ruth Duffy)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 12.30pm	History: Memory and Memorialisation in Contemporary Ireland (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch		
1.30pm – 3.30pm	Visit to Ulster Museum: Representing the Troubles Gallery (Prof Peter Gray/ Dr Gordon Gillespie)	PG	

Saturday 28 June 2025

Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 5.00pm	Irish Studies Field Trip: The North Coast: Dunluce Castle and the Giant's Causeway (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	



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WEEK 3

Monday 30 June 2025

Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 1.00pm	Field Trip to Culturlann, Belfast: The Languages of Ireland (Róisín Nic Liam) The Irish Language Revival (Dr Síobhra Aiken)	PG	
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	Culture: Writing Ireland and Colonialism (Dr Daniel Roberts)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003



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Tuesday 1 July 2025			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	Culture: Screening the Troubles (Dr Des O'Rawe)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1.00pm	Culture: The Irish Gothic (Dr Sinead Sturgeon)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	Culture: Class identities in Irish writing (Dr Michael Pierse)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003



Wednesday 2 July 2025

Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	Culture: Seamus Heaney, the Troubles and Poetry in the North (Dr Scott McKendry)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1.00pm	Culture: Contemporary Poetry in Belfast (Dr Scott McKendry/Dr Gail McConnell)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	Culture: Writing Contemporary Belfast: <i>Milkman</i> (Dr Eamonn Hughes)	PG	27 Uni Square 01/003

Thursday 3 July 2025

9.30am-4pm	Irish Studies Field Trip: Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy, and Springhill House, Moneymore (Prof Peter Gray)	PG	
6.00pm-8.00pm	End of Summer School Reception and Dinner		