



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Foghlaim & Forbairt
Ghairmiúil d'Aosaigh
Adult Learning &
Professional Development

International *Summer School*

Ecology: Living Landscapes in
the West of Ireland

COURSE SYLLABUS



The contents of this booklet are for information purposes only and should not be regarded as the basis of a contract between a student and the University. The syllabus, fees or regulations may be amended at any time.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This new course offers students practical experience of the natural environment in Ireland. It first provides students with an understanding of ecological concepts and practical field skills to identify and survey habitats and species. Students will gain an understanding of conservation and landscape management issues and develop their skills to evaluate the sustainable use and conservation of Ireland's ecological resources.

The summer school is an intensive three-week course with an emphasis on field-based learning. Teaching will be field based by means of lectures, excursions and discussions. Field trips will facilitate contact with the Irish countryside, habitats, flora, fauna and Irish conservation practitioners. Thus, students will have practical experience of the differing ecology of the landscapes of Co Galway. Assessment will be in the form of oral presentations, video blogs, self-assessment and learning journals. Students will be provided with access to learning materials through Canvas and from the University library. Facilities and time for private study have been incorporated into the programme.

Galway City is in a unique position to offer easy access to a vast array of scenic and biodiversity-rich habitats. To the south of Galway Bay, students will explore the ecology, conservation and sustainability of the Burren region a UNESCO World Geopark. In Connemara, they will visit the uplands and blanket bogs while in East County Galway they will learn about turloughs, eskers and raised bogs. On the field trips, the students experience the key aspects of geology, hydrology, and ecology of each habitat and appreciate how the interplay of these elements with anthropogenic activities shapes the environment. Students will also develop their practical field skills in habitat classification, plant species identification and a range of animal survey techniques.

Credits

In order to quantify learning and to place a value on it, courses are allocated credit units. Credits may vary; however, they represent a standard number of classes contact hours and average workload for a programme. This workload includes lectures, practical work, seminars, private work and examinations. The use of the term credits is common among the third level sector and provides a “currency” with which students may transfer from one course to another or gain exemption from elements of a particular programme.

This course carries 5 Semester Credits/10 ECTS Credits at graduate level

PROGRAMME AIM

This course is designed to encourage a holistic approach to studying Irish ecology by looking at all aspects of how Irish habitats are created and maintained through natural processes and anthropogenic activity. It will also consider conservation and sustainability issues in the west of Ireland and how sound understanding of these ecological processes is used to combat the challenges facing the Irish environment.

Module Learning Outcomes Being Assessed

Upon completion of students should be able to:

1. Differentiate between different Irish habitats and associated parameters
2. Explain the interrelation between different parameters that comprise landscapes and habitats
3. Survey a range of Irish species and habitat types using appropriate survey techniques
4. Consider potential species and habitat attributes and properties which can be used to undertake an assessment of the condition of species populations and habitats
5. Identify pressures and threats to habitat and species conservation in the West of Ireland and understand the underlying causes.
6. Describe a range of species and habitat conservation and management techniques.
7. Suggest suitable management strategies for the conservation of habitats and species in a range of scenarios.
8. Translate and apply their knowledge and skills from an Irish context to their home, or any other environment.