



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Welcome to University of Galway



*University
ofGalway.ie*

Ireland at a Glance

- Ireland is the only English speaking country in the Eurozone
- One of the friendliest and safest countries in the world (GPI)
- Ireland is globally connected, at the edge of Europe and home to the headquarters of many high profile global companies e.g. Facebook and Twitter
- Research opportunities - 782m annual Irish Government investment
- New 24 month stay back option for non-EU postgrad students



University of Galway at a glance

- University of Galway has been inspiring minds since **1845** as a **research-led university**. Ours is one of the oldest and largest universities in Ireland. We are at the heart of a distinct and vibrant region, renowned for its unique culture, creative industries, medical technologies, marine ecology and economy, and our innovation.
- The university, consists of **four primary colleges**;
 - **College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies**
 - **College of Business, Public Policy and Law**
(including partner college Shannon College of Hotel Management)
 - **College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences**
 - **College of Science and Engineering.**
- We offer over **70** undergraduate programmes and **170** postgraduate programmes to over **19,000** students including over **4,000** international students from **110** countries.
- Over **80%** of our undergraduate programmes offer a study abroad option/ paid internship.
- **110,000** alumni network spread across the globe including our President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh




University of Galway, *At a glance*




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World top
34
for UN-SDGs
Times Higher Education
Impact Ranking

€71m 
research fund
>50 research collaborations
with industry in 2021

1st
in Ireland for
sustainable
development
Times Higher Education
Impact Ranking

Top **2%** 
of universities in the
QS World rankings

With over
19,000
students
 **18%** of which are
international
122 students from
countries

Most
biodiverse
university campus in Ireland



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The City of Galway

- Galway City is the fourth largest city in the Republic of Ireland (a population of 75,414).
- Situated on the West Coast of Ireland, on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Galway is a city of festivals, culture and the arts!
- Galway was the European Capital of Culture in 2020! UNESCO city of Film
- New Hollywood movie 'The Watchers'
- Galway – World's Best Studies Cities: In the top 10 cities worldwide and top for Student Friendliness 'TheCampusAdvisor.com'



Our College is renowned for....



7 world leading subject areas in 2023 QS Subject Rankings.
Highest ranked University outside Dublin for the study of Arts and Humanities



A focus on international experiences with 87% of undergraduate courses having study abroad opportunities*



A global research reputation across the spectrum of the Humanities and Social Sciences which underpins our teaching.



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In 2023, 7 subject areas in the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies were highlighted as being amongst the best in the world

91
English
Language and
Literature

Top 120
Performing Arts

Top 200
Archaeology

Top 250
Modern
Languages

Top 250
Education

Top 300
Psychology

Top 320
Linguistics



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Supporting you on your journey to Galway





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MSc in Health Psychology

Dr Jenny Mc Sharry, Director
jenny.mcsharry@universityofgalway.ie



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24th April 2024

Overview



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- Introductions
- History of MSc Health Psychology at University of Galway
- MSc Health Psychology Key Information
- Opportunities Post-Programme
- Student experience: Past student David Comer
- Q and A



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Introductions

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Introductions



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Lecturer in Psychology (2017-)

- Responsibility for Psychology teaching across Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy
- Director MSc in Health Psychology
- Co-Director PhD in Health Psychology Practice

Health Psychologist

BPS Chartered Psychologist, HCPC Registered Health Psychologist
PSI Registered Psychologist-Health Psychology Specialist Register
Past Chair PSI Division of Health Psychology
Past EHPS National Delegate for Ireland



Research

Assistant Director Health Behaviour Change Research Group





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History of MSc Health Psychology at University of Galway

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Defining Health Psychology

“The study of the psychological & behavioural processes in health, illness & health care” (Johnston,1995)

- How people stay healthy
- How people respond when they become ill
- How people interact with healthcare

International Health Psychology Milestones

1970s

- APA Division of Health Psychology was established in 1978
- Term Health Psychology first appeared in print (Stone et al. 1979)

1986

- Health Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society established
- European Health Psychology Society established

1988

- First MSc in Health Psychology in UK

Programme History

1994

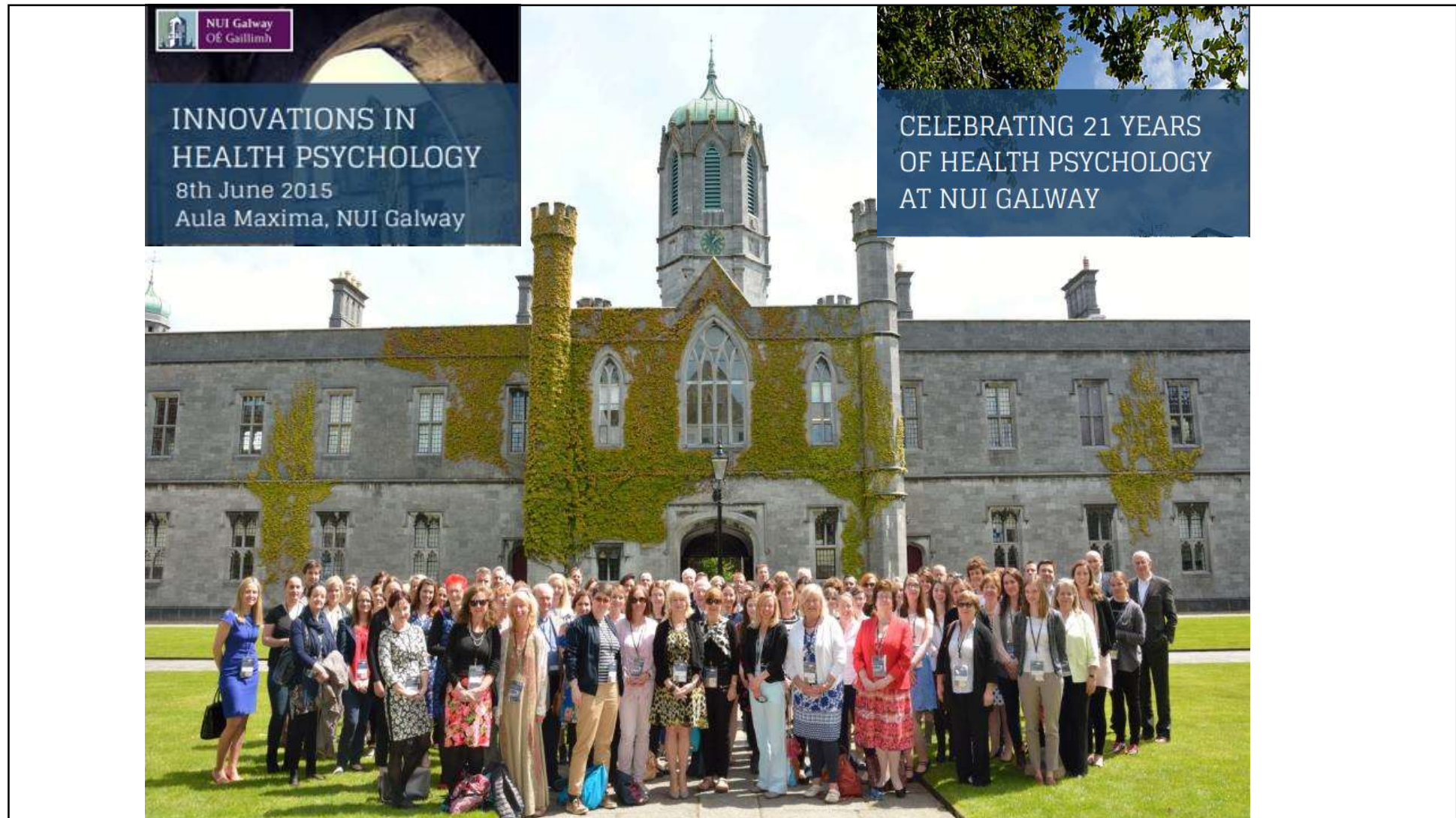
- M Psych Sc in Health Psychology at NUI Galway
- 2 year programme, Director: Ruth Curtis

2011

- One year MSc in Health Psychology (2007)
- Accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland in 2011

2021

- Re-accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland in 2021 (5 cohorts until 2025/2026)





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Congratulations!

> 100 applications this year



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Programme Key Information

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Key Facts



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Duration 1 year, full-time; 2 years, part-time	Next start date September 2024
Average intake 22	Closing Date Please view the offer rounds website .
ECTS weighting 90	Course code MSC-HPSY



https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/health-psychology.html#course_overview

- Fully accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland
- Entry requirement: 2.1 (>60%) in first degree in Psychology
- First degree, equivalent to Psychological Society of Ireland accreditation (<https://www.psychologicalsociety.ie/accredited-courses>)
- English language requirements:
<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/apply.html>

Programme Aims



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- To equip graduates with a comprehensive knowledge base in health psychology, at postgraduate level
- To train students to conduct high quality research in the area of health psychology
- To train students in a wide range of transferrable skills, including communication skills, group work, evidence synthesis, critical review, and professional and ethical conduct.
- To prepare students to undertake future professional training in health psychology and other areas of psychology, such as clinical psychology

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The Core Programme Team:

MSc Module Co-ordinators and Modules 2024-25

Semester 1 modules			Semester 2 modules		Full year module	Semester 1&2 module
PS579	PS585	PS588	PS587	PS584	PS6136	PS6137
Research Methods in Health Psychology	Perspectives in Health Psychology	Biobehavioural Processes in Health & Illness	Psychological Processes in Illness & Health care	Health Promotion & Behaviour Change	Dissertation	Research & Professional Skills
Prof Jane Walsh	Prof Gerry Molloy		Prof AnnMarie Groarke	Prof Molly Byrne	Dr Caroline Heary	Dr Jenny Mc Sharry
						

Please note that other members of staff and external academics also contribute to the teaching and learning programme.

Programme Timetable (Semester 1)

Semester 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 – 10			AMB G035 SPSS Training – P5579 (Prof Jane Walsh)		
10 – 11			AMB G035 SPSS Training – P5579 (Prof Jane Walsh)	AMB G043 P5588 Behavioural Processes in Health and Illness (Prof Gerry Molloy)	
11 – 12			AMB G043 P5579 Research Methods (Prof Jane Walsh)	AMB G043 P5588 Behavioural Processes in Health and Illness (Prof Gerry Molloy)	
12 – 1			AMB G043 P5579 Research Methods (Prof Jane Walsh)		
1 – 2					
2 – 3			AMB G043 P5585-Perspectives in Health Psychology (Prof Gerry Molloy)	AMB G035 PS6137 Research and Professional Skills (Ms Márcia Carvalho/Mr Eanna Kenny/Dr Jenny McSharry)	
3 – 4			AMB G043 P5585-Perspectives in Health Psychology (Prof Gerry Molloy)	AMB G035 PS6137 Research and Professional Skills (Ms Márcia Carvalho/Mr Eanna Kenny/Dr Jenny McSharry)	Timetable & Room Bookings Coordinator Ext 3454

Programme Timetable (Semester 2)

Semester 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 – 10					
10 – 11					
11 – 12					
12 – 1					
1 – 2		AMB G036 PS587 Psychological Processes in Illness and Health Care (Prof AnnMarie Groarke)			
2 – 3		AMB G036 PS587 Psychological Processes in Illness and Health Care (Prof AnnMarie Groarke)	AMB G036 PS584 Health Promotion and Behaviour Change (Prof Molly Byrne)		
3 – 4			AMB G036 PS584 Health Promotion and Behaviour Change (Prof Molly Byrne)		Timetable & Room Bookings Coordinator Ext 3454

Academic Calendar 2024-2025

Academic Year 2024 -2025	
Orientation 1st years	Tuesday 3rd September to Friday 6th September*
Start of teaching all years	Monday 9th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 29th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 9th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 20th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 21st December
2025	
Start of Teaching	Monday 13th January 2025
End of Teaching	Friday 4th April (12 weeks of teaching)
Field Trips	Monday 7th April to Thursday 10th April (4 working days as in 2020/21, 2022/23, 2023/24)
Study Week	Friday 11th April to Thursday, 20th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Tuesday, 22nd April
Easter	Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025
Semester 2 Exams End	Friday, 9th May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 5th to Friday 15th August (9 days of exams)
Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 18th April to Easter Monday 21st April 2025
	Bank Holidays: Monday 28th October 2024 / Monday, 17th March 2025
	Monday 5th May 2025/ Monday 2nd June 2025 / Monday 4th August 2025



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Opportunities Post-Programme

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Graduate Careers and Testimonials



Eanna Kenny

PhD candidate on the Health Research Board
Collaborative Doctoral Programme in Chronic Disease
Prevention, NUI Galway, graduated MSc in 2019

- The MSc in Health Psychology provided me with an excellent introduction to the role of behaviour in health. The knowledge, skills and networks developed during this programme were a great foundation for the next steps in my research career.



Mary O Connor

Health Policy Analyst at Department of Health,
graduated MSc in 2022

- The learnings I have acquired from the MSc. in Health Psychology have been invaluable for my confidence and competence, upon entering the working world. The programme encourages critical thinking on behaviour change theory and impart practicable knowledge on designing interventions and working towards publication. All the while facilitating a warm, approachable teaching environment.



Lisa Hynes

Director of Programmes at Croí Heart and Stroke
Centre, graduated MSc in 2016

- The MSc in Health Psychology at NUI Galway is an essential stepping stone to a career in Health Psychology. As such, it was an essential step in my training and development as a Health Psychologist, and gave me the best possible foundation for the scientist-practitioner career in Health Psychology that I now have as Head of Health Programmes with Croí, a Galway-based Heart & Stroke Foundation.

National and International Opportunities



- University of Galway is an internationally recognised centre for excellence in Health Psychology





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Get in touch

jenny.mcsarry@universityofgalway.ie



HealthPsyGalway

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Student – Graduate Spotlight

David Comer

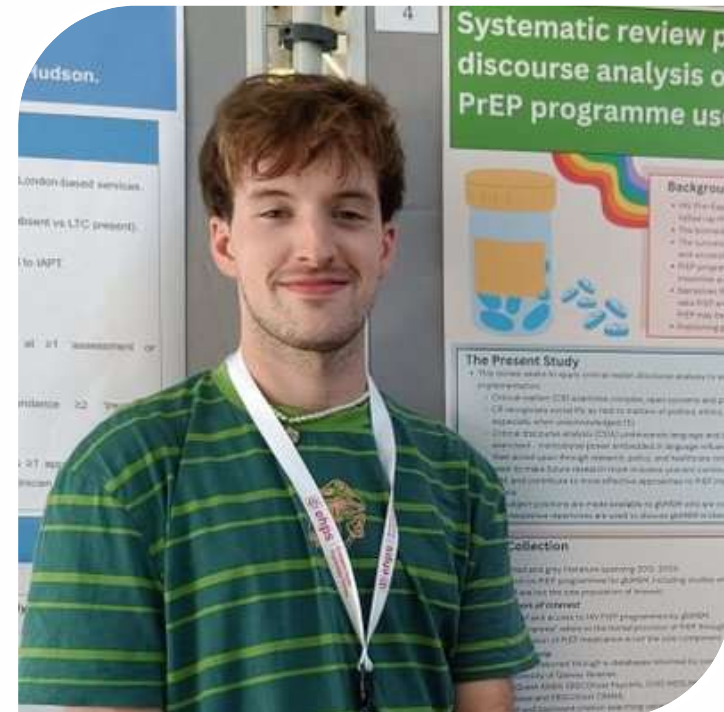
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About me!

- PhD student in Psychology & Health based in the School of Psychology.
- Previously completed BA Psychology and MSc Health Psychology in University of Galway.
- Primarily involved in research on the health of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM), and other research in sexual health.



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MSc Health Psychology



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- Relatively challenging workload requiring a lot of self-directed learning.
 - Includes research dissertation.
- Relaxed atmosphere with lots of discussion.
- Very helpful staff, including several past students of the MSc.
- Flexible lecture hours make balancing other commitments very manageable.
- University of Galway has a massive selection of clubs & societies.
- Galway is a picturesque city, with great nightlife and culture.



After the MSc Health Psych.



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- Accepted an offer for a PhD in Galway funded by the SPHeRE programme with my MSc project supervisor, Dr Chris Noone, on HIV Prevention.
 - My PhD comprises a systematic review, two qualitative studies, and an experimental study.
- Working on publishing my dissertation from my MSc.
- I also contribute to teaching undergraduate and master's students, co-supervising MSc projects, and I collaborate on research with NGOs, PhD students, and academics nationally and internationally.
- Lots of travel!



SPHeRE HR^B

Structured Population health, Policy
and Health-services Research Education

My Cohort



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- PhD students x2
- Research assistants x5
- Assistant psychologists x2
- Health policy analyst
- Rehabilitation assistant
- Social care assistant
- Childhood development tutor
- Health and wellness coach
- Trainee psychotherapist
- Registration case officer NMBI
- Project case officer (ALONE)
- PME primary education



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