



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

MA IN HISTORY, 2025-26

HI509: DISSERTATION – 30 ECTS

The dissertation is the place to develop an original contribution to our knowledge and understanding of a particular historical topic. It provides an opportunity for you to further enhance and showcase your research skills; your ability to use primary sources; sophisticated analytical skills; the ability to relate findings to their historiographical context; the clear and coherent presentation of research; and the appropriate use of the scholarly apparatus of History, such as footnotes and a bibliography.

CHOOSING A TOPIC

When choosing a topic students should bear in mind the relatively short length of the dissertation (vast topics should be saved for the PhD!), the location and accessibility of primary sources, and the likelihood of finding answers to your research questions using the sources and methodology you have in mind. A number of seminars in the HI6104 module in Semester One will provide guidance on the process of choosing topics and identifying research questions. You are also welcome to discuss your ideas with members of staff in History, but please consult with the Programme Director, Dr Róisín Healy, about who is available and best placed to supervise your dissertation. A list of History staff and the areas in which they might research supervision can be found on the History Department webpage.

LENGTH AND DEADLINE

15,000-20,000 words, due in late August 2026.