



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GY101: Performance and Screen Studies

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Dr. Seán Crosson,
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In this section, we will cover:

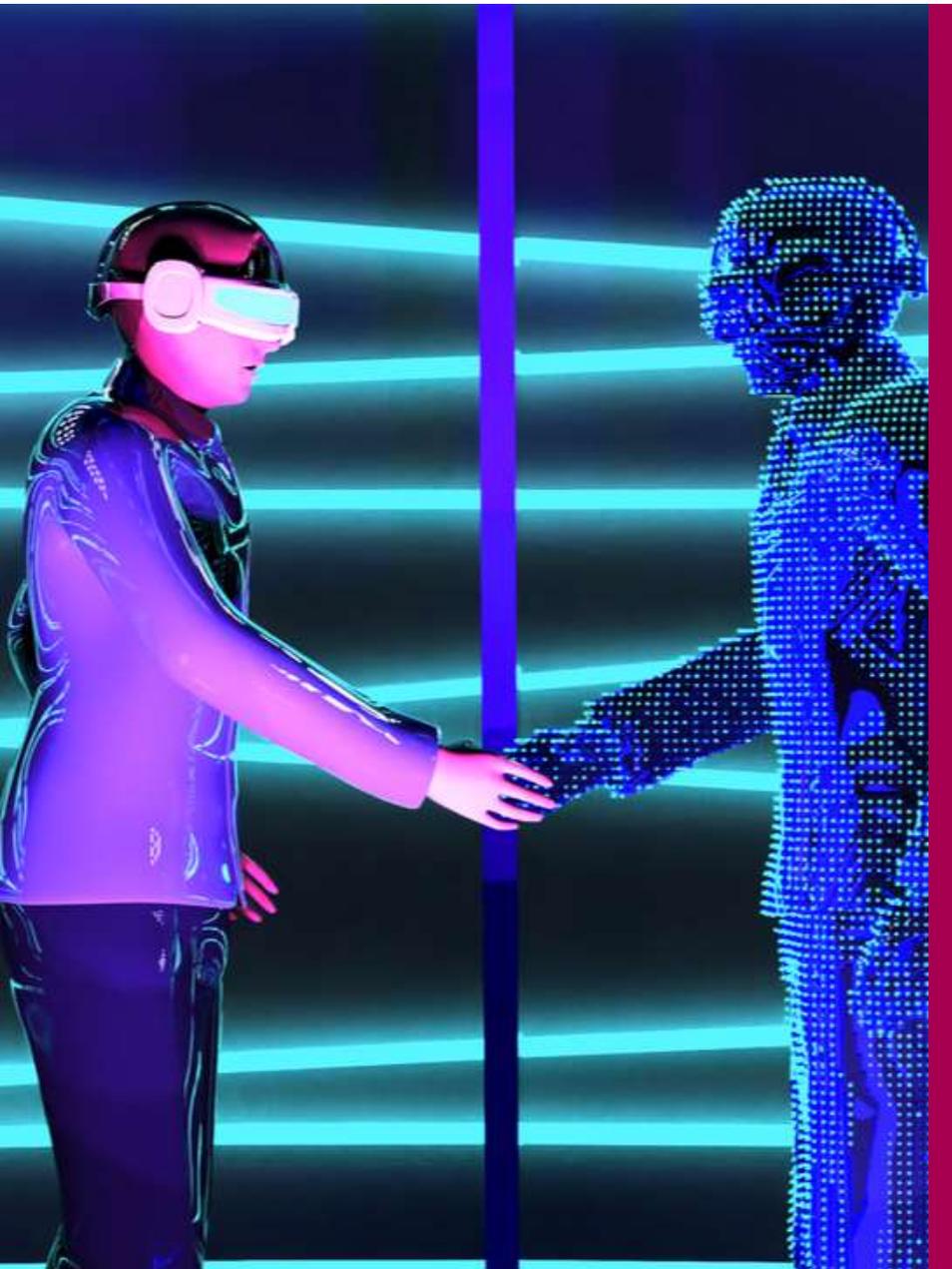
- What does this Performance and Screen Studies cover overall?
- What is Performance Studies and what is Screen Studies? Why study both together?
- What modules will I take and how will I learn in this subject?
- Where to after?
- Questions





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What does
this subject
cover overall?



Overview

- First subject of its type in Ireland
- Explores histories and theories of film, screen media and performance
- Investigates how performance shapes ideas about film, theatre and everyday life
- Imagines the future of the creative industries and performance in a changing technological age
- Builds transferable skills for employability in the creative industries sector
- Gives you a pathway to complete modules relevant to the teaching requirements for secondary school teachers delivering the new Leaving Certificate subject in Drama, Film and Theatre Studies



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What is Performance Studies?

RS.Mofobt2020re

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Performance Studies...

...involves the multidisciplinary exploration of established performing arts (Drama, Film, Television, etc.) while branching into other forms of public performance (such as social media, sporting events and sports media, political activism, and more).



*From top: Druid Theatre's production of Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, Dáil Éireann chamber, checking in on reactions to a social media post*

Performance is...



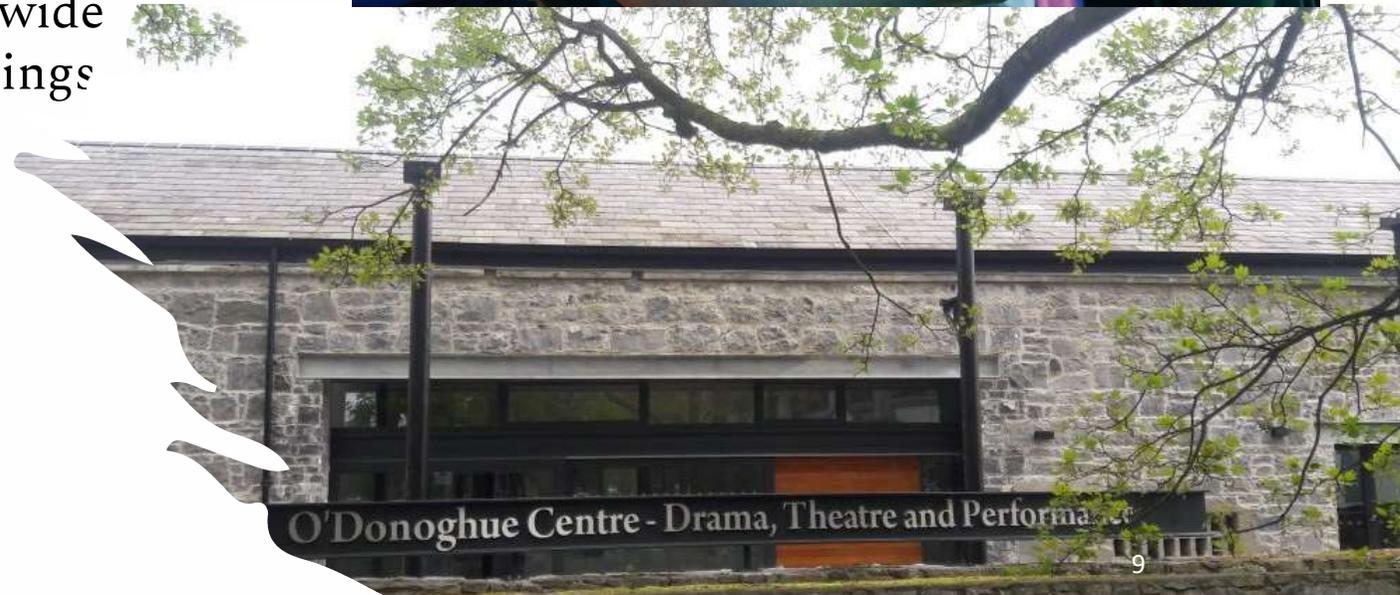
Clockwise: Druid Theatre performing Shakespeare, Macnas on the streets of Galway, LASTESIS Collective in Chile, the Philadelphia Eagles, Belfast's Kneecap and Taylor Swift's friendship bracelets exchanges.



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Performance Studies...

Builds upon University of Galway's excellence in the area of Drama and Theatre Studies which is now ranked in the **TOP 100 Performing Arts Subjects** worldwide in the QS World University Rankings 2024.





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What is Screen Studies?

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Screen Studies

The study of film and other screen media including television and platform / streaming

It involves discussion of texts and the contexts in which screen media are produced – social, political and cultural.

Screen Studies...

Builds upon University of Galway's excellence in the area of Film Studies at the Huston School of Film & Digital Media



HUSTON
SCHOOL *of* FILM
& DIGITAL MEDIA



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Designated
UNESCO Creative City
in 2014



Why University of Galway?



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- Partnerships with arts organisations – Druid, Galway International Arts Festival, and many more.
- As a UNESCO City of Film and the home of the Screen Ireland, Galway is situated at the heart of Ireland's creative and cultural sector
- Creative arts on-campus: Arts in Action, student societies, professional artists and producers on staff
- Galway as Ireland's unofficial cultural capital!





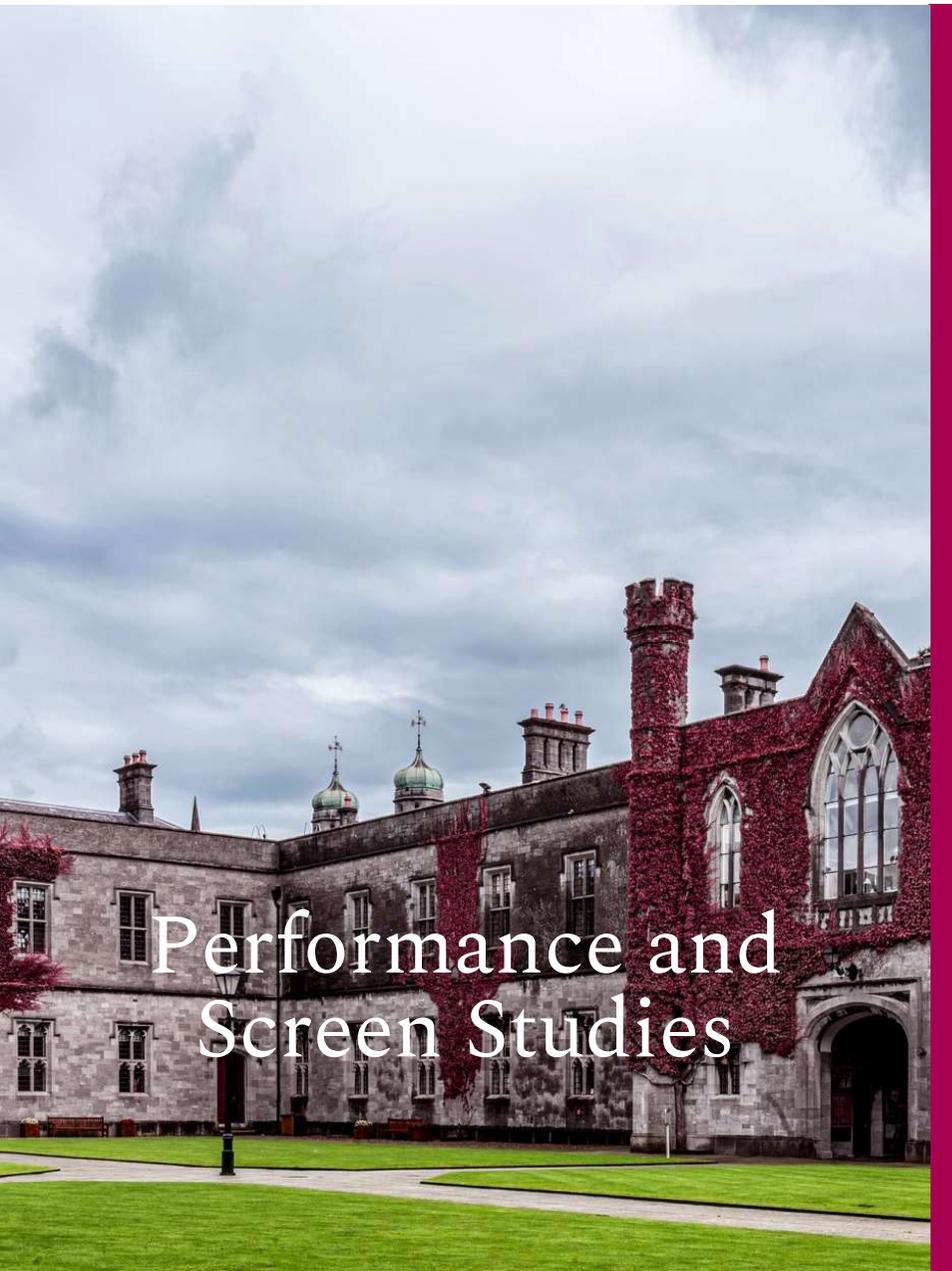
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Why study both together?

- Reflects the way in which creative arts professions now operate.
- The pandemic has shown that old boundaries are breaking down.
- Opportunities in the west of Ireland, nationally and internationally.
- Allows you to develop the skills needed for the creation of sustainable creative enterprises in local, national and international contexts

Right: Phoebe Wallers-Bridge brought *Fleabag* from theatre to television and now works in film extensively as writer/performer.





Structure of PSS as subject

- A three-year programme, taken as part of the Arts Degree.
- In First Year, you study it as one of your THREE subjects.
- In Second and Final year, you study it with ONE other subject.
- Can be taken with denominated degrees in Drama, Music, Creative Writing.
- Located in Arts Subjects Group 2, allowing you to study it with English, languages, Sociology and Politics, and more.



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Subject Combinations

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Archaeology	Law ⁴	Classics	English
French ^{2,3}	Psychology ⁴	Geography	Economics
Mathematics/ Mathematical Studies ⁵	Celtic Civilisation	German ^{2,3}	*Children's Studies
*Mathematics for Data Science	*Human Rights	Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music)	*Global Languages
*Media Studies	*Digital Culture	*Journalism	
	*Film and Digital Media		
	*Media and Technology	Léann na Cumarsáide	
		*Music	
	Performance and Screen Studies	*Cumarsáid	
		Global Media	

Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
Sociological and Political Studies	History	Gaeilge ⁶
Information Technology ¹	Spanish ^{2,3}	Italian ^{2,3}
Léann an Aistriúcháin		Philosophy
*Creative Writing		
*Drama and Theatre Studies		
*Data Science		
*Information Technology for Arts and Humanities		



What modules will I
take and how will I
learn in this
subject?



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How will I learn in year one?

You will take four core modules to build your key critical competencies in this area.

You can combine this subject with other subjects to enhance your practical experiences in the area and avail of opportunities in those subjects like studying abroad and/or work placement.

You are assessed through exam and continuous assessment.

You will begin to explore “Doing Thinking, Thinking Doing” as a learning methodology in some modules.



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Year One modules:

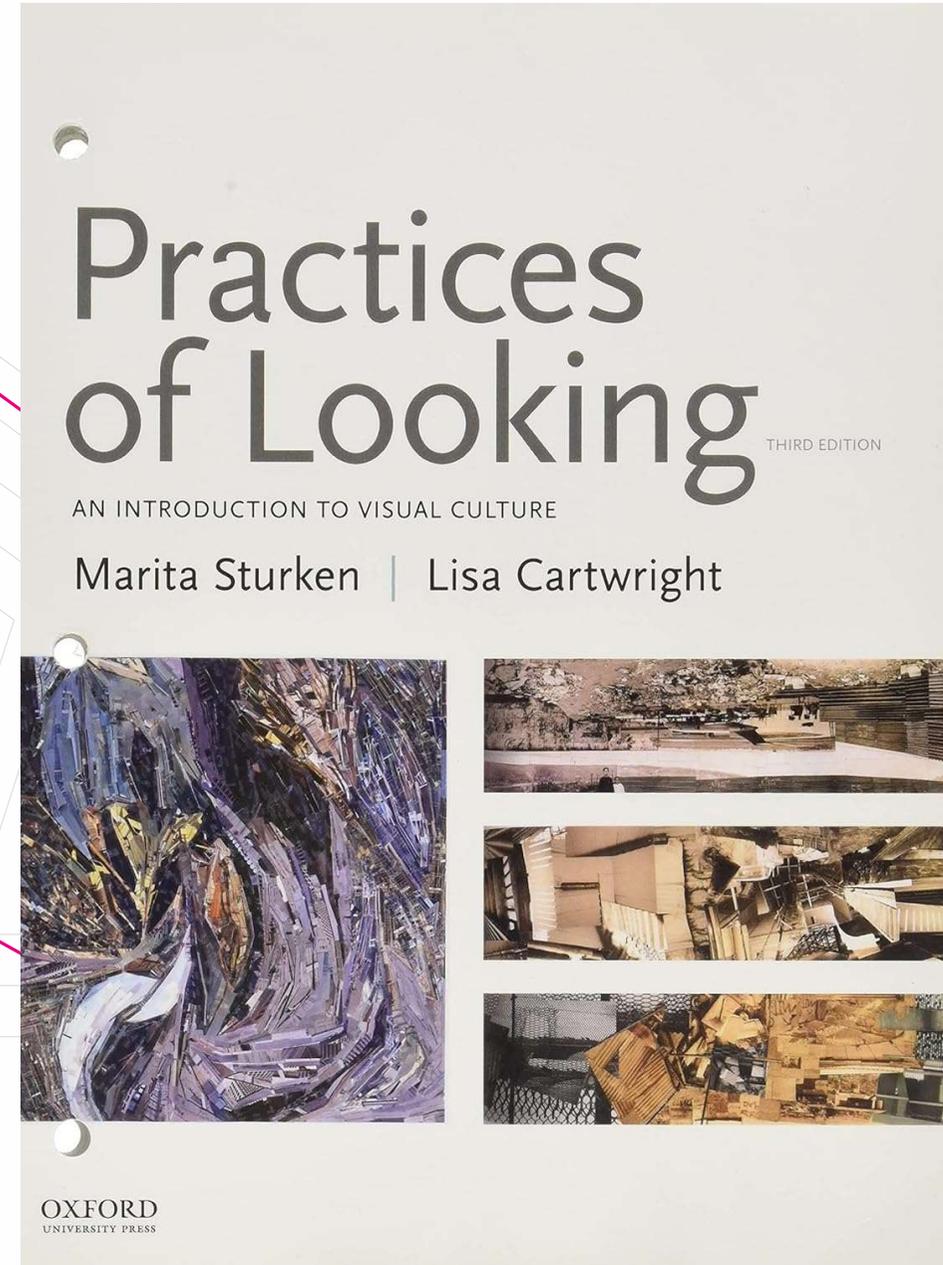
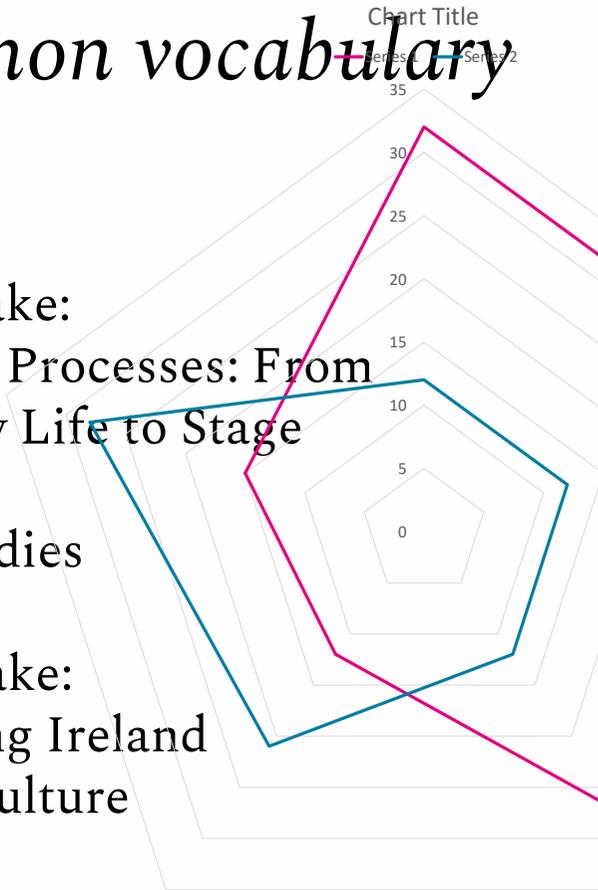
Building a common vocabulary

In semester one, you will take:

- Acting and Performance Processes: From Performance in Everyday Life to Stage and Screen
- Introduction to Film Studies

In semester two, you will take:

- Performing and Screening Ireland
- Introduction to Visual Culture



How will I learn in year two and final year?



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You will have more module optionality in second and final year.

Some modules will have smaller class sizes and some of your modes of assessment will become more diverse (moving more towards portfolio and project work).

You can combine PSS with other subjects to enhance your practical experiences in the area and avail of opportunities in those subjects like studying abroad and/or work placement.

Year Two:

-> *Broadening your knowledge*

[Four core, choose two electives]



You must take:

- Introduction to Film Theory (CORE)
- Theory and Practice for Performance Studies(CORE)
- Design Practices for Stage, Screen and Creative Industries (CORE)

Electives may include:

- Applied Performance in Social, Educational and Community Contexts
- Playwriting and Screenwriting
- Philosophy of Art
- Gender and Sexuality on Screen
- Digital Storytelling
- Global Cinemas: Beyond Hollywood
- Literatures and the Environment

Final Year -> *Specialising for your future*

Module choices may include...

[Two core, two electives]



You must take:

- Performance and Screen Studies Capstone Project I : Research Methodologies (CORE)
- Performance and Screen Studies Capstone Project II: Thesis Project (CORE)

Electives may include:

- Applied Film Studies
- Screening Ireland
- Sport and Cinema
- Documentary and Creative Non-Fiction Onscreen



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If you are
doing
a denominated
four-year
programme:

- You will follow that programme in Year Three and return to Performance and Screen Studies in your Fourth Year/Final Year.
- Contact discipline subject for details.

Performance and Screen Studies students studying the BA Joint Honours with a language or BA Global Experience



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- In year three, you will HAVE to select modules in Performance and Screen Studies abroad in each semester.
 - 20 ECTS- BA Joint Honours with PSS and Language
 - 25 ECTS- BA Global Experience with PSS and another subject (if not language)
- We will approve modules from the fields/disciplines of:
 - Film Studies
 - Drama and Theatre Studies
 - Media and Communications
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - Literature
 - Music
 - Dance
 - Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies and/or LGBT/Queer Studies
 - Cultural Studies
 - Critical Theory/Philosophy
 - Anthropology
 - Sociology
 - Psychology

After I graduate?



- Creative Industries
- Creative producing
- Arts management
- A career in academia
- All the benefits of an arts degree:
 - Teaching
 - *There is a pathway through the programme to complete modules relevant to the teaching requirements for teachers delivering the new Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Leaving Certificate subject.*
 - Public Service
 - Tourism and Heritage
 - Business
 - Information Technology



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curraclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment

Have Your Say

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English Gaeilge



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Drama, Film And Theatre Studies

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Development will commence shortly on a new specification for Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies.



<https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/drama-film-and-theatre-studies/>



Pathways to Secondary School Teaching with Performance and Screen Studies as a subject

A [Leaving Certificate subject in Drama, Film and Theatre Studies](#) was introduced in September 2025 for fifth-year students.

If you are considering a career as a secondary school teacher following graduation, you can carry credits from this subject forward into a Professional Master's of Education programme to ultimately receive your teaching qualification.

However, please note that you will also need a SECOND teaching subject to degree level during your BA.

You can find out more from the Teaching Council about the process of becoming a post-primary teacher and about eligible teaching subjects [here](#).

If you are considering this career option, we presently advise you take the following elective modules over the course of your study with us in addition to PSS core modules:

Year Two

- PSS2105: Playwriting and Screenwriting

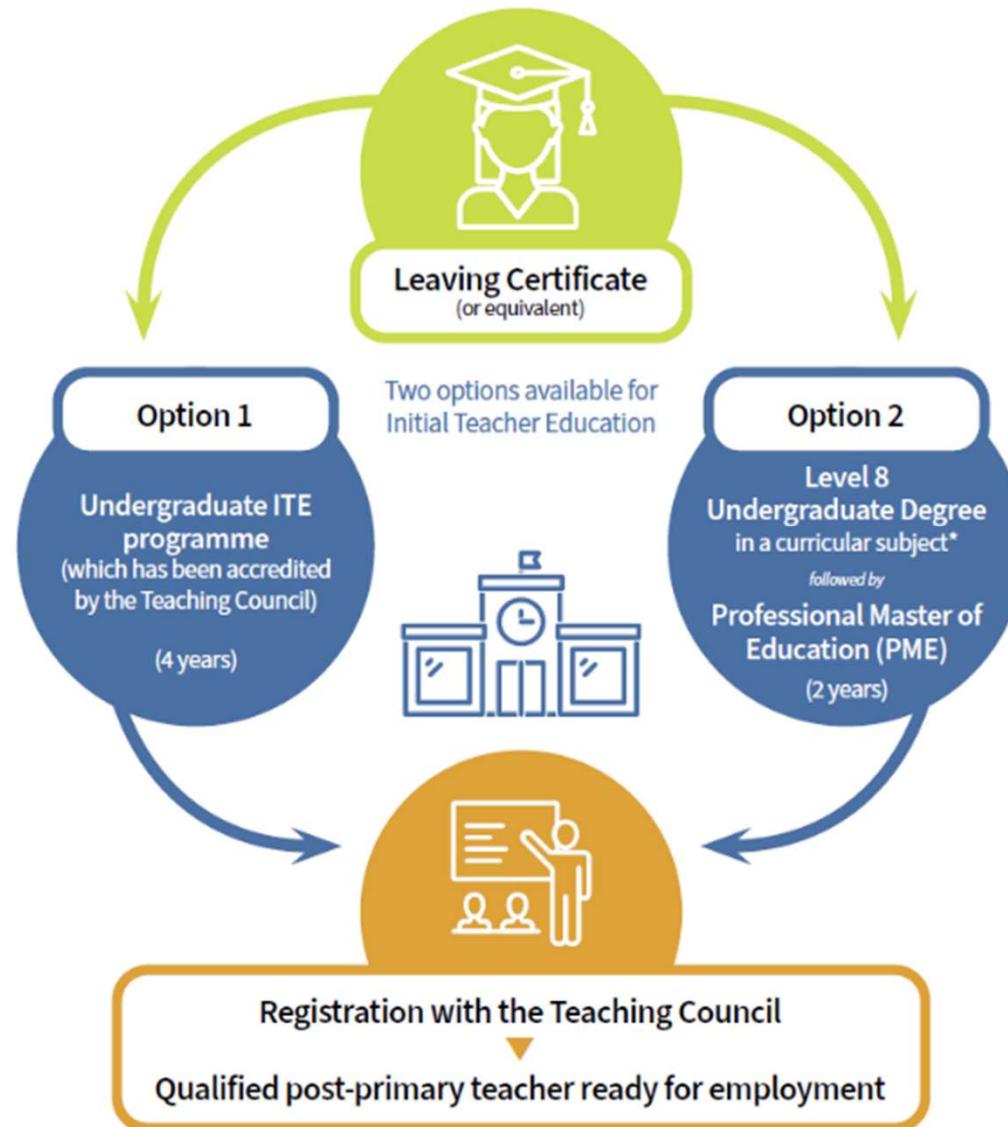
Final Year:

- FM4112 Applied Film Studies



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How to become a post-primary teacher



If you take PSS as a subject, you can carry those credits forward into the PME programme to ultimately receive your teaching qualification.

Note that you will also need **ANOTHER** teaching subject to degree level.

Performance Points

University of Galway, Ireland's leading university for the creative arts, offers a special performance points scheme for students who show exceptional artistic promise and achievement under five areas of excellence:

- Creative Writing
- Film and Digital Media
- Drama and Theatre
- Non-fiction writing, including Journalism
- Music

Successful applicants will gain a bonus of 40 points when applying for entry to all University of Galway undergraduate courses (with the exception of GY501, Medicine).

Applicants must demonstrate “demonstrate national or international levels of achievement within their field of practice” with specific guidelines available for each area when applications open.



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Performance Points Scheme OPENED January 2026

Applications CLOSE May 2026

Learn more and apply:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/undergrad-admissions/entry-schemes/performance-points>

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ONLINE:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/english-media-creative-arts/performanceandscreenstudies/>

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If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Thank you for listening.

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