

Structured PhD Modules in the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies

Popular and Recommended Choices, 2026-27

This guide is meant to assist Structured PhD students (and their supervisors) in selecting appropriate modules. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of every module available to students on Structured PhD programmes in the CASSCS; rather, this should be taken as a representative list showcasing some of the most popular and highly recommended choices on offer this academic year. PhD students are advised that they must always seek supervisor input and approval when selecting modules for registration.

SPA-CODED INDEPENDENT STUDY MODULES

Our College offers a wide variety of independent study modules (coded SPA) for doctoral researchers. These independent study modules are completed by a postgraduate research student under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes.

Please note that there are no class meetings for these SPA-coded independent study modules, but they do have an online presence on Canvas.

A template Workplan Form is available on the CASSCS website and is linked from Canvas. A fully completed and signed copy of this form must be returned on Blackboard by the research student in order for credit to be awarded for module completion. In some cases, additional documentation must also be submitted (e.g. copies of work completed for credit).

Code and Title		ECTS	Contact
SPA6100: Academic Writing: Scholarly Publication		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will gain familiarity with aspects of the academic publishing process by producing a substantial piece of publishable writing. Outputs may include sole authored or collaboratively authored review essays, book chapters, or other lengthy scholarly works. In order to successfully complete this module, the output must be accepted for publication in an appropriate scholarly outlet. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be		

	awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas). Note: consider registering instead for GS515 if the output will be a peer-reviewed journal article.		
SPA6101: Academic Writing: Scholarly Communications		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will gain familiarity with aspects of the academic publishing process by producing one or more short pieces of scholarly writing. Outputs may include book reviews, encyclopedia or reference articles, and/or contributions to academic blogs or other online resources. In order to successfully complete this module, the output(s) must be publicly available online or have been accepted for publication in an appropriate scholarly outlet. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6102: Academic Writing: Report		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will typically produce a report, working paper, white paper, or similar public facing or policy-related document. In order to successfully complete this module, the output must be published or disseminated in a format appropriate to its aims and content. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6103: Public Speaking: Research Presentation		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will exercise their oral communications skills through the successful delivery of a formal presentation (e.g. a conference paper or equivalent) for an academic conference, colloquium, or symposium. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6104: Editorial Project		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie

	Research students will gain familiarity with aspects of the academic publishing process through their work on an editorial project. This may include substantial editorial contributions to essay collections, special journal issues, digital projects, or similar academic works. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6105: Project Management: Workshops, Short Courses, or a Seminar Series (small-scale)		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students develop their project management skills by playing a central role in the organisation of workshops, a seminar series, or one or more short courses. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6106: Project Management: Workshops, Short Courses, or a Seminar Series (large-scale)		10	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students develop their project management skills by playing a central role in the organisation of workshops, a seminar series, or one or more short courses. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6107: Creative Output (small-scale)		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will produce one or more creative outputs that resonate with their doctoral project. This may include (but is not strictly limited to) performance, creative writing, filmmaking, visual or digital art and design, etc. In order to successfully complete this module, the output must be published or disseminated in a format appropriate to its aims and content. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience.		

	Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6108: Creative Output (medium-scale)		10	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will produce one or more creative outputs that resonate with their doctoral project. This may include (but is not strictly limited to) performance, creative writing, filmmaking, visual or digital art and design, etc. In order to successfully complete this module, the output must be published or disseminated in a format appropriate to its aims and content. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6109: Postgraduate Funding Application		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will produce a polished application for submission to a major postgraduate scholarship scheme (e.g. the IRC's Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Programme). Students are strongly encouraged to avail of relevant on-campus resources and events, where applicable, and the finalised application must incorporate supervisor feedback and input. Successful completion of the module requires submission of the funding application. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6110: Research Funding Application		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will produce a polished grant or funding application for a solo or collaborative project. Students are strongly encouraged to avail of relevant on-campus resources and events, where applicable, and the finalised funding application must incorporate supervisor and/or collaborator feedback. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A		

	pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
SPA6111: Professional Development for Researchers		5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie
	Research students will plan and complete a specified programme of professional development activities. This will normally involve the student's active participation in an agreed number of internally or externally organised events/workshops focused on professional development for researchers. It might incorporate, for example, relevant programming offered by the College, the University's Researcher Development Centre, a scholarly society, a professional body, or an interuniversity network. At the discretion of the research student's supervisor(s), assessment may include the submission of a reflective essay or other written account of the experience. Please note: this is an independent study module that the research student completes under the supervision of one or more academic supervisors. The research student and supervisor(s) are responsible for developing a feasible workplan that will ensure the student has met the module's learning outcomes. A pass mark will be awarded by the instructor of record upon the research student's timely submission of relevant documentation (submitted via Canvas).		
Marks for all SPA-coded independent study modules are returned by the Vice-Dean (Research & Innovation), who is the instructor of record, upon timely receipt of a completed Workplan Form. Specific deadlines for submission of completed workplan forms (normally at the end of semester 2) will be confirmed annually. Normally each academic year, Workplan Forms are due no later than 1 May.			

SUPERVISOR-ASSESSED GS-CODED MODULES

Graduate Studies offers an array of modules (coded GS) that are available to research postgraduates from across the university and are solely assessed by the PhD supervisor. This supplements our College's suite of independent study modules for research postgraduates (coded SPA, described in the previous section). Popular and recommended supervisor-assessed GS choices for students from our College include:		
Code and Title		ECTS
GS501: Seminar Programme or Conference Participation		5
	This module aims to give students the opportunity to further their knowledge in a broad range of research areas as presented in a set of research seminars or at a conference. Students are expected to read in preparation for attending seminars/conference, actively participate in the seminars/conference and to record and critically analyse what was presented. Students should write abstracts, succinctly describing the research presented. It is expected that students will discuss with their supervisor (and other research team	

	members) the research presented. A reflective journal should be maintained by the student to record the student's learning experience on this module. Specifically, the relevance of the research presented to the student's research project should be included in this journal. Students may also prepare and present their own research seminar.	
GS526: Oral/Poster Communication		5
	Students taking this module will present their research findings regularly in poster and/or oral format at local, national and international conferences. This module gives students the opportunity to learn how to present their research to peer audiences using both poster and oral presentations. Students will have opportunities to interact with peer audiences, answer questions and receive feedback on their research. Specifically, students must deliver · one oral presentation every year for three years within University of Galway AND · one poster presentation within University of Galway AND · one poster or oral presentation at a national conference AND · one poster or oral presentation at an international conference. It is expected that students will improve their communications skills, both written and verbal, during this module and gain confidence in presenting their research to a peer audience.	
GS509: Participation in Workshops/Courses		5
	Students may have the opportunity to attend workshops or courses, provided by this university or externally, during their research programme. This module aims to give students the opportunity to further their learning on specific research skills/methodologies or in specific research areas by participating in such workshops or courses. Students are expected to prepare in advance of attending the workshop or course by, for example, reading the prescribed reading material. It is expected that students will attend and actively participate in the workshop/course. On completion of the workshop/course the student will be required to demonstrate their new research skills. Students should write a report on the workshop/course. Specifically the relevance of the new research skills or further research knowledge acquired to the student's research project should be included in this report. The supervisor will review this report and provide feedback to the student. It is expected that students will discuss with their supervisor (and other research team members) what they learned on the workshop/course. A reflective journal should also be maintained by the student to record the student's learning experience on this module.	
GS515: Research Paper Publication		5
	Students taking this module will develop the writing skills necessary to write a research paper and will learn about the publishing process. The student must write the entire first draft of the paper, in collaboration with co-authors when appropriate. The student must also format any figures and tables to appear in the paper. The student must use appropriate reference manager software, such as EndNote, to manage and format the references for the paper. The supervisor will provide feedback to the student and review all drafts of the paper. The student will be involved in selecting an appropriate journal along with the supervisor, will prepare the paper for submission and respond to the reviewers' feedback. In order to successfully complete this module, students must have a first-authored research paper accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.	
GS536: Communication and Outreach		5
	Completion of this module may require the student to attend workshops or seminars, complete training (including online training), maintain a reflective journal recording the student's experience of their learning and/or completion of specific tasks or assessments. The content will be designed by the student's supervisor so as to ensure that the student can achieve the module's learning	

	outcomes and that the supervisor can assess that the learning outcomes have been met by the student. The research student's supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the student has achieved the learning outcomes for this module and for recording this result in the student record system. The supervisor will gather and retain written evidence that the student has achieved the module's learning outcomes. Each piece of evidence may only be used to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved for a specific module, i.e. no double-counting of learning achieved.	
More information on supervisor-assessed GS modules, including fuller descriptions and learning outcomes, is available here: https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduate-studies/currentstudents/gsmodes/gsmodes/. There are also additional GS modules listed on that page that are also open to students from our College. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all learning outcomes have been met and for retaining appropriate evidence/documentation; this is subject to audit. Marks for supervisor-assessed modules are returned by supervisors on the GS040 form as part of the annual YPR process.		

NON-SUPERVISOR-ASSESSED GS-CODED MODULES

Graduate Studies offers an array of modules (coded GS) that are available to research postgraduates from across the university. These are assessed by a designated instructor and most have associated class meetings. Popular and recommended GS choices for students from our College include:		
Code and Title	ECTS	Contact
GS535: Induction and Professional Development	5	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie [REQUIRED FOR MOST STRUCTURED PHDS IN CASSCS]
GS530: Graduate Research Information Skills	5	rosie.dunne@universityofgalway.ie
GS5112: Idea to Impact Bootcamp: Design Thinking Training Programme	5	martin.ohalloran@universityofgalway.ie/natalie.walsh@universityofgalway.ie
GS506: Teaching and Learning	5	mairead.greene@universityofgalway.ie
GS5104: Intensive Writing Workshop	5	rachel.hilliard@universityofgalway.ie [NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD BE IN CONTACT PRIOR TO REGISTRATION]

IMPORTANT NOTE ON MODULES NOT CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

If you are aware of a module (at either undergraduate or postgraduate level) currently being taught at University of Galway that is not currently available to you via the online registration system, it is often possible for it to be added. Please note that some of the non-SPA and –GS coded modules may need to be added to the online system before you will be able to register. In such cases, if the module instructor is amenable to you joining the class, the next step is to approach your local School or Discipline Administrator and request that they file a syllabus appeal. Please do this with as much advance notice as possible, as it may take some time for the requested change to be implemented.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND/OR CRITICAL THEORY FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
SPA459: Research Ethics	5	1	heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie
SPA400: Theory/Methodologies: Humanities	5	1-2	frances.mccormack@universityofgalway.ie
DT6130: Critical Methods in Drama, Theatre and Performance	10	1	charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
ED6167: Educational Research Methodology and Development	10	1-2	elaine.keane@universityofgalway.ie
ED6182: Theoretical Foundations of Education	10	1	elaine.keane@universityofgalway.ie
DJ6122: Researching the Media	5	2	kelly.fincham@universityofgalway.ie
SP220: Methods for Social and Political Science	5	2	mike.hynes@universityofgalway.ie/bernadine.brady@universityofgalway.ie
FM521: Critical Theory I	10	1	mairead.casey@universityofgalway.ie
NG6118: Teoiricí Liteartha agus Cultúir 1	5	1	riona.nifhrighil@universityofgalway.ie
NG6119: Teoiricí Liteartha agus Cultúir 2	5	2	riona.nifhrighil@universityofgalway.ie

EDUCATION FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
ED6167: Educational Research Methodology and Development	10	1-2	elaine.keane@universityofgalway.ie
ED6182: Theoretical Foundations of Education	10	1	elaine.keane@universityofgalway.ie

GENDER FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
GG6109: Gender, Sexuality and Global Health	10	2	nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie/vesna.malesevic@universityofgalway.ie/stacey.scriver@universityofgalway.ie
GG101: Gender Perspectives on Globalisation	10	1	nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie
GG106: Women, Conflict and Human Security	5	2	stacey.scriver@universityofgalway.ie
GG6103: Development and Human Rights	5	2	suming.khoo@universityofgalway.ie
FR6101: Language, Gender and Power	10	1	ornaith.rodgers@universityofgalway.ie
HI6108: Everyday Lives: An Intimate History of 20th Century Women	10	2	ciara.meehan@universityofgalway.ie

DIGITAL, MEDIA, AND/OR TECHNOLOGY FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
DJ6133: Data Journalism and Visualisation	10	2	tom.felle@universityofgalway.ie
PI6100: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence	10	1	heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie
DJ6127: Global Media and Society	10	1	tom.felle@universityofgalway.ie
DJ6122: Researching the Media	5	2	kelly.fincham@universityofgalway.ie
EN6143: Media for Social Change	10	2	andrew.obaoill@universityofgalway.ie

GEOGRAPHY AND/OR ARCHAEOLOGY FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
SPA441: Archaeological Specialisms	10	1 or 2	carleton.jones@universityofgalway.ie

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, SOCIOLOGY, AND/OR POLITICS FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
HI6107: Historical Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity	10	2	roisin.healy@universityofgalway.ie
HI6106: Issues in Local Irish History	10	1	breandan.macsuibhne@universityofgalway.ie
HI6108: Everyday Lives: an Intimate History of 20th Century Women	10	2	ciara.meehan@universityofgalway.ie
PI6110: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence	10	1	heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie
PI6101: The Philosophy of Emotion	10	1	felix.omurchadha@universityofgalway.ie
PI6102: Political Values in the Modern World	10	2	richard.hull@universityofgalway.ie
SP6122: Social and Political Context of Advocacy and Activism	10	2	suming.khoo@universityofgalway.ie
FM6119: Film, Politics, and Colonialism	10	2	fiona.bateman@universityofgalway.ie
GG6103: Development and Human Rights	5	2	suming.khoo@universityofgalway.ie
GG101: Gender Perspectives on Globalisation	10	1	nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie
GG106: Women, Conflict and Human Security	5	2	stacey.scriver@universityofgalway.ie
GG6109: Gender, Sexuality and Global Health	10	2	nata.duvvury@universityofgalway.ie/vesna.malesevic@universityofgalway.ie/ stacey.scriver@universityofgalway.ie

LITERATURE, COMMUNICATION, AND/OR CULTURAL STUDIES FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
MIC501: Contemporary Literary Genres	10	2	michaela.schrage-frueh@universityofgalway.ie
MIC6100: Resisting through Culture: Conflicts in Europe and Beyond	10	2	deirdre.byernes@universityofgalway.ie
MIC6101: Worlds of Fantasy: Literature, Film, Computer Games	10	1	h.schmidthannisa@universityofgalway.ie
MIC504: The Art of Reading	10	1	tina-karen.pusse@universityofgalway.ie
NG6118: Teoiricí Liteartha agus Cultúir 1	5	1	riona.nifhrighil@universityofgalway.ie
NG6119: Teoiricí Liteartha agus Cultúir 2	5	2	riona.nifhrighil@universityofgalway.ie
EN547: Literature and Colonialism	10	2	muireann.ocinneide@universityofgalway.ie

EN6139: Diversity and Activism in YA Fiction	10	2	coralline.dupuy@universityofgalway.ie
EN601: Writing Workshop: Poetry	10	1	elaine.feeney@universityofgalway.ie
EN6140: Publishing History	5	1	kevin.k.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie

FILM AND/OR DRAMA FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
FM6119: Film, Politics, and Colonialism	10	2	fiona.bateman@universityofgalway.ie
FM6117: Sport and Film	10	2	sean.crosson@universityofgalway.ie
FM6115: Short Filmmaking for Advocates	10	1	fiona.bateman@universityofgalway.ie
DT6109: Applied Theatre	10	2	charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
DT6130: Critical Methods in Drama, Theatre and Performance	10	1	charlotte.mcivor@universityofgalway.ie
FM6125: Global Cinemas: Expanding Film	10	2	tony.tracy@universityofgalway.ie
FM6123: American Cinema: History, Aesthetics, Ideology	10	1	tony.tracy@universityofgalway.ie

CLASSICS AND/OR MEDIEVAL STUDIES FOCUS

Code and Title	ECTS	Semester	Contact
SPA447: Reflective Practice in Teaching Classics	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
MAM6100: Antiquities and Medievalisms	10	1-2	catherine.emerson@universityofgalway.ie/frances.mccormack@universityofgalway.ie
MV6111: Palaeography	10	1-2	catherine.emerson@universityofgalway.ie/frances.mccormack@universityofgalway.ie
CC517: Beginning Ancient Languages 1	10	1	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie [PHD STUDENTS WISHING TO BEGIN LATIN AND/OR GREEK REGISTER UNDER THIS OR THE FOLLOWING CODE]
CC517: Beginning Ancient Languages 2	10	2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie [PHD STUDENTS BEGINNING LATIN AND/OR GREEK REGISTER UNDER THIS OR THE ABOVE CODE]

CC514: Intermediate/Advanced Ancient Languages 1	10	1	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie [PHD STUDENTS STUDYING LATIN AND/OR GREEK AT PRE-FLUENCY OR RUDIMENTARY FLUENCY LEVEL REGISTER UNDER THIS OR THE FOLLOWING CODE]
CC514: Intermediate/Advanced Ancient Languages 2	10	2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie [PHD STUDENTS STUDYING LATIN AND/OR GREEK AT PRE-FLUENCY OR RUDIMENTARY FLUENCY LEVEL REGISTER UNDER THIS OR THE ABOVE CODE]
CC6100: Earlier Greek Texts for Researchers	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
CC6101: Later Greek Texts for Researchers	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
CC6102: Earlier Latin Texts for Researchers	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
CC6103: Later Latin Texts for Researchers	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
CC6104: Case Study in Manuscript Analysis	10	1-2	michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

A wealth of language acquisition modules are available at a variety of levels. Please contact the person identified below if you need assistance identifying the appropriate offerings for your level/needs.		
Irish	For Beginners	Contact peigi.nioibicin@oegaillimh.ie
	Nua-Ghaeilge	Contact riona.nifhrighil@universityofgalway.ie
Latin		Contact michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
Greek		Contact michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie
French		Contact french@universityofgalway.ie
German		Contact TBC; website: http://www.universityofgalway.ie/german/
Spanish		Contact spanish@universityofgalway.ie
Italian		Contact italian@universityofgalway.ie
Old Norse		Contact michael.clarke@universityofgalway.ie [NON-CREDITED READING GROUP ONLY]