

***Bachelor of Science in
Geography and Geosystems***

FIRST YEAR

**Academic Year 2025/2026
Year Coordinator: Dr Terry Morley**

The Discipline of Geography welcomes you to the BSc Geography and Geosystems Programme!

Over the course of the next four years, you will be trained in human-environment relationships with a focus on the spatial dynamics of the natural world and management of our natural resources. The BSc (Geography and Geosystems) addresses the challenge of mapping and understanding spatial and temporal variability of natural systems and measuring the impacts of climate change and human activities on their health and resilience at various scales. The overall motivation of the programme is the conviction that informed decision-making must be based upon scientific data as we try to project how these natural systems will respond to short- and long-term forcing.

Semester 1 2025/2026

Semester 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00		BO101 L (G2) <i>Anderson LT</i>			
10:00	CP102 L <i>Kirwan</i>	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	
11:00		BO101 L (G2) <i>IT250</i>		BO101 L (G2) <i>Anderson LT</i>	
12:00		CP102 L <i>Kirwan</i>	TI150 TI1100 <i>O'Flaherty LT</i>	CP102 L <i>AMB-1021</i>	
13:00	MA161 L <i>O'Flaherty LT</i>			MA161 P <i>IT125G</i>	
14:00					CP102 P* <i>TBD</i>
15:00	TI150 TI1100 <i>OhEocha LT</i>				
16:00	MA161 P* <i>ADB-1020</i>	MA161 P* <i>ADB-1020</i>			
17:00		TI150 TI1100 <i>Anderson LT</i>	BO101 P <i>TBD</i>		
18:00	MA161 P* <i>AC215</i>			CP102 T <i>AMB-1023</i>	

Semester 2 2025/2026

Semester 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00	BO101 L (G2) <i>O'Flaherty LT</i>				
10:00		MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	
11:00					TI150 TI1100 <i>OhEocha LT</i>
12:00	CP102 L <i>AUC-G002</i>		CP102 L <i>D'Arcy Thom. LT</i>		CP102 P <i>IT250</i>
13:00	MA161 L <i>Kirwan LT</i>	BO101 L (G2) <i>Kirwan LT</i>		BO101 L (G2) <i>Kirwan LT</i>	
14:00			MA161 P* <i>AC204</i>		BO101 P <i>TBD</i>
15:00	TI151 TI1100 <i>OhEocha LT</i>				
16:00		MA161 P* <i>ADB-1020</i>			
17:00		TI151 TI1100 <i>O'Flaherty LT</i>			
18:00					

* Students attend one **MA161** Practical per week

***CP102** Practical's begin 29th of September. Students **must** bring their own white laboratory Science coat (Howie, round neck and cuffed sleeves) and safety glasses (both available at the SU shop). Mobile phones/tablets/laptops strictly prohibited in the lab

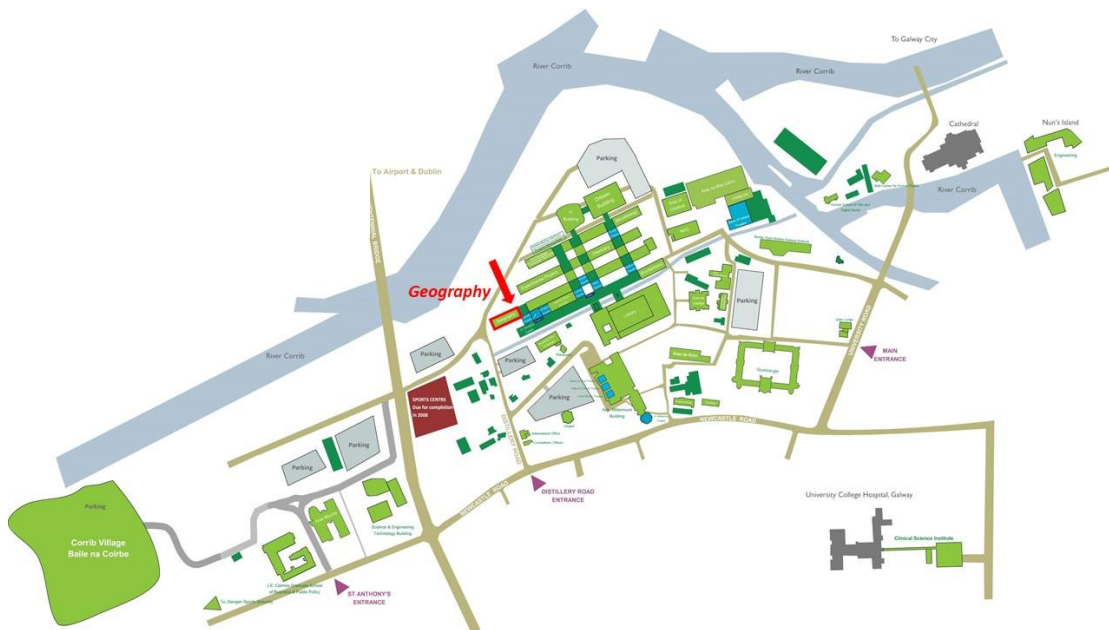


Figure 1 University of Galway Campus Map

Key contacts in Geography

Head of Geography

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1 BA Geography Programme Coordinator

Dr Eugene Farrell

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1 BSc Geography and Geosystems Coordinator

Dr Terry Morley

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Module Outlines:

BO101 Biology

Coordinators: Dr Maria Barrett, maria.barrett@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Peter McKeown, peter.mckeown@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Liam Morrison, liam.morrison@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Susan Gallagher, susan.gallagher@universityofgalway.ie

Biology is an integrative and interdisciplinary field that aims to investigate the dynamic and complex nature of living systems in terms of their molecular components and the interactions between organisms and their biotic and abiotic environment. This module will introduce students to fundamental concepts of biology. The course is intended to provide the necessary biological background to allow learners in general and specialised Science courses, Foundation Medicine and Biomedical Engineering to progress into more specialised topics in later years. First, the nature of biomolecules and the basis for cellular form and function are discussed. Then students are introduced to the structure, function, diversity and impact of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

BO101 comprises three lectures and one lab practical per week.

CP102 Chemistry & Physics

Coordinator: Dr Mihai Lomora mihai.lomora@universityofgalway.ie

Prof Paul Murphy paul.v.murphy@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Andrea Erxleben andrea.erxleben@universityofgalway.ie

This module lays a broad foundation in chemistry and physics for students who need an introductory level knowledge of the physical sciences for the denominated courses in Marine Science and Health and Safety Systems. Some of the students may have level 4/5 knowledge of either or both subjects but no prior knowledge is assumed in the course design. The level of mathematics required for the physics component is simple algebra and trigonometry.

In Semesters I (12 weeks overall) the module is delivered in 36 lectures (normally 3 one-hour lectures per week) and 11 tutorials (normally 1 one-hour tutorial per week). All lectures will be delivered in person. There will be no recording of lectures made available on CANVAS as students are expected to engage with and attend the lectures. All tutorials will also be delivered in person on campus.

MA161 Mathematical Studies

Coordinator: Dr Goetz Pfeiffer goetz.pfeiffer@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Donal O'Regan donal.oregan@universityofgalway.ie

Mathematical Studies MA161 is an introduction to university mathematics aimed at students studying the physical and life sciences. The majority of MA161 students will have studied ordinary level mathematics at Leaving Certificate, though some will have studied the subject at higher level. Although students are unable to proceed from this module to a Mathematics BSc, the module does lead on to a range of second- and third-year Mathematical Studies modules relevant to the physical and life sciences. (By taking a total of 60 ECTS of appropriate Mathematical Studies modules during their undergraduate studies, students can satisfy the Teaching Council's subject requirements for mathematics teachers while majoring in another Science subject.)

Geography Modules:

Semester 1				
ECTs	Module	Coordinator	Day, Time	Assessment
5	TI150 Principles of Human Geography	Dr Eugene Farrell	Mondays 3pm: OhEocha Theatre Tuesdays 5pm: Anderson Theatre Wednesdays 12pm: O'Flaherty Theatre	CA / MCQ
10	TI1100/ TI1101 Geography in Action (GiA)	TBC	Details in GiA handbook	CA
Semester 2				
5	TI151 Principles of Physical Geography	Dr Eugene Farrell	Mondays 3pm: OhEocha Theatre Tuesdays 5pm: O'Flaherty Theatre Fridays 11 am: AMB1021	CA / MCQ
10	TI1100/ TI1101 Geography in Action (GiA)	TBC	Details in GiA handbook	CA

TI 150 Principles of Human Geography

Coordinator: Dr Eugene Farrell Eugene.farrell@universityofgalway.ie

This course seeks to introduce key problems, concepts and contexts within human geography. Its focus is a contemporary one: it strives to illuminate the world of today by exploring and analysing the origin of central issues that make the headlines (or not) in the media and beyond. The course places lectures alongside the information given in the textbook; for examination purposes, both are essential. Major Themes covered in TI 150 (subject to change depending on staff availability) Rural Geographies, Cultural Geographies, Environment and Society, Social Geographies, Economic Geographies, Political Geographies, Development Geographies, Urban Geographies.

TI 151 Principles of Physical Geography

Coordinator: Dr Eugene Farrell Eugene.farrell@universityofgalway.ie

This course is designed to provide insight and understanding to the fundamental concepts and principles of physical geography as an academic discipline. In doing this, the course explores how the physical environment functions; how different environmental systems interact and how the physical environment impacts on human activities. The course explores the various components that make up these environmental systems, such as the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and geosphere. In addition, the course also provides some understanding of how these fundamentals apply to Ireland and in so doing gives an insight into the richness of the physical geography of Ireland. Major Themes covered in TI 151: The Biosphere: Biogeography – species distribution and ecosystems; The Atmosphere: Weather and Climate, Glaciers and Glaciation; The Hydrosphere: Rivers The Geosphere: Coasts.

TI 1100 Geography in Action (GiA)

Coordinator: TBC

This module introduces first-year geography students to a range of skill-based exercises designed to enhance their learning experience and develop their research competences. Supported by on-line lectures and class-based tutorials, students undertake a series of exercises on referencing, academic writing, mapping, data analysis and fieldwork that will reinforce the skills geographers use every day. Further information on each exercise and submission dates is available in the TI1100/TI1101 handbook on CANVAS.

CÉIM is NUIG's acclaimed peer learning programme initiated by the Students' Union and offered to all Geography first year students. This student-led support and academic network is a highly effective way for students to get to know their cohort and to obtain help and/or guidance on their academic careers from their fellow NUIG students. We encourage all BSc students to engage with the CÉIM shared learning community. Please see an introductory video at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5GYEWW_etQ&feature=youtu.be

