

# Heritage



## Explore and Discover the Past

Course Title	Credits	NFQ Level	Campus	Duration	Placement	CAO Code
BA (Hons) in Heritage	240	8	ATU Galway City	4 years	Yes	AU625
BA in Heritage	180	7	ATU Galway City	3 years	Yes	AU525
Higher Certificate in Arts in Heritage	120	6	ATU Galway City	2 years		AU425



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Heritage is anything from the past that people identify with, or something which is handed down through generations. Heritage is also concerned with how the past shapes the present and future – in, for example, tourist attractions, museum exhibitions, cultural identities, post-conflict reconciliation, planning policies, and nature conservation schemes.

The study of heritage at ATU is broad, dynamic, and multidisciplinary – drawing critical insights from heritage studies and related fields. These include archaeology, architecture, cartography, climatology, cinema, creative & cultural industries, digital humanities, ecology, e-commerce & entrepreneurship, environmental management, field studies, folklore, genealogy, geography, GIS, history, language & literature, music & song, planning, memory studies, museology, and sustainability.

## What to expect

Heritage students learn through a lively and practical hands-on learning experience, delivered by lecturers with many years of experience working in third-level education and the heritage sector. In-person lectures and classroom discussions are supplemented by regular off-site fieldtrips to heritage sites, interpretative centres, and museums throughout Ireland and abroad.

Learning also takes place by means of library work, labs, and Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs). Research-informed teaching, Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important features of our heritage programmes.

# Course Content

Year	Content	Level
4	Dissertation ( <i>two semesters</i> ), Geography, Planning & Climate Heritage ( <i>two semesters</i> ), Irish Historiography, Digital Surveying & Field Experience, Digital Archiving, Irish Traditional Music: History & Heritage, Archaeology & Built Heritage 4, Irish Cinematic History & Cultural Identity, Curatorial Practice & Project Management, Heritage Tourism, plus electives.	8
3	Museology: Principles & Practices, Museums: Management & Design, Irish Local History & Genealogy, Ecology & Environmental Sustainability, Ireland's Literary Heritages, Digital Heritage Theory & Tools 2, Research Methods, Irish Artefactual Archaeology & Heritage, Historical Geography, Geographic Information Systems, plus electives including Work Experience and National Guiding.	7
2	Urban Field Studies, Modern Irish History & Memory, Biogeography & Natural History 1 & 2, Irish Folklore, Digital Heritage Theory & Tools 1, Later Modern International History & Memory, European History Field Studies, Archaeology & Built Heritage of Rural Ireland, History of Art & Design, plus electives including Regional Guiding.	6
1	Academic & Professional Skills, Irish & European History, 400–1200, Earth Process & Landforms 1 & 2, Ireland's Linguistic Traditions, Information Technology for Heritage Studies, Rural Field Studies, Irish & European History, 1200–1600, Introduction to Archaeology & Built Heritage, Reading Irish Literature, plus electives.	6



## Graduate Profiles



**Sheila Keane**  
BA (Hons) in Heritage Studies, 2014

*Sheila Keane is the*

*Education Officer at the Michael Cusack Centre, located in the heart of the Burren, in Carron, County Clare. In her role as Education Officer, Sheila is involved in a number of education and wellness programmes. She is also responsible for the creation and implementation of activities which highlight the rich history, geology, built heritage, and environment of the area. Sheila is also a Fáilte Ireland-approved Local & Regional Tour Guide and has previously worked on the Burren Community Archaeology Project (BCAP).*



**Paul Duffy**  
BA (Hons) in Heritage Studies, 2005

*Paul Duffy joined IAC Archaeology*

*in 2014 and is currently a Project Manager with responsibility for Dublin city and environs. He has many years of experience working in 'development-led' archaeology. Employed on sites around the country, Paul progressed from Supervisor to Site Director, after passing his eligibility interview with the National Monuments Service in 2013. He has also led projects in the UK, France, and Australia. In addition to his academic publications, Paul writes creatively and his first novel, Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound, was published in 2022.*





## Career Opportunities

Diverse career opportunities exist in the heritage sector and beyond, including: Archaeology, Archives, Biodiversity, Business, Civic Trusts, Government Departments, Creative & Cultural Industries, Conservation & Restoration, Digital Media, Environmental Consultancies, Family History Centres, Genealogy, Guiding, Heritage (Agencies, Centres, & Consultancies), Journalism, Lecturing, Libraries, Local & Regional Authorities, Museums, NGOs, Planning, Research, Rural Development, Start-up Enterprises, Teaching (Primary & Post Primary), and Tourism.

## Postgraduate Opportunities

Graduates of the Level 8 programme can:

- Apply for the Professional Master of Education (for primary or secondary school/post-primary teacher training).
- Apply for ATU's Level 9 MA in Heritage Studies (by research).
- Progress to ATU's Level 10 PhD in Heritage Studies (by research).
- Undertake a wide range of postgraduate programmes worldwide.

**I want to know more.  
Who can I talk to?**

**E** [gihs.galwaymayo@atu.ie](mailto:gihs.galwaymayo@atu.ie)

Or find out more at [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)

## Did you know?

- Galway city offers a great student life, plus an abundance of culture for those who are passionate about heritage.
- Students can join the ATU Heritage Society, which organises guest lectures, excursions, class parties, and historical re-enactments.
- Students can study abroad for one or two semesters with our partners in Europe and the USA.
- Students choosing the Guiding electives can be certified with the Fáilte Ireland Regional & National Guiding Certificate, following successful completion of the Level 7 or 8 programmes.
- Most of our staff are members of the ATU Heritage Research Group and have wide-ranging expertise in the principal forms of cultural heritage – intangible, tangible, natural, and digital.



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