

## **SPI1 Structured PhD in Philosophy of Art and Culture (inter-institutional)**

This is an interdisciplinary, inter-institutional PhD programme between NUI, Galway and Mary Immaculate College in the University of Limerick.

This full time programme will provide students with a PhD following four years of dissertation-orientated research and taught modules. Students will be registered at one of the host institutions but will attend classes provided by both.

Over the four years, the programme will provide students with access to the expertise of a range of scholars within each institution, as they develop their research ideas and enhance their research skills.

The programme draws on two main contemporary approaches to philosophical aesthetics and culture – the Anglo-American analytic tradition, and that of Continental Philosophy.

These two approaches rarely intersect. In consequence, their respective strengths are exercised in isolation, and often in contexts that fail to engage directly with theory and practice in the arts, and the broader cultural issues in which they are embedded.

This research programme overcomes these divisions at all levels. Indeed, by blending expertise from the two institutions, the programme explores the philosophy of art and culture in an intellectually enriched setting. The programme is also able to give equal emphasis to visual art and literature, and to offer special strength in phenomenological and hermeneutical approaches.

There is an additional vital element. It is based on direct interaction with contemporary artistic/cultural practices through the Arts Community Internship core module at NUI, Galway. This module involves students working for a semester with some institution concerned with the practice, discussion, display, or conservation of art and culture (or, indeed, all these things).

### **Taught and research requirements**

The programme has the great advantage of allowing students to combine subject-specific philosophy courses, related academic studies, and generic skills modules, from those on offer at BOTH institutions.

Students must take taught modules to the value of 70 ECTS in total over four years. This includes subject-specific modules (40 ECTS) and generic skills modules (30 ECTS)

### **Year-by-year breakdown of taught and research requirements**

**Year 1:** Students must take subject-specific modules (20 ECTS), generic skills modules (10 ECTS) and engage in Dissertation Research (60 ECTS)

Subject-specific modules in year 1 include the following:

- Phenomenology of Art and Culture (NUI, Galway) – 10 ECTS - mandatory
- Literary Aesthetics (Mary Immaculate College, UL) – 10 ECTS - mandatory
- Generic skill module: Philosophy seminar: participation and management - 10 ECTS

**Year 2:** Students must take subject-specific modules (20 ECTS), generic skills modules (10 ECTS) and engage in Dissertation Research (60 ECTS)

Subject-specific modules in year 2 include the following:

- Arts Community Internship –10 ECTS - mandatory for students registered at NUI, Galway
- History and Philosophy of Pictorial Space OR Environmental Aesthetics (NUI, Galway) OR Modernity and Knowledge (NUI, Galway) OR Introduction to Hermeneutics (Mary Immaculate College, UL) – 10 ECTS

[Here](#) is a list of generic skills module available at NUI, Galway.

**Year 3:** Students must take generic skills modules (10 ECTS) and engage in Dissertation Research (80 ECTS)

[Here](#) is a list of generic skills module available at NUI, Galway.

**Year 4:** Students must focus on the Research Dissertation exclusively (90 ECTS)

#### **Assessment**

Performance will be evaluated on the basis of a successful pass on all taught modules and a substantial research dissertation. Performance will be evaluated annually (usually in May) by a Graduate Research Committee assigned to each student for the duration of their studies. The examination of the dissertation will include an oral examination by the External and Internal Examiners at the end of the programme.

#### **Contact:**

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