

**Accredited Irish Language Courses in North America: A
Report from the (Cyber-) Field**
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This article will deal primarily with credit-bearing Irish courses, since the field has become so large that to adequately cover non-credit bearing courses would easily take another article of the same length. Most of the information is based on the institutions' own websites, plus information gleaned from three major databases of information on Irish course offerings: the University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), *Daltaí na Gaeilge* and the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS). Readers should remember that each of these is based on self-reporting by the institutions or professors and is not necessarily up-to-date. CARLA actively seeks updates but *Daltaí na Gaeilge* and ACIS depend on the institution to submit updates.

It is also difficult to completely compare the entries since different institutions have different concepts of crediting and of what constitutes "beginning," "intermediate," and "advanced." While some institutions use these terms to designate full years of study, others measure the increments by semester, so "intermediate" could simply be second semester. Also, this article is, of course, focused on classes in North American institutions. Some have study-abroad programs in Ireland, which may be discussed briefly here, but this article should not be considered as reporting generally on programs in Ireland, even those connected with North American institutions.

A further qualification to this study is that although the number of programs has grown considerably of late, several of the newer entries are accredited self-study programs, mostly under the supervision of the National Association of Self- Instructed Language Programs (NASLIP). These will be discussed briefly but they could also warrant an entire article just on them and on their methodology.

Each of the three databases is an excellent resource but each also presents certain limitations, which may or may not be

obvious in the general description of the parent organization providing the database. CARLA is by far the most comprehensive. It focuses totally on language course listings and yields the highest count for accredited Irish courses. In June and September 2003, there were 29 institutions listed in CARLA as offering Modern Irish, and a handful more offering Old or Middle Irish. The entire database covers over 300 less commonly taught languages (LCTL's) at over 2000 different institutions. Daltai's database is also limited to Irish language courses but consists primarily of non-credit courses, and ACIS's database, reflecting its membership, consists largely of program descriptions in literature and history, with some reference to language.

This article will focus on institutions offering two years of accredited Irish language study and most attention will be given to those where there is a substantial Irish or Celtic Studies program. Two years is the typical length of study required for many universities' language proficiency requirements, regardless of language involved. A few exceptions will be made where a program is especially noteworthy (i.e. very large or very language-oriented) or important in the history of Irish language pedagogy in North America.

Some Notes on How This Information Was Compiled

The language offerings will be examined as to how they fit into the broader context of these regional and literary studies. The institutions will be discussed according to the size and scope of their programs, emphasizing the depth of language study. Of particular interest is whether there is any possibility for actual study of literature in Irish, beyond the poems, short stories or songs that might be introduced within a one- or two-year course cycle. Brief mention will be made of selected non-language course offerings in Celtic or Irish, including fields such as anthropology, archeology, folklore, history, linguistics, literature in translation, Hiberno-English or Anglo-Irish literature, religion, and women's studies.

All these figures should be seen in relation to the size of the universities, which is given in parentheses. Some of these institutions have over 50,000 students and are more likely to fill a variety of specialized courses such as Irish language. On the other

hand, some smaller institutions, especially in Celtic heritage areas such as Nova Scotia, have remarkably strong language offerings. For example, Notre Dame, clearly very strong in its impressive range of 71 Irish Studies courses, has a total student enrollment of 11,311. St. Francis Xavier ("St. FX"), in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, offers 40 courses, with a total student body of 4100. So although the total number of courses at St. FX is smaller, the ratio of total Celtic courses to students is actually higher (one Celtic course at St. FX for every 103 students, as opposed to one Celtic course at Notre Dame for every 159 students).

Where possible, the number of faculty and other special offerings such as regular conferences or events, scholarships, or library facilities will be mentioned. Faculty will not always be listed by name, since this may vary from year to year, but some of the regular faculty and endowed chairs will be mentioned if available. For most entries, a few additional details such as founding date of institution and size of student body will be mentioned, to give greater perspective to the bare facts. Some institutions, such as Catholic University, started their Irish Studies programs fairly quickly after being founded. Many others have simply started the programs in the last twenty years, typically since the mid-1990s. Harvard's program is one of the oldest, but did not start until the institution was already over 250 years old!

"General Count" vs. "Language Count"

Where I have investigated course listings beyond the immediate language, I include courses with titles such as "James Joyce" or "Barbarians of Western Europe" in the general count, since they will have a strong Irish or Celtic content even if not language-oriented. I also include courses such as "British and Irish Drama" but generally do not include "British Drama" unless a clear abundance of Irish writers is indicated in the description (and such descriptions are not always available online). In many cases, these courses are cross-listed by the Irish or Celtic Studies program or count towards its completion. Ultimately, however, this article reports on how the campus presents itself. Some Celtic Studies programs do not even mention the English-medium writers, despite their prominence in the literary world (such as Joyce and Modernism); others generously cross-list any possibly relevant

courses, including History of the English Language. Readers should remember then, that some programs, very focused on Celtic language, may seem smaller than others that view the subject matter more comprehensively.

As a basic reference point, the "general count" includes all related courses, including "James Joyce" or "Irish History." Typically the institutions which offer any sort of concentration, major or minor in Irish or Celtic offer ten to thirty such courses. Of these, the most in Modern Irish language itself is six semesters (St. Mary's University, St. Michael's College, University of Pennsylvania). Courses consisting primarily of readings in Irish or an independent choice of Celtic language – not optional readings or translations – are also mentioned wherever possible.

This article makes no attempt to systematically cover any institutions which offer only Old Irish but not Modern Irish. Two prominent exceptions, covered briefly, are UCLA and Cornell, which offer substantial opportunities in Celtic but not in Modern Irish.

Program Names: "Irish" vs. "Celtic" Studies

For the detailed descriptions, the programs' titles are included in the headings. As one would expect, Irish Studies programs often offer only Irish and not the other Celtic languages. They also tend to be much broader in scope, covering many time periods government, politics, music, art, immigration, and many other specialties. Celtic Studies programs tend to be more language-oriented and offer at least one language besides Irish. They sometimes emphasize the medieval period. Ironically, some courses that might be part of a Celtic Studies program, such as Arthurian Literature, might exist at an institution offering Irish Studies but might not be considered part of Irish Studies.

Majors, Minors, Concentration

This article has attempted to systematize the description of course offerings to count the number of semesters, not full years. A full-year class will be counted as two courses.

The report includes the availability of these three courses of study (majors, minors, official "concentrations" within majors) for the largest programs covered. Over a four-year undergraduate

program, majors generally require 12 to 14 courses. Minors typically require four to eight courses. Concentrations within a major typically involve six courses. However, where the institution actually offers an Irish or Celtic Studies Major or Minor, the undergraduate "concentration" option may not be available.

European readers, in particular, should remember that most North American universities promote a full liberal-arts education for undergraduates and require many courses outside the major field, distributed among science, social science and humanities. A typical undergraduate program consists of 32 courses (96 credits) altogether. For general purposes here, a course can be assumed as offering three credits, though this may vary by institution.

Some of the institutions investigated offer graduate programs. Of these, some, such as Harvard's Ph.D. in Celtic Studies or St. Francis Xavier's new Master's in Celtic Studies are full graduate departments. In other cases, such as New York University and Notre Dame, the graduate Ph.D. option is affiliated with the English or History Departments. At some, an M.A. is available through independent study or an interdisciplinary program, as at New York University.

The extent to which any of these programs actually require Irish language is quite important for the growth of the field in North America and for creating new scholars capable of meaningful research in the language-driven areas. Some require two years, some require one, some offer but do not require language, and some make the language an option (elective) towards filling the total number of required courses.

Seminars and Independent Study

Courses within a Celtic or Irish department are included in the "general count" even if listed as independent study, required honors course, seminar, or thesis. However these are not included in the number of years of language unless listed as specifically language-focused, such as the Advanced Readings courses at Berkeley (in Celtic Languages) and at Boston College (in Modern Irish). Such courses, requiring Celtic language proficiency, are fairly rare.

If departments other than Irish or Celtic Studies list independent studies or seminars on rotating topics, as most do, these are not listed in the general or the language count. However, if it is known that Celtic subjects may be studied under this rubric, that fact may be addressed in the written description but this will only be included for the larger programs.

Acronyms/Nicknames

Where the institutions themselves use their acronyms or nickname to refer to themselves, I have sometimes used that here.

Most of the information here is based on the institution's websites as of summer and early fall, 2003, and on the three databases described. Some programs may actually offer more degrees and courses and have more faculty members than these electronic sources list. However, the information presented here should be as accurate as the website themselves appears to the careful reader. For the larger programs, I have scoured the institutions' search-engines for clarifying details and have encountered minor discrepancies in several of the listings. And I have sometimes found further information by using Google searches, outside of the institution's mechanism. But the article should present a comprehensive, general picture of how the Irish language fits into Irish and Celtic Studies at North American universities today. I welcome updates from any of the institutions mentioned or others with relevant offerings.

The Pioneers: Harvard University and Catholic University of America

For decades two institutions dominated the field of Irish language studies in North America, Harvard University and Catholic University of America, which both started course offerings in the 1890's. Both remain leaders in the field with large total numbers of courses, large numbers of Celtic language courses in general, and large numbers of Irish language courses.

Harvard University (1636): Celtic Studies (Students: 19,536; Cambridge, MA)

Harvard offers 36 courses in its Celtic Languages and Literatures department, including some cross-listed with other departments.

This includes four semesters of Modern Irish. Introduction and Intermediate, each a semester, are offered every year and Advanced, and Continuing Advanced are offered in alternate years, typically alternating with the Scottish Gaelic courses. Breton is available by special arrangement, as an independent study. Students can also study Irish folklore, history, literature, Middle Irish, Old Irish, and Welsh, and topical courses are available on such specialties as Celtic Paganism or Welsh Bardic Poetry.

Harvard has three professorships in this field: the Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures (Patrick K. Ford), the Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Irish Studies (Tomás Ó Cathasaigh), and an assistant professor. Guests and related faculty have held positions such as the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Linguistics and the Classics (Calvert Watkins) and the Erasmus Lecturer on the History and Civilization of the Netherlands and Flanders (Joep Leerssen). This is primarily a graduate department, offering a Ph.D., and in special circumstances, an M.A., but undergraduates may get a joint degree with Celtic as one of the fields. Celtic and Folklore is a typical combination (and my own choice when I was an undergraduate). Folklore is available as an undergraduate major, one of the few such programs in the U.S., but requires a regional or methodological focus.

Harvard sponsors an annual Celtic Studies Colloquium and the Friends of Celtic Studies organize many other activities throughout the year. The Library includes the collection of Fred Norris Robinson, founder of the program, and over 10,000 books are available.

The Harvard Extension program also offers Irish in the evening and in the summer, the summer course being regularly taught by Kenneth Nilsen, one of the graduate program's alumni. A Master's of Liberal Arts in Celtic Studies is available through the Extension.

Catholic University of America (1887): Irish Studies (Students: 5,810; Washington, DC)

Catholic University of America (CUA) is not only one of the oldest institutions in the U.S. to offer Irish, but it was also one of the quickest to implement such a program in relation to its founding. The University was incorporated in 1887 and by 1896 a professorship of Irish, then called Gaelic, was established with an endowment from the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

CUA's Irish Studies program offers 21 courses and the country's only interdisciplinary master's degree involving coursework in language, society, literature, politics, and history, together with an internship at the Irish Parliament in Dublin. The program requires at least one course (3 credits) in Old or Modern Irish. The languages available are Spoken Gaelic [Irish] (two semesters) taught by Cairiona O'Drudy, lecturer, Old Irish (two semesters) and Middle Welsh (one semester), taught by Mark Scowcroft, who is also a research associate at the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies.

Although undergraduates may take numerous courses in Irish literature through the English department or participate in a semester-long internship and study-abroad program in Dublin where they work at the Irish Parliament and study Irish history, literature, society and political economy, the Irish Studies courses themselves are primarily for graduate students.

Major Programs with Irish Language Components

University of Toronto -- St. Michael's College (1852): Celtic Studies (Students: 58,059, Full-Time Equivalent: 47,446)

Celtic Studies at St. Michael's College is a very large and very language-oriented program, emphasizing Irish (three years) but also offering a year each of Scottish Gaelic, Modern Welsh, Middle Welsh, and Old/Middle Irish. True to its title, it also offers a number of courses on pan-Celtic topics, ranging from ancient to modern: Culture, Spirituality, Archeology, Literature 500-1500; From Tribalism to Feudalism; Folklore and Music; and Mythology, and, for 2003-04, Celticism in the Modern Age, Celtic Cinema, and Language, Culture and Resistance [in Celtic countries]. Thus, St. Michael's program is one of the most

comprehensive available both in terms of language and contemporary issues, offering 47 semesters of instruction. A large number of its offerings are full-year courses, which may not be apparent to the casual reader of its website.

Celtic Studies is only an undergraduate program here. Graduates students may consider St. Michael's renowned Medieval Studies program, emphasizing Medieval Latin, but this is limited to the Middle Ages. Old and Middle Irish and Middle Welsh count toward that graduate program, but there are no additional Celtic courses in the Medieval Studies program.

Undergraduates can choose from an Honors B.A., a regular B.A., and a minor. The Honors program requires 20 semesters, including four semesters of language, which may be just Irish or a combination of Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Old/Middle Irish, Medieval and Modern Welsh. Regular majors take at least 12 semesters, including a year of any of the languages. Minors take eight courses but are not required to take any language.

There are 11 faculty members, typically including a few visiting scholars. Modern Irish is taught by Máirín Nic Dhiarmada, who also teaches The Blasket Island Writings in translation. A course on Modern Gaelic Literature [Ireland] includes readings in both Irish and in translation, but a specific language prerequisite is not listed. Contemporary Irish Writing includes Irish-language authors read in translation. The program also hosts a speaker series and awards several scholarships for study at St. Michael's, for summer study abroad, and for attending the Canadian Association for Irish Studies conference. Student activities include ceilidhs, plays, storytelling, a Robbie Burns night, and the publication of an annual journal, *Garm Lu*, and a newsletter, *Ceangal*.

University of California -- Berkeley (1868): Celtic Studies (Students: 33,145)

Although Harvard and CUA began offering Celtic courses before Berkeley, it was Berkeley which pioneered the first degree-granting program in Celtic languages and literatures in 1911-12. William Whittingham ("Jack") Lyman, studied in Oxford under Sir John Rhys and at Harvard under Fred Norris Robinson and began teaching at Berkeley in 1911. "Celtic" was approved as a

major by 1911-12 and Lyman served as a graduate adviser in Celtic in the same year. Other faculty members there have included poet Ella Young and Arthur Hinton, who had also studied under Robinson. Current faculty members include Daniel F. Melia (Old Irish, Middle Irish), Eve Sweetser (Breton), Gary Holland (Old Irish, Continental Celtic), Kathryn Klar (Welsh), and Annalee Reijhon (Welsh).

Berkeley offers four semesters of Modern Irish, as well as four semesters of Modern Welsh, two of Medieval Welsh, two of Breton (labeled elementary and advanced), and an introductory and a "readings" course in Old and Middle Irish. Undergraduate majors must take at least four semesters of language out of 11 total semesters; minors must take six semesters of coursework but there is no language requirement for them. Students with prior knowledge of a Celtic language may be examined for proficiency and be exempt from the requirement. Berkeley's is the only large program for which this service is noted; presumably the overall number of qualified undergraduates in North America for such an exemption is quite small. A course on Advanced Readings in Celtic Languages is also available as are Celtic Linguistics and numerous literary and cultural courses such as "Voices of the Celtic World." There are 35 courses altogether listed under "Celtic Studies."

There is no formal graduate program, but Celtic-focused Ph.D.'s can be sought in English, Linguistics, History, Comparative Literature, and Anthropology. Medieval Studies is another Ph.D. option. Berkeley also offers one of the nation's few Master's programs in Folklore and several of the Celtic Studies courses count toward that.

Berkeley's future plans for language expansion include Scottish Gaelic, Cornish, Manx, and Gaulish. When, and if, these all materialize, it will be one of the most linguistically comprehensive Celtic programs, if not the most comprehensive in the world. As it is, Berkeley is the only campus in the U.S. to offer Breton regularly, and there is only one other in North America (University of Ottawa).

Boston College (1863): Irish Studies (Students: 14,297; Chestnut Hill, MA)

Boston College (BC) has many Irish connections. It was founded by two men from Ulster, Andrew Carney and John McElroy, S.J. At its 50th anniversary, in 1913, the University opened its largest room, Irish Hall, with St. Patrick in stained glass and an Irish-language dedication. In 1978, Kevin O'Neill and the late Adele Dalsimer created the Irish Studies program which offers an undergraduate minor, MA's in Irish History and in Irish Literature and Culture, a Ph.D. "major field" in Irish History through the History Department, and a Ph.D. "concentration" in Irish Literature through the English Department. European readers should keep in mind that many American institutions are called "colleges" but function as universities since they offer graduate degrees. Among the program's special strengths are its Gaelic Roots festival, its extensive offerings in Irish music and dance, including performance courses, and its 6-week Abbey Theatre Summer Workshop. The Burns Library has many notable collections, including Irish Art, Beckett, Shaw, Northern Irish Photographs, and Three Candles Press books, and, most significantly for Irish language, the Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill Collection of manuscripts and notebooks and the Flann O'Brien Collection, including manuscripts, over 400 related books, and O'Brien's typewriter and fiddle, among other effects.

BC offers about 30 courses in Irish Studies, including six in performance such as dance, fiddle, and tin whistle. Master's students in the Literature and Culture program are required to take at least one year of Irish language and are encouraged to continue their language study in Ireland in the summer, with some funding available. Irish language is not listed a requirement for the undergraduate Irish Studies minors.

BC offers three semesters of Modern Irish (EN 093, 094 and 097) and the option of Advanced Readings in Modern Irish. Its Modern Irish Poetry course covers both English and Irish – language authors but has more Irish-language poets than is typical for such surveys.

University of Notre Dame (1842): Irish Studies (Students: 11,311; South Bend, Indiana)

Notre Dame's Keough Institute for Irish Studies (a.k.a. Institiúid Mhic Eochaidh an Léinn Éireannaigh) offers the largest course inventory of any Irish or Celtic Studies program examined for this article – 71 at latest count! Some of the courses may have similar content but they do have different numbers and so are counted here as separate courses; examples are: IRST 465 Concepts of Modernity in Irish/British Fiction and IRST 472F Modernism: Britain and Ireland 1880 – 1930. While not all are offered every year, the range is nevertheless very impressive. This count includes a few which are cross-listed as both undergraduate and graduate courses, but this is just a handful. A typical year's offering is about 15 courses a semester, which is characteristic of comprehensive programs in institutions of this size. The great variety of courses may partially reflect Notre Dame's very active program of funding visiting scholars, plus its strong connections with other departments such as English and Medieval Studies. Readers should also remember that Notre Dame cross-lists many courses, which other institutions might not, contributing to the large number; among these are The Vikings (IRST 441) and Victorian Empire Writing (IRST 303). The count of 71 includes all entries under the course numbers beginning with IRST and CLIR, omitting clear duplicates.

Among the highlights of this program is a course on Archeology in Ireland with a fully-funded 10-day field trip for 12 undergraduates. Library holdings are especially strong in such fields as Edmund Burke, 1798, Irish music (the O'Neill Collection), Irish maps, Abbey Theatre and Cuala Press, and the 18th-century.

Three semesters of Irish are offered (Beginning I, Beginning II, and Intermediate) and a semester of Old Irish is sometimes available, mostly listed as a summer course. Students can elect a minor, which requires the three semesters of Modern Irish and four other "Area Studies" courses. The three semesters of Irish also fill the University's foreign language requirement. The requirement is parallel to Notre Dame's other Area Studies Programs, all of which, except African Studies, have a language requirement. Graduate students are "encouraged to study the Irish language" and there are some travel funds for them to study the language in Ireland.

Seamas Deane, editor of the celebrated *Field Day Anthology*, is the Keough Professor of Irish Studies. Faculty members with a special language interest include or have included Breandán Ó Buachalla (Irish language and Early Modern Ireland), Breandán Mac Suibhne (History, Northern Ireland, Donegal), Brian Ó Conchubhair (Irish language and literature); Sarah McKibben (Irish language, Anti-Colonial Rhetoric; Gender Politics), Diarmuid Ó Giolláin (Folklore, Anthropology), Peter McQuillan (Irish language, Linguistics), and Aideen O'Leary (Medieval History).

New York University (1831): Irish Studies (Students: 51,901) NYU offers an undergraduate minor in Irish Studies requiring four courses, one of which may be language. Graduate students can pick from four options: a Ph.D. in English with an Irish literature "concentration," a Ph.D. in History with Ireland as a "major field," the Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought, or a Master's through the Gallatin School of Individualized Study. NYU's Irish community enjoys the handsomely fitted Glucksman Ireland House for many of its special events, seminars, concerts, and even student performances in the Irish language. The building was originally two houses, connected and renovated for Irish Studies through the generosity of Lewis L. and Loretta Brennan Glucksman. This facility opened in 1993. In addition to academic endeavors, Glucksman Ireland House has a membership program which offers discount prices for its cultural events and some other benefits. The House also hosts GRIAN, a graduate student conference in Irish Studies and publishes its journal.

Twenty-five courses in literature, history, music, art (a rare offering), politics and language comprise the program. Teaching is done by a faculty of eleven, typically including a few visiting faculty. All of the Irish language instruction is done by Pádraig Ó Cearúil, a native speaker from Gaioth Dobhair, Co. Donegal, who covers elementary and intermediate in four semesters. The Irish courses fulfill NYU's MAP language requirement. Undergraduates can also begin their study of the Irish language with Ó Cearúil on a summer program based in

Dublin but when they take that class they must also register for one other course in history, literature, or culture, taught in English

Ó Cearúil also teaches a non-credit evening program at Glucksman for adults, at elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels, typically meeting for 1.25 hours a week. Although there is normally a fee for the class, Glucksman House "Contributors" do not have to pay for the Irish language course or for some other non-credit courses offered there.

Although many "Irish Studies" programs don't include any "Celtic" courses, NYU does offer Myths and Cultures of the Ancient Celts and Introduction to Celtic Music. The literature courses appear to emphasize English-medium writers (Joyce, Synge, Beckett, McGuinness, etc.). A special strength of NYU's program is the inclusion of such topics as The Irish and New York, Atlantic Migrations, the Irish in America, and Irish American Literature, as well as the vast resources of New York's Irish community and Irish arts activities.

St. Mary's University (1802): Irish Studies (Student enrollment: "over 7,500"; Halifax, NS)

St. Mary's D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies was established in 1986 and is one of the largest and most language-oriented programs in North America. It is headed by Pádraig Ó Siadhail. Three years of Modern Irish are offered, together with two years of Scottish Gaelic, a year of Old Irish, a year of Medieval Welsh, and a semester of the Socio-Linguistic History of Ireland. A total of 34 courses are offered, in fields such as literature, history, folk culture, geography, and political science. Undergraduates can major or minor in Irish Studies but there is currently no graduate program. Majors must take four semesters of Modern Irish out of a total of 14 semesters required. Minors take one year of Irish language and six additional semesters of related coursework.

St. Mary's offers the only courses seen in the institutions covered which require at least a year of Irish for classes where the readings appear to be primarily in English. The two courses, *Recovery of the Gaelic Past* and *The Romantic Popularization of the Gaelic Past*, cover such authors as James MacPherson, Charlotte Brooke, John O'Donovan, Eugene Curry, James Hardiman, and James Clarence Mangan. This requirement seems

an excellent strategy to ensure that students focusing on Irish literature in its broadest sense (Anglo-Irish, Hiberno-English, originally in Irish, originally in English, and/or Kiltartanesque) can handle the dialect, the syntax, and the pronunciation of the names involved. Another semester course is *Modern Gaelic Literature in Translation* (Hyde, Ó Conaire, Ó Cadhain, the Blaskets, et al.) but none of the courses listed appear to require actually reading literature in Irish or Scottish Gaelic.

Interested students may also take advantage of St. Mary's very large undergraduate and graduate programs in Atlantic Canada Studies (ACS). This program lists nearly 150 courses, and, while many are cross-listings of the same course, the working total is still very large. Many of the Irish Studies faculty members are also on the Atlantic Canada Studies Committee and some Irish Studies courses count toward the program. However, of the Celtic language courses, only Scottish Gaelic counts toward the ACS degree, not Irish, a reasonable reflection of the speaker demographics of the Canadian Maritime area.

The D'Arcy McGee Chair has its own coat of arms, the only one observed in this study, and the department publishes a newsletter, *An Cumann Gaelach*, including an Irish column, "Smaointe Fánacha." In addition to the general collection, the library has the William English of Clonmel collection, emphasizing modern Irish literature, Joyce to Trevor.

St. Mary's and Halifax each have a strong Irish heritage. At one time, there were enough monoglot Irish speakers in the community for an early president, Father Richard Baptist O'Brien, to teach them in Irish.

University of Pennsylvania (1740): Celtic Studies Concentration (Student enrollment: 22,769; Philadelphia, PA)

The University of Pennsylvania offers a Celtic Studies concentration for English majors and 20 courses in various disciplines related to the field. Three years of Modern Irish are available and a semester course on the *History of the Irish Language* has been offered intermittently, all taught by Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew. Most of the other related courses are in the English Department, but some can also be found in departments such as Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Folklore, and History.

Vicki Mahaffey, a renowned Joycean scholar, also teaches courses on Wilde and Yeats as well as a survey course on Irish Literature. The Anthropology Department offers Archeology of Ireland and The Barbarian Image.

Penn is also renowned for Historical Linguistics program, emphasizing Indo-European, and, in a rotating sequence, such relevant languages as Old Irish, Tocharian, Old Norse, and Gothic are taught as seminars.

Another strength at Penn is one of the few graduate programs in Folklore in the U.S., established in 1963, which also offers an undergraduate minor. Some of its courses focus specifically on folklore of Ireland and Britain. Others, not included in the general count above, provide critical background for pursuing certain aspects of Irish or Celtic Studies, namely Introduction to Folklore, Folk Music, Folklore and Literature, History of Folklore Studies, Orality and Literacy, History of Folklore Studies, and Travel, Tourism and Culture.

Penn has also recently welcomed to its Political Science faculty, Brendan O'Leary who also is director of Penn's Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict. Dr. O'Leary teaches various courses on nationalism involving Ireland and other countries.

University of St. Thomas (1885): Irish Studies (Students:11,366; St. Paul, MN)

Lárionad an Léinn Éireannaigh was founded in 1996 due to the generosity of Lawrence M. O'Shaughnessy. It lists a total of 20 courses on its Irish Studies page, mostly in English, History, and Theology. Two semesters of Irish have been added recently to the program (Gaeilge 1 and Gaeilge 2) and these are listed under their own course abbreviation, IRGA 297 and IRGA 298. Students can also earn these credits by studying at Áras Mháirtín Uí Chadhain in Galway. As of the writing of this article, a minor in Irish Studies was being planned but there are no details on the Irish Studies website and it does not appear on the University's list of undergraduate minors yet. Although St. Thomas offers many graduate programs in the professions, it only offers four programs in Arts and Sciences (Art History, English, Catholic Studies, and Music Education) so the scope for graduate study

involving the Irish language may not be as deep as at other institutions. However, at least six graduate courses in Irish literature, primarily from English-medium writers, are offered, which no doubt could comprise a sizable part of a Master's degree.

Among the special strengths of St. Thomas's program are its Celtic book collection, its community outreach and its refereed journal, *New Hibernia Review*. The book collection numbers over 9200 volumes (7000 titles) and includes the collection of the late Eamon O'Toole of Trinity College Dublin. The O'Toole collection, over 2000 volumes, reflects his language interests and includes Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Manx, Cornish and Breton. The campus is active in hosting readings, lectures, and conferences related to Irish Studies. The *New Hibernia Review* is edited by English professor Thomas Dillon Redshaw and its managing editor is James Rogers. The journal's Advisory Board includes an Irish language specialist, Séamus Blake. St. Thomas also adjudicates the O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award for Irish poetry.

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (1956, originally Milwaukee Female Academy 1848): Celtic Studies (approx. 25,000 plus 47,000 in continuing education)

The Center for Celtic Studies at Milwaukee offers as certificate program for enrolled undergraduates in any B.A. field and for alumni of UWM or other accredited institutions. A total of about twenty courses are offered, not counting variously titled "special topics" courses. The program includes two years of Irish, listed as Linguistics courses, with the option of studying at Oideas Gael for Irish language and in Aberdeen, Aberystwyth, Tübingen, and Trinity College Dublin for other programs. The certificate has two options. The "Language" Option requires four non-language semester-length courses and second-year Irish, presuming the first year will also be taken at UWM or will have been met previously. The "Non-Language" Option requires 18 credits (six semester courses) in any approved choices, with first and second semester Irish highly recommended.

The faculty members include John Gleeson (Irish Language), Bettina Arnold (Irish Archeology), José Laners, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Leiden (myth, folklore,

Joyce), Nancy Madden Walczyk (Irish Women, Language), and Michael Noonan (Linguistics). Among the more unusual offerings are The German-Irish Connection (reflecting Milwaukee's demographics), Irish Step Dance as a Dances of the World course, and several courses on Irish and Scottish philosophy.

UWM publishes an electronic journal, e-Keltoi, and a newsletter, *Triskele*. The Shamrock Club and the Paddy Clancy Scholarships provide some financial assistance and there are many liaisons with the community at large.

Marylhurst University (1893): Celtic Studies (Students: 1700, about 70% part-time; Marylhurst, OR)

On the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) website, Marylhurst lists two years of Irish among 17 courses ranging from Celtic Mystique to James Joyce. Most of these proved impossible to retrieve using the University's own search engine but searching outside the University, on Google, eventually brought up information on various courses currently or recently listed, such as Arthurian Saga, Survey of Celtic Cultures, Ancient Celtic Sociology and Cultures, and Shamanism and the Celtic Spirit. There are some references to the Irish language courses being web-based but this is not clear from Marylhurst's own website. The instructor is Gearóid Ó Cillín (Ger Killeen). However, without a centralized page or description of Celtic Studies as such, it is impossible to tell online what is available in terms of majors, minors, or using Irish to fill the language requirement. While such information may be available in hard copy on campus, its absence on the web means that today's electronic shoppers for courses, credits, and Celtic Studies will probably not discover all that Marylhurst has to offer.

Additional Programs of Note

University of Ottawa (1848): Celtic Studies (Students: 27,462)
Celtic language courses started at the University of Ottawa in 1972 and there has been a Chair of Celtic Studies since 1986, currently held by Paul W. Birt of Wales. The first chairholder was Irish and Scottish Gaelic scholar Gordon MacLennan (1931-1992). Although the Celtic language component of the program is

strong (3 semesters each of Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton), there is currently no major or minor available. Nor is there a graduate program. Since fundraising to solidify the Chair is still ongoing, it can be presumed that a major and a minor are planned, together with more courses overall. Language instruction at Ottawa is divided between three main departments, English, Lettres Françaises, and Modern Languages (Arabic, Celtic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish). So, while the Celtic Program is internally strong, it does not have as visible a presence on the website as many of the other programs investigated.

In addition to the 12 language courses mentioned above, Early Celtic Literature is also taught, and a Guided Research course rounds out the program. The English and Linguistics Department both offer some courses which might related to an expanded Celtic Program (Anglo-Irish Literature, Comparative Indo-European Linguistics, History of Linguistics, and Bilinguisme).

University of California – Los Angeles.

Despite UCLA's renown for Celtic Studies, as shown by its hosting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, by the scholarship of Joseph Falaky Nagy, and by its program of Medieval, Anglo-Saxon, and Celtic, this institution does not teach Modern Irish. Old Irish, Medieval Welsh, and Celtic Linguistics are offered, as are over 100 courses in the World Arts and Cultures (WAC) Department which recently incorporated UCLA's Folklore Department. However, while examining the WAC list, I found not courses which focused on Irish or Celtic folklore.

Cornell University's Linguistics Department is also very strong in Celtic languages, but, like UCLA, does not offer Modern Irish except as part of a 3-credit Celtic Language sampler course. But the eight other courses (Old Irish, Middle Welsh, Introductory Scottish Gaelic), taught by Wayne Harbert, are worthy of note, as are the opportunities for further Medieval and Indo-European Studies, including Tocharian, Old High German and Sanskrit.

City University of New York – Queens. CUNY – Queens has been listed as offering one year of Irish, but this year's catalog also mentions "Intermediate" Irish, suggesting that the program has expanded. Students may also minor in Irish Studies, for which language is one of the 14 possible courses (but not required), and an interdisciplinary Irish Studies major is also possible by petition.

Two-Year Programs of Irish Language Not Part of Designated Irish or Celtic Studies Programs

A number of institutions now offer accredited two-year programs in Irish as part of a commitment toward Less Commonly Taught Languages, as a dimension of their programs in English or Comparative Literature or similar departments, or as part of continuing education. In many cases, these courses will fulfill the institutions language requirement, if it has one. These will be summarized briefly below:

City University of New York – Lehman College in The Bronx now has a two-year online Irish language program, taught by Thomas Ihde, a co-founder of NAACLT. Dr. Ihde, "assisted" by his pre-school daughter, also teaches a non-credit program, "Irish Gaelic for Young Children."

State University of New York – Buffalo offers two years of Irish as part of its World Languages Program, which also features languages as diverse as Hindi and Ukrainian.

University of Cincinnati offers two years each of Modern Irish and Welsh, each year consisting of a three-part sequence, as part of the English Department.

University of Pittsburgh offers two years as part of Less Commonly Taught Languages. It also accepts students from selected Pittsburgh-area institutions and non-degree and post-baccalaureate students.

Representative Institutions with One Year of Irish Offered

This is just a small sample of some of the institutions offering one year. New College of California (NCOC) is actually one of the most unusual institutions to offer Irish. Founded as an "alternative" school for higher education, it survived the lingering idealism of the 1970's, unlike many similar projects, and today is small but very active in such arenas as public law and environmental concerns.

New College of California (1973): Irish Studies (Students: ca. 1000; San Francisco, CA). One year of Irish is taught by native speaker Hetty O'Hara, as part of its B.A. and M.A. program. Typically B.A. students spend their first two years filling general requirements, starting the language and other Irish courses in the 3rd year. The M.A. does not seem to require the language. A total count of NCOC's Irish courses is difficult to tally, since many seem to re-listed with slightly different names, but the number is about 20, not including some workshops bearing independent study credit. Among the more unusual are Sheela-na-Gig Formations, Gender in Mary McCarthy's Writing, the Irish in the Caribbean, California Irish History, and John Ford: Irish American Filmmaker. NCOC has an active community outreach, with Garret Fitzgerald, former Taoiseach, speaking there in October 2003, and a video lecture on the Irish origins of the folk song "Git Along Little Dogies" available online for the general public. NCOC's mission is to make higher education available to those for whom it was denied and its founder, Jack Leary, had resigned from the presidency of Gonzaga University (Washington) because of dissatisfaction with the rigidity of the traditional educational system.

Memorial University, one year, added to the Linguistics program as of Fall 2001. Memorial is Atlantic Canada's largest university (ca. 16,000 students) and has a large and well-established Folklore Department, which enhances the study of the Irish language itself. Newfoundland English is exceptionally rich in Irish phrases, structures, and even vocabulary (bresney, ownshook, etc.),

brought over by Irish fishermen in centuries past, so it is very fitting that Irish has been officially added to the curriculum.

University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, one year taught irregularly or on –demand by *JCLL* editor, Nancy Stenson, as part of the Linguistics department.

Independent Study Programs (NASILP)

Several institutions offer two or even three years of Irish, using the methodology of the National Association of Self- Instructed Language Programs, typically using a language “tutor” who is not a regular faculty member. These include the State University of New York – Oneonta, the University of Arizona and Vassar College.

Conclusion and Wish List

Despite the great advances made in Irish language instruction in the last few years, with Irish language strongly represented at about 10 institutions offering degree-bearing Irish or Celtic Studies programs (including majors, minors, graduate degrees, etc.), there are about ten institutions which offer distinct programs in Irish or Celtic but which do not offer any Modern Irish. Most list about 14 semester-length courses in their programs and the number goes up to 22. A few more substantial programs offer only one year of Irish or only incorporate study in Ireland for the language component. Those students who travel to Ireland to study Irish language as part of these programs usually must start at the beginning unlike their fellow students in languages like French or Spanish who generally arrive in their target countries with reasonable fluency, ready to tackle more challenging work. Thus the total of Irish/Celtic Studies programs without significant Irish language is nearly the same as the number of institutions, which actually offer two or more years of the language. In other words, about 50% of the programs offering any sort of substantial Irish or Celtic Studies either omit the language altogether or do not prioritize it.

This brings up an issue much too broad for further discussion here, except as a brief “focal scoir.” It is hard to

imagine any type of degree or certificate being offered for literary, cultural or regional studies involving fields such as Spanish, French, Hindi, Russian, or Chinese without including proficiency in the related language. Admittedly, one must then face the fact that, in these areas, far more than 1 to 2% of the population are native speakers of the language. So, should only 1 to 2% of Irish or Celtic Studies programs in existence be expected to offer the language, perhaps in keeping with the proportion of native speakers in Ireland? Hopefully not. Given that much of the English spoken or written in Ireland shows a very strong influence from Irish Gaelic, it would not be too much to expect that students of this literature should know the underlying structures involved. And given that Joyce, Synge, and O’Casey, mainstays of many “Irish Literature” courses, all studied Irish and used that knowledge in their writings, is it too much to expect that students of such literature should understand these authors’ linguistic backgrounds? The fact that Yeats admitted his own language inabilities and distorted such names as “Cailleach Bhéarra” into “Clooth-na-Bare” doesn’t mean that today’s students need follow in his eloquent but monolingual footsteps.

Having taught Irish for over a decade, my own experience shows that at least two years, preferably three, are needed before most North American students really seem to feel comfortable and confident with the language. Some who are exceptionally well-prepared by having studied other inflected languages, especially Latin, or who have additional linguistic training may, of course, proceed much faster. Very few students actually fit the category of “heritage language learners” since there is so little Irish spoken in Irish-American/Canadian houses, as compared to languages such as Hindi, Korean, or Spanish which are the primary medium of communication in many households. Heritage may well play a role in a student’s decision to study Irish but few bring more than a few words, such as “sláinte” or “amadán,” learned through their heritage.

To end on a positive note, it is good to see the growth that has occurred. According to CARLA’s latest count, 29 institutions offer accredited Irish now, compared to the two which offered accredited Irish for most of the twentieth century (Harvard, Catholic). Summer courses, distance and online learning, and

interactive self-instruction programs on CD-ROM all help, but they cannot substitute for rigorous classroom experience as part of a student's regular academic program. Compared to Spanish or French majors on a Junior-Year Abroad program, who are typically expected to be linguistically proficient and ready for in-depth literary or cultural study, the North American Irish-language community still has far to go in terms of really giving its students solid preparation. But, as the Irish proverb says, "De réir a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin" (Rome was not built in a day).

Reviews

**IRISH NOW! v9: Published by Transparent Language
9 Executive Park Drive Merrimack, NH 03054**

Irish Now! Is a CD-ROM program marketed for learning Irish. You might suspect from the title that the program is for beginners. It is not.

The opening screen presents four titles from which to choose; an excerpt from "Angela's Ashes," "Discovering Ireland," "Survival Phrases for Irish," and "The Most Common Words in Irish". "Angela's Ashes" is for the advanced learner. The three other titles are intermediate level. There is no beginner level.

There is no accompanying manual to guide you through the various supporting activities, i.e. reading exercises, cross word puzzles and a vocabulary game. There is a printable manual from the program. I do not like to print manuals from programs so I consider this a disadvantage. With patience and several hours of practice I was able to maneuver through the various programs with relative ease.

The approach of *Irish Now!* is interactive. The learner is able to choose to read sections of text and/or listen to a 'native' speaker. There are several speakers and no attempt is made to explain the differences in their dialects. A nice touch, however, is a button, which allows you to slow the speech without distortion. You may choose to hear individual words, a sentence or an entire text with a press of a button. A microphone can be added to compare your pronunciation with that of the 'native' speaker. Individual words are highlighted and linked to a grammar section. The treatment of grammar is comprehensive and available to those so inclined. The grammatical explanations are academic and there are some typographical errors in the examples. In one or two instances the information presented is incorrect. For example, the grammar states that the Irish word for yes is 'Is ea' and the word for no is 'ní hea'. On another occasion a past tense question was asked and the answer presented in the present tense.