



UNC  
GLOBAL

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER  
CAMPUS BOX 3130  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3130

T 919.962-7002  
F 919.962-2262  
studyabroad.unc.edu

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues:

**National University of Ireland, Galway**

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish a study abroad program with the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway). Further information about the National University of Ireland, Galway can be reviewed at

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/>

This program will allow undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences to spend a semester or full academic year at the NUI Galway, paying NUI Galway tuition. At this point in time, NUI Galway does not have a need for a new student exchange program with a North American university and so UNC-Chapel Hill will not be receiving NUI Galway students. The arrangement does allow the Study Abroad Office to continue to meet demand from students in the College of Arts and Sciences to study at universities in the Republic of Ireland.

The establishment of this program is supported by the Department of English and Comparative Literature. The program will be open to all students in the College of Arts and Sciences, irrespective of major.

A site visit to Galway was conducted by Dr Robert Miles in April 2010 where he met with staff in the International Affairs Office and a number of senior faculty members, including Professor Nicholas Allen (see below).

The history of NUI Galway commences in 1849 with the foundation of Queen's College Galway. The College was built at the height of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century famine as part of a public works relief scheme, and was one of three Queen's Colleges, the others located in Dublin and Belfast. In 1908, the name of the College was changed to University College Galway and in 1997 to the National University of Ireland, Galway. The University has expanded significantly

since the 1970s, with several new building projects, and its campus, close to the centre of Galway, now educates over 16,000 students.

NUI Galway is a research-led university with internationally recognized expertise in a number of selected areas, including stem cell and gene therapy research, human rights law, environmental change, internet technology. Specifically the University is home to Ireland's leading Marine and Environmental Research Centers, and to the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (<http://www.deri.ie/>). Of particular interest to the Department of English and Comparative Literature here at UNC-Chapel Hill is the specialization and distinction in Irish literature and language. Irish Studies is a designated Area of Excellence at NUI Galway, evident in the existence of a Center for Irish Studies:

[http://www.nuigalway.ie/centre\\_irish\\_studies/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/centre_irish_studies/)

The English Department at NUI Galway has particular research strengths in Chaucerian studies, theatre, Irish studies, women's writing, post-colonial studies, travel and periodical literature, several of which are strengths of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Furthermore, the English Department includes amongst its faculty Professor Nicholas Allen. Professor Allen, formerly a member of UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of English and Comparative Literature, is the Moore Institute Research professor at NUI, Galway, and maintains professional ties with members of UNC-Chapel Hill's faculty. The Moore Institute at NUI Galway promotes research and research-led teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences, with a special emphasis upon assisting researchers to develop their research for the academic and public spheres and the cultural and creative industries:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/listings/moore-institute.html>

NUI Galway is organized by Colleges, within which disciplinary Schools are located. The five Colleges are:

- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
- College of Science
- College of Engineering and Informatics

UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate students will be able to take courses in the Schools within the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, and the College of Science that parallel academic departments in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill. Collectively, these three Colleges at NUI Galway constitute an 'academic footprint' very similar to the College of Arts and Sciences.

The academic year at NUI Galway is organized into two semesters, the first commencing in early September and ending in late December, the second commencing in early January and ending in late May. As a result, fall and spring semester, as well as full-year, options will be available. UNC-Chapel Hill students may only participate during their Junior or Senior year.

The minimum GPA requirement for admission to this exchange program will be 3.0. Students will receive transfer credit for all courses taken at NUI Galway. The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

UNC-Chapel Hill students will receive support from the International Affairs Office at NUI Galway:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/international-students/>  
[http://www.nuigalway.ie/future\\_students/ushandbook/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/future_students/ushandbook/)

The International Affairs Office provides, *inter alia*, advice, information and support services and arranges social and cultural events for international students, along with an orientation program in September and January. International students also have access to the University's Student Health Service and Student Counseling Service. Academic advising to international students is undertaken within each School (i.e, within academic departments).

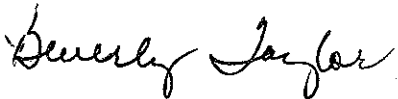
UNC-Chapel Hill students will be offered accommodation in University approved residential accommodation complexes:

[http://www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/student\\_residences.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/student_residences.html)

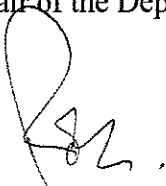
There are twelve such complexes in the vicinity of the university campus, most of which offer self-catering arrangements (essentially a student dormitory without a meal plan), although two provide full board accommodation (essentially a student dormitory with a meal plan). Students can travel from these student residences to the campus on foot and/or via public transport.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Beverly Taylor  
Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature



Dr. Robert Miles  
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges