



University of Glasgow | Faculty of Arts

Celtic and Gaelic

Undergraduate study 2010





Celtic and Gaelic

Introduction

The Celtic languages, their literatures and their cultural history in its broadest form are the focus of the teaching and research in the Department of Celtic at Glasgow. There are many reasons why you should choose our successful department for undergraduate study:

- in the latest independent survey of research quality, the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, Celtic studies at Glasgow was rated in the top ten of UK universities
- we are currently the largest Department of Celtic in Scotland in terms of student numbers
- we have a tradition of friendliness and approachability and will offer you a welcoming and supportive environment
- a distinguished line of writers, singers, teachers, scholars, journalists, TV and radio presenters are graduates of the department
- we attract not only students from the Gaelic-speaking areas, or even just Scotland, but students from across the UK as well as the United States, Canada, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia and Sweden
- all of our lecturers are active researchers and you have the opportunity to study in their specialist fields which include early Gaelic women poets, Gaelic place-names, 20th-century Gaelic poetry, Gaelic literature of the Clearances, the Gaelic novel, the Gaelic languages and Gaelic medium education.

Celtic is a language family with a number of different, but related, languages, including Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Manx on the Gaelic side, and Welsh, Breton and Cornish on the British side.

Celtic and Gaelic courses involve the study of the languages, literature, history and culture of the Celtic peoples over the centuries with particular emphasis on Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Welsh in their medieval and modern forms.

For those fluent in Scottish Gaelic a range of courses are taught through the medium of Gaelic. Literature courses include the study of literature both in the original and in translation.

Recent developments in **support for Gaelic**, including its official recognition in the Scottish Parliament's Achd na Gàidhlig, mean that **Gaelic is a language with expanding career opportunities.**



Celtic Civilisation

Degree: MA

Typical offer

Highers AB BB/AAB (first sitting)
AAB B/AAA (two sittings)

A-levels AB B (first sitting)
AAB (two sittings)

IB 32 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

This programme is delivered through a series of courses, mostly history or literature based, in which you use primary textual material through English translations. There is no requirement to study a language. You will:

- gain a knowledge of the history, literatures and cultures of the Celtic languages – medieval and modern
- study the cultures of the Celtic-speaking peoples across a wide chronological span
- consider their historical, literary and linguistic dimensions.

What can I expect in first year?

In first year (Level-1) you will study two courses.

The first course – **Celts in the ancient world** – allows you to:

- form a picture of the most important aspects of the earlier history, institutions, society and culture of the Celtic people
- understand and use critically the source material from which a picture of the ancient Celtic world may be formed
- focus on the period up to 400 AD.

Topics studied may include Celtic art, being and becoming Celtic and Celts and the Empire.

The second course – **Celtic peoples in the medieval world** – focuses on the period from 400-1100 AD and may include topics such as:

- the movements and developments in Britain and Ireland after 400 AD which led to the establishment of the historical Celtic kingdoms
- the linguistic and cultural affinities of the Celtic peoples of Britain, Ireland and Brittany in the early middle ages
- the spread of Christianity among Celtic peoples
- the impact of Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian invasions on the Celtic peoples.

What can I expect in second year?

In second year (Level-2) you will take two courses.

From rulers to rebels: Celtic societies, 1066-1603 is concerned with the period of the Norman colonisations up to 1603. You will study:

- the developments in the histories of Gaelic Scotland, Ireland and Wales
- the most important aspects of the institutions, cultures and literatures of Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Welsh societies
- the common features and differing experiences of the three societies in this time period.

Celtic societies and the modern world traces the development in the histories of Gaelic Scotland, Ireland and Wales from 1750 to the present day. Within this time period you will examine:

- the most important aspects of the institutions, cultures and literatures of the three societies
- the features and experiences differing and common to all
- the forces that result in language decline and linguistic and cultural revivals.

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the Celtic Civilisation courses in first and second years, you may move on to Honours Celtic Civilisation in third and fourth years. Celtic Civilisation may only be taken as a Joint Honours degree, meaning you will also study courses from another subject.

During Honours you have the opportunity to deepen your understanding of specific aspects of Celtic history, literatures and cultures. You are encouraged to think critically on a wide range of primary source material and develop your skills of analysis and interpretation while extending your capacity for independent thought and judgement.

Among the courses on offer are:

- Belief and culture in early medieval Ireland and Gaelic Scotland
- Celtic place-names of Scotland
- Celts, Celticity and Celticism
- Early Gaelic literature
- Medieval Welsh literature
- Legal traditions and social reflections.

You also write a dissertation, allowing you to research a relevant topic of your own choosing and to develop a capacity to work independently.

What are my career prospects?

Recent graduates have gone on to enjoy success in a range of careers including:

- primary and secondary teaching
- work with museums and government heritage bodies
- publishing and book marketing
- teaching English as a second language abroad
- café entrepreneurship.

Others have gone on to further study and to pursue a career in research and academic work.

Celtic Studies

Degree: MA

Typical offer

Highers AB BB/AAB (first sitting)
AAB B/AAA (two sittings)

A-levels AB B (first sitting)
AAB (two sittings)

IB 32 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

Celtic Studies allows you to gain knowledge of the history, literatures and cultures of the Celtic languages – medieval and modern. A combination of culture-based courses and language courses make up the degree and these elements may be varied to suit your individual interests and needs. You study:

- the cultures of the Celtic-speaking peoples across a wide chronological span
- their historical, literary and linguistic dimensions.

What can I expect in first and second years?

You can choose to study either Celtic Civilisation or Scottish Gaelic, or both, in your first and second years.

Celtic Civilisation courses provide you with a clear understanding of the most important aspects of the history, institutions, society and culture of the Celtic peoples from the earliest evidence down to the present day.

You will make use of archaeological, historical, literary and art historical sources as you study the Celts, their society and their interactions with other peoples and cultures. In first year you study the period up to 1100 while second



year focuses on 1100 to the present day, comparing the experiences of Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

If you choose to study **Gaelic**, the course you take depends on whether or not you have studied Gaelic before.

If you have Higher Gàidhlig you will take Gaelic 1A. This course is taught through the medium of Gaelic.

If you have Higher Gaelic you will take Gaelic 1C, where we gradually move towards Gaelic-medium teaching in the second half of the year.

Both of these courses allow you to:

- study a range of Gaelic poetry from the 18th to the 21st century
- study a selection of modern fiction
- broaden your written and spoken language skills.

If you have no previous knowledge of Gaelic you take Gaelic 1B, which provides you with a good foundation in speaking, reading and writing the language.

In second year Gaelic 1A and 1C lead to Gaelic 2A, in which most classes on language and literature are taught through Gaelic. Gaelic 1B leads to Gaelic 2B, in which your written and spoken language skills are developed and in which some of the teaching of literature is through Gaelic.

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the courses in first and second years, you may move on to Honours Celtic Studies, which may be taken as a Single Honours degree or as a Joint Honours degree, meaning you will also study courses from another subject.

Third and fourth years provide you with the opportunity to study a combination of language, history and literature. You study at least one language from:

- Scottish Gaelic
- Modern Irish
- Old Irish
- Medieval Welsh.

You are also able to choose from a range of courses which focus on specific aspects of Celtic culture and literature, including:

- Celtic place-names of Scotland
- Celts, Celticity and Celticism
- Early Gaelic literature
- Medieval Welsh literature
- Legal traditions and social reflections

- Belief and culture in early medieval Ireland and Scotland.

You also write a dissertation, allowing you to research a relevant topic of your own choosing and to develop a capacity to work independently.

What are my career prospects?

Recent graduates have gone on to enjoy success in a range of careers including:

- primary and secondary teaching
- work with museums and government heritage bodies
- publishing and book marketing
- teaching English as a second language abroad
- café entrepreneurship.

Others have gone on to further study and to pursue a career in research and academic work.

Gaelic

Degrees: MA, MA (SocSci)

Typical offer

Highers ABBB/AAB (first sitting)
AABB/AAA (two sittings)

A-levels ABB (first sitting)
AAB (two sittings)

IB 32 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

Gaelic is one of Scotland's national languages, and its oldest living language. It has been spoken since at least the sixth century and has contributed to a rich tradition of literature and culture. It is also a modern language, participating fully in the 21st-century world of technology and media.

Whether you are a native speaker of Scottish Gaelic, a learner or a complete beginner our Gaelic programme allows you to develop advanced language skills at the same time as acquiring in-depth knowledge and understanding of Scottish Gaelic language, culture and literature, and those of related languages such as modern Irish.

The department places great emphasis on Gaelic-medium teaching. If you are a fluent speaker you are taught through the medium of Gaelic from first year, otherwise you begin to be taught through Gaelic in second year.

What can I expect in first year?

If you have already studied Gaelic at school, there are two first year courses to choose from.

If you have Higher Gàidhlig you will take Gaelic 1A, which is taught in Gaelic and focuses on:

- a range of Gaelic poetry from the 18th to the 21st century including Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair, Màiri Mhòr nan Òran and Somhairle Mac'Illeathain
- modern fiction including recent Ùr-Sgeul novels
- broadening your written and spoken language skills.

If you have Higher Gaelic you take Gaelic 1C. This is taught in English, with some classes taught through Gaelic in the second part of the year. You will study:

- a range of poetry from the 17th to the 21st century
- a selection of modern fiction including novels by Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn.

This will broaden your vocabulary and improve your understanding of grammar and idiom.

If you have no previous knowledge of Gaelic you take Gaelic 1B. Gaelic 1B provides you with a good foundation in the language.

Emphasis is placed on a high level of participation in classes. You are encouraged to use Gaelic as much as possible, including making use of the department's own custom-made online grammar exercises.

What can I expect in second year?

Both Gaelic 1A and 1C lead to Gaelic 2A, in which you study:

- 19th-century Gaelic writers such as Norman MacLeod
- 17th and 18th-century poetry (including Iain Lom and Sileas na Ceapaich)
- aspects of Gaelic linguistics including phonetics and sociolinguistics.

Gaelic 1B leads to Gaelic 2B. You will find that in this course:

- your language skills are honed
- you study a range of Gaelic writing including novels by Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn and poetry by Somhairle Mac'Illeathain, some of which are taught through the medium of Gaelic.

‘The departmental staff couldn’t have been more helpful. Mholainn e do dhuine sam bith.’

Lindsey MacIver, 2007

What happens next?

Once you have completed either Gaelic 2A or 2B, you may move to Honours Gaelic in third and fourth years. This allows you to study aspects of Gaelic literature and language in more depth, mostly through the medium of Gaelic, and to develop your critical and analytical skills. Among the courses on offer are:

- 20th-century Gaelic war poetry
- Women’s poetry between the 15th and 17th centuries
- The clearances through the eyes of the Gaels
- Gaelic autobiography
- 18th-century poetry
- Modern Irish
- Gaelic dialectology
- Classical Gaelic
- Celtic place-names.

You also write a dissertation, allowing you to research a relevant topic of your own choosing.

In terms of language skills, you are trained to a high level of language proficiency, enabling you to communicate readily on a personal and professional basis.

What are my career prospects?

Recent developments in support for Gaelic, including its official recognition in the Scottish Parliament’s Achd na Gàidhlig, mean that Gaelic is a language with expanding career opportunities. Studying Gaelic at University opens doors to a diverse range of work in which Gaelic is essential. Over the last few years our graduates have gone on to enjoy success in a wide range of careers such as:

- the media, working with the BBC in both radio and television
- primary and secondary teaching
- language planning and development
- publishing
- librarianship
- law.

Can I study abroad?

There are opportunities open to you to study in an institution outside the UK. The Department of Celtic has active study abroad relationships with Universities such as those in Galway and Vienna.

Some of our students who are not fluent Gaelic speakers opt to improve their fluency by spending a year studying in Benbecula between second and third year. In your Honours years you will have the opportunity to spend a semester studying Irish at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

At Glasgow you can take advantage of a range of exciting opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree. Courses you take overseas form an integral part of your degree without adding an extra year or semester. The benefits are huge. You will not only be able to gain an entirely new perspective on your academic subject and enhance your employability, you will also find out new things about yourself, increase your independence, develop self-confidence, learn to live and work with people from different backgrounds and cultures and form a large circle of international friends.

Students who have studied abroad describe it as a life-changing experience – ‘the best year of my life’.

Studying in Europe

You can study at more than 250 universities all over Europe under the Erasmus programme. Erasmus is an EC exchange programme that enables students in 31 European countries to study for part of their degree in another European country. Exchanges can last from 3-10 months and study credit is transferred to your home university.

Beyond Europe

The International Exchange Programme allows you to spend a year at institutions in Australia, Canada, Central & South America, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. All the institutions teach in English except Chuo University in Japan and those in Central & South America.

The University holds a Study Abroad Fair every November. Information is also available on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange

Where can I find out more?

Our website has more information about the Department of Celtic and our programmes: www.glasgow.ac.uk/celtic

If you have any questions, you can contact us by email: enquiries@celtic.art.gla.ac.uk

For Joint Honours combinations with Celtic Civilisation, Celtic Studies or Gaelic visit:

www.glasgow.ac.uk/celtic

Come and visit us

Open Day

www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to staff in academic departments, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can’t make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements.

To find out more visit:

www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits

Applicants’ Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants’ Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

'Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best'

Lonely Planet



www.seeglasgow.com

City of Glasgow

What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world's top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city's reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you'll soon treat it as your second home. Glasgow is:

- situated in the central belt of Scotland on the River Clyde
- Scotland's largest city
- home to a population of 600,000.

Some of the city's many attractions include:

Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city's fantastic live music haunts include King Tut's Wah Wah Hut – voted UK's best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you're after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar (the Horseshoe), or a pub with stuffed stags' heads and kilned staff that's as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or revisit 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it's up to you.

What's more, due to our diverse and multicultural population, you can eat your way around the world in Glasgow restaurants.

Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include the Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city's book festival. In the summer, you're only 50 minutes away from Edinburgh's International and Fringe Festivals by train.

Culture

Art lovers and museum wanderers are spoilt for choice, with the city's famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland's most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum. Discover live art within the cavernous brick archway spaces beneath Glasgow's Central Station at the Arches, or enjoy 'a play, a pie and a pint' at Oran Mor, a former church that has since been converted into a theatre, bar and nightclub.

Sport

Wearing its passion for sport on its sleeve, Glasgow's set to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know the city as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you're guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living, or do you prefer big city excitement? Whichever is your style, you'll be impressed by the University's excellent location in the compact and friendly West End of Glasgow. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.

