



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

*Your Career with  
an Arts Degree*

# Careers with Irish



## Irish graduates and the employment market

As with other languages, students who have studied Irish have excellent communication skills and broad cultural awareness. Graduates with a fluency in Irish are sought after for numerous roles, and Irish is an asset for many jobs that may bring graduates into contact with members of the public for whom Irish is their main language.

Skills acquired include:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, including listening, clarifying and questioning
- The ability to organise and memorise detailed information
- Proficiency in phonetics
- Evaluative and analytical skills
- Problem solving and organisational skills
- Self-reliance and adaptability
- Cultural awareness

*Source: "Degrees of Skill: Student Employability Profiles"  
The Higher Education Academy.*



## Typical jobs for Irish language graduates...

Irish graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our Irish language graduates:

*TV Production • Translator • Interpreter • Teaching  
Public Service • Journalist • Local Government  
Historian • Public Relations • Heritage Officer*

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

## Career Destinations of our Irish Language Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our Irish graduates took up after graduation:

- *TV Production, TG4*
- *Translation and Teaching, Europa Translation Carna*
- *Teaching Irish and Geography*
- *Events Organiser and Fundraiser, Amnesty International Dublin*
- *Fulbright Scholarship, University of Montana USA*
- *Duty Manager, Hotel Newport Mayo*
- *Translator, Freelance (MA)*
- *Teacher Irish and Geography, Donegal VEC*
- *Administrator with Heritage Centre, Blasket Islands, Office of Public Works*

Source: NUI Galway First Destinations Survey

## Boosting your employability with a degree in Irish

Irish language skills are particularly useful when combined with expertise in other fields.

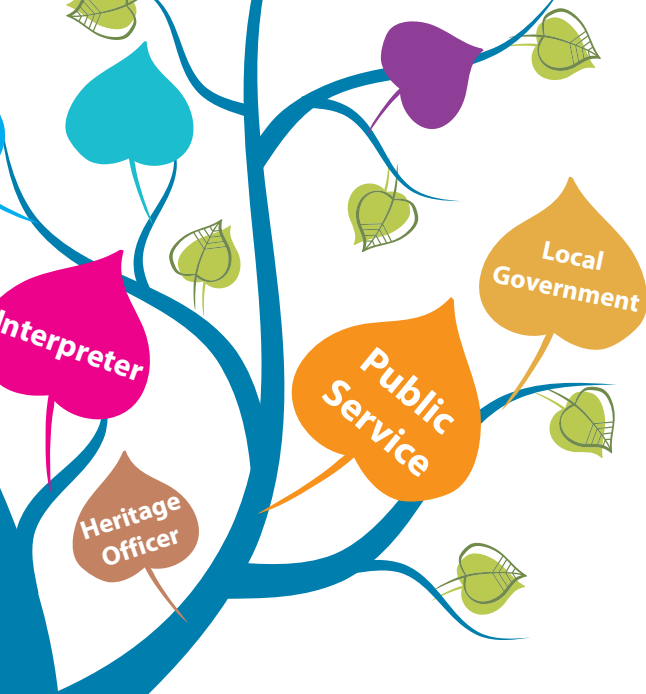
Up to 40% of graduate employment opportunities are open to graduates of all disciplines. In most cases, however you will need further postgraduate study or professional training.

Work experience is also a key issue and any experience you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. Volunteering is also an excellent way of adding experience to your CV.

The Career Development Centre at NUI Galway has some reference books that may help you find experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job search and may be available to reference in the Careers library.





## What Postgraduate Courses do Irish Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our Irish language graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway:

MA (Nua-Ghaeilge)

HDip in Education

MA (Pleanáil Teanga)

Diplóma sna Dána  
(Teicneolaíochtaí Gnó)

H.Dip.Appl.Sc. (Software  
Design and Development)

MA (Léann Eireannach)  
(Irish Studies)

Ard-Diplóma i gCumarsáid  
Fheidhmeach

Ard-Diplóma sna Dána  
(Léann an Aistriúcháin)

HDip in Business Studies

### Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous Irish graduates include:

HDip in Primary Education, Hibernia College

MA (Tourism & Hospitality), Napier's Edinburgh

Primary Teacher Training, Drumcondra

MA (International Tourism), UL

PGCE Primary, St Mary's Belfast

PGCE Primary, Aberystwyth University

HDip Education

PhD Arts

Ard-Diplóma i gCumarsáid Fheidhmeach

LLB

Diplóma sa Ghaeilge

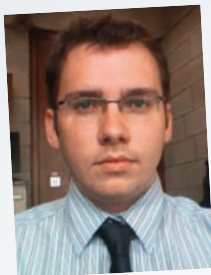
Postgraduate Diploma (Primary Education)

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: [www.nuigalway.ie/careers](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers)

[www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

# What our students say...



**Liam OhAisibeil**  
Lecturer, Head of School, Languages,  
Literatures and Cultures.

I studied Irish and Psychology and I have an MA in Modern Irish. I'm also completing my Ph.D. in Irish.

I work part-time as a tutor in Nua-Ghaeilge. I teach a range of courses, for example in Migration Literature and Sociolinguistics. I also coordinate the module Arts in Action, a specially created course for visiting American students that focuses on the unique aspects of Galway's Gaeltacht heritage. This includes music tuition, visits to the University's Gaeltacht Centre in An Cheathrú Rua. Visits to TG4 also feature in this programme.

Arts has prepared me well for a diverse and varied career. I have worked as a lecturer in UL, for example, and taught courses in placenames and folklore, which I was able to prepare at short notice and deliver to a high standard. I received excellent evaluations from my students on those courses.

Arts doesn't prepare you for one job. Instead, it opens your mind and sharpens your creative potential. It allows you to think about possibilities that you would never dream of if you were committed to a vocationally oriented programme. I chose an academic path, because of my interests in landscape and topography as a keen hill walker. I have travelled the world, hiking and camping in diverse places, and I have a unique perspective provided by my detailed study of the place names of the Irish landscape. I carry this wherever I go. It is a tremendous, affirming resource at both a personal and professional level.

## Where can I find out more?

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information for students and graduates.

[www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilge/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilge/)

[www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie) includes searchable directory of organisations

[www.gleg.ie](http://www.gleg.ie) Gaillimh le Gaeilge

[www.ucd.ie/bnag/](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag/) Bord na Gaeilge UCD

[www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)

[www.foinse.ie](http://www.foinse.ie)

[www.gaelpport.com/](http://www.gaelpport.com/)

[www.localgovernmentjobs.ie](http://www.localgovernmentjobs.ie)

[www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)

### MEDIA

[www.rte.ie/rnag/](http://www.rte.ie/rnag/)

[www.tg4.ie](http://www.tg4.ie)

### GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

[www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html)

Gradireland [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)



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