



2021 ACCREDITED COURSES PROGRAMME

- Ireland's oldest archaeological field school
- Benefit from our wealth of experience
- Low tutor-student ratio for high quality tuition
- Spectacular location on historic Achill Island
- Purpose-built campus with fully-equipped classrooms
- On-campus accommodation for comfort & convenience

Learn archaeological excavation and survey techniques from experts at Ireland's oldest and longest-running Field School. Set in a spectacular location on historic Achill Island, on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, for summer 2021 the Achill Archaeological Field School will offer a series of two, three, four and six week courses with academic credit from the National University of Ireland Galway.

The 2021 excavation will take place at Tamnaghmore (above), a short walk from our campus in Dooagh. This nucleated settlement of 16 dwellings likely dates to the late/post medieval period (AD1380-1900) and appears on maps dated to 1809 and 1838, but little is known about its period of occupation or abandonment. We look forward to uncovering the history of this enigmatic site.



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Excavation Courses with Academic Credit

The Field School offers six, four, three and two-week accredited courses that come with up to 9 semester credits/18 ECTS, which are transferable to numerous universities and third-level institutions worldwide.

The courses cover a full range of excavation, site recording techniques, and laboratory work. Lectures take place in our purpose-built campus, as do our workshops on post excavation skills such as managing site archives, writing stratigraphic reports, preparing AutoCad drawings, and creating illustrations using programs such as Inkscape and QGIS.

SS106

Introduction to Archaeology of Ireland
(3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits)

SS107

Archaeological Field Studies
(3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits)

SS108

Data Analysis
(3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits)

SS109

Dig, Draw, Digitise
(3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits)

SS110

Ceramics in Archaeology
(3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits)

Course	2021 Dates	Weeks	Cost	Modules
Excavation & Recording 2	28 th June - 6 th August	6	€4,790	SS106/SS107/SS108
Excavation & Recording 4	28 th June - 23 rd July	4	€3,950	SS106/SS107
Excavation & Recording 6	26 th July - 6 th August	2	€1,995	SS108
Excavation & Recording 8	26 th July - 20 th August	4	€3,950	SS106/SS107
Dig-Draw-Digitise	9 th - 27 th August	3	€2,250	SS1109
Ceramics in Archaeology	9 th - 20 th August	2	€1,995	SS1110

Trainee Supervisor Course

Our trainee supervisor course runs for eight weeks from 28th June to 20th August. Open to students who have already completed a Field School accredited course.



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Excavation Site at Tamnaghmore

In 2021, the primary focus of work will be the excavation of two drystone houses at Tamnaghmore (translates as great meadow), a small enigmatic settlement, which probably dates to the late/post medieval period (AD1380-1900).



Tamnaghmore is a nucleated settlement of 16 unplanned houses running in a linear fashion over 170m of ground at an elevation of 97m asl. The site is located on ground sloping gently south-eastwards, along the left and right banks of the Abhainabhaile (Townland River), which flows in a south easterly direction and enters the sea at Dooagh village. Access to Tamnaghmore from the Field School campus in Dooagh is along the banks of this river, following a bog road, a narrow grass-covered track and a glacial ridge to reach the site.

There is no visible road/track into the settlement. To the north east is a grass and bog covered linear settlement with an unknown number of houses called Caislean (small stone fort) which may suggest the presence of a Cathair (stone fort) in this area sometime in the remote past. A pollen core taken in 2005 indicated the presence of a deciduous forest in this area during the mid to late Neolithic (Caseldine, C. 2005, 169-178). The settlement appears on maps dated to 1809 and 1838 but little is known about its period of occupation or abandonment. The houses are relatively large, have some unusual features and are sub-rectangular in shape. The planned excavation is particularly relevant for north American students, as it most likely covers the 18th / 19th century period that most north American excavations also cover. We anticipate an exciting project in 2021.

2021 ONE DAY COURSES & EVENTS

New for 2021! On selected Saturdays during the summer season we will be hosting a series of optional one day workshops and country craft events.

One Day Workshops

Archaeology and Palaeoecology

In this course we will explore how palaeoecology complements archaeological evidence by proving an insight on crops, livestock densities, pathologies, ecosystem and available resources. Participants are encouraged to take a problem-solving approach by considering all the available techniques and proxies available to answer their research questions.

Tutor: Dr. Carla Sá Ferreira

QGIS

A geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analysing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyses spatial location and organises layers of information into visualisations using maps and 3D scenes.

Tutor: Martin Duffy, BA (Hons), Msc.GIS

Animal Osteology

Larger vertebrate remains, such as bones of domesticated animals, are usually visible during excavation and can be collected together with artefacts. Animal bones are used in a very wide variety of types of study, most of which investigate how the presence of animal bones at an archaeological site relate to past human activities, beliefs and environment.

One Day Events

The programme of one-day events will include the following crafts:

- Foraging
- Basketry
- Soap Making



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About the Field School



The Field School was established in 1991 in the village of Dooagh, on Achill Island. Linked to the Co. Mayo mainland by a bridge since 1887, Achill is Ireland's largest island at 57sq miles. It boasts four Blue Flag beaches, several mountains and spectacular coastal scenery – including Ireland's highest sea cliffs. It is a popular holiday destination for visitors seeking escape, inspiration, and a connection with traditional Irish country life. Artists and writers who came to live and work on Achill in the last century include Robert Henri, Paul Henry, Graham Greene and Heinrich Böll.

Achill is accessible via rail and coach to Westport from Dublin and other travel hubs. A local bus service links from Westport to Achill.

To apply for any of our accredited courses in 2021 please complete the form on our website at: <https://achill-fieldschool.com/application-form/>