



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

2024 COURSES PROGRAMME

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 2024 the Achill Archaeological Field School will offer six week, four week and two week courses with under-graduate and post-graduate academic credit from the University of Galway. There will also be a one-week Introduction to Archaeology course, and an eight-week Trainee Supervisor course.



The 2024 excavation will take place at Caraun Point, a coastal site in the north of Achill Island. The primary focus will be two drystone houses and a shell midden which date to the post-medieval period, or earlier. Previous excavations on the site revealed artefacts dating to the 8th - 10th century, believed to be associated with a nearby early Medieval ringfort. This year's excavation season looks like it will be fascinating.

ACHILL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD SCHOOL
Dooagh, Achill Island, Co. Mayo, Ireland

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Excavation Courses with Academic Credit

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

The course 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)

Course	2024 Dates	Weeks	Cost	Modules
Excavation & Recording 1	24 th June - 2 nd August	6	€5,950	SS106/SS107/SS108
Excavation & Recording 3	24 th June - 19 th July	4	€4,550	SS107/SS108
Excavation & Recording 5	22 nd July - 2 nd August	2	€2,550	SS107

Trainee Supervisor Course

An eight-week trainee supervisor course is available to students who have already completed a Field School accredited course. This course runs from 24th June to 16th August 2024.

Introduction to Irish Archaeology

A one-week course providing a first taste of archaeology and field methods. Ideal for anyone with an interest in archaeology, anthropology and local history. Offered with both residential and non-residential options. This course will run from 5th - 9th August 2024.

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Excavation Site at Caraun Point

In 2024, the primary focus of work will be the excavation of two drystone houses and a shell midden at Caraun Point, a dynamic coastal environment which is constantly evolving due to wind and wave action.



The 2024 excavations at Caraun Point will be the third season of work at this enigmatic site. Previous excavations have recovered a quantity of artefacts that included glass and pottery, along with animal bone and shellfish remains. Analysis of these objects give us an insight into the livelihood and diet of the people who lived here. One unexpected discovery was the presence of a probable Early-Medieval ringfort immediately to the west of our excavation. Habitation deposits associated with this site were evident beneath the post-medieval houses and some artefacts of 8th to 10th century date were recovered. This year's excavation season looks like it will be fascinating.



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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 five 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 Boll.

Achill was the main location for filming of the 2022 movie 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.

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 courses in 2024 please complete the form on our website at: <https://achill-fieldschool.com/application-form/>

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