

2025

Cairde



Craic



COURSES FOR ADULTS IN IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Cúrsaí Teanga
& Cultúir do
Dhaoine Fásta

Cultúr



Damhsa



Ceol



Comhluadar




ó 1984
Oideas Gael
www.oideasgael.ie



Fáilte

A chara,

Le breis agus 40 bliain anuas, tá Oideas Gael i dtús cadhnaíochta ag cur - cúrsaí Gaeilge agus laetha saoire cultúrtha ar fáil. Le linn an ama sin tá na mílte ag tarraingt orainn ó gach cearn d'Éirinn agus ón iliomad tír ar fud an domhain. Is mór mo phléisiúr, mar sin, cuireadh a thabhairt duit a bheith inár gcuideachta agus taitneamh a bhaint as seal ama linn nach ndéanfaidh tú dearmad air.

I gceantar álainn dheisceart Dhún na nGall gheobhaidh tú deis ar leith páirt a ghlacadh, mar aon le daoine spéisiúla eile ag a bhfuil an aidhm chéanna, i sainghrúpa teagaisc faoi chúram oide chun Gaeilge a fhoghlaim nó a fheabhsú, sin nó dul ag siúl sna sléibhte, nó a bheith páirteach i gceann dár gceardlanna, mar atá sa bhróisiúr: ceol, amhránaíocht, damhsaí agus péintéireacht.

Cibé rogha a dhéanfaidh tú féadfaidh tú a bheith cinnte go mbeidh sárlaetha saoire agat linn. Cuir scéala chugamsa le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais – agus scaip féin an dea-scéala!

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Stiúrthóir

For more than 40 years, Oideas Gael has led the field in Irish language courses and cultural activity holidays. During this period, we have attracted thousands of participants from all over Ireland and throughout the world. I have great pleasure in inviting you to join us for what will prove to be an unforgettable experience.

In the beautiful setting of south Donegal you will have a unique opportunity with other interesting and motivated people to learn or improve your Irish in a tutorial group, or to go hill-walking, or participate in music, song, dance, painting or other workshops, as set out in this brochure. Whatever you choose, a pleasant holiday is assured.

Contact me for further details – and do pass on the word.

Course Directors

Stiúrthóirí na gCúrsaí

Cultural Director
Stiúrthóir Cultúrtha



Seosamh Watson
*Emeritus Prof. of Modern Irish,
University College Dublin*

Language Director
Stiúrthóir



Liam Ó Cuinneagáin
*Specialist in Irish Language
Courses for Adults*

Courses Manager
Bainisteoir Cúrsaí



**Rónán
Ó Dochartaigh**

Office Manager
Bainisteoir Oifige



**Siobhán
Ní Churraighín**

Oideas Gael

Since its foundation in 1984, Oideas Gael has attracted hundreds of participants annually to its highly acclaimed language courses and cultural programmes. Irish people, drawn from all backgrounds, constitute up to half of those attending, while the remainder travel specially from numerous other parts of the world to attend. The unique blend of expertly prepared courses, together with an attractive mix of cultural sessions, all located within Gaeltacht communities, enabling learners to improve their fluency in Irish while, at the same time, enjoying our living culture. As an alternative to the graded language courses, a broad range of cultural activity programmes is offered to participants interested in experiencing a unique style of learning holiday.

Foras Cultúir Uladh

Foras Cultúir Uladh (The Ulster Cultural Institute), with its custom-designed facilities, is used by Oideas Gael in Gleann Cholm Cille as the main venue for its varied activities and caters for the specific needs of language learners and the special requirements of the cultural programme.

Aims of Oideas Gael

Aidhmeanna Oideas Gael

- **Freastal a dhéanamh ar dhaoine fásta maidir le foghlaim, cleachtadh agus feabhsú na Gaeilge.** To provide for adult Irish language learners, enabling them to learn enjoyably and efficiently.
- **Páirt a ghlacadh i saol na Gaeltachta.** To participate in the daily life of the Gaeltacht.
- **Litríocht agus cultúr na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn.** To promote the Irish language and its literature.
- **Ceangal caradais a neartú idir Gaeil ar fud an domhain.** To promote relationships between people of Gaelic background and interests world-wide.
- **Caidreamh idir muintir na Gaeltachta agus pobal na hÉireann uilig a chothú tríd an Ghaeilge.** To promote relations between Gaeltacht people and the rest of Ireland through the language.
- **Daoine de gach cúlra cultúrtha, creidimh agus polaitiúil a thabhairt le chéile trí mheán na Gaeilge.** To bring together people of all cultural & political backgrounds through the medium of Irish.



Language Courses

Cúrsaí Gaeilge



OIDEAS GAEL language courses are specially designed to cater for the needs of adults at all learning stages, including those who are more advanced but in need of practice. Each course contains three or more levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced and is usually of one week's duration.

CLASS TUITION is by specialist teachers who use graded courses, supported by modern audiovisual resources, as well as other proven methods of language teaching. The daily schedule consists of intensive morning and afternoon tutorials with attention directed towards spoken Irish (except for some units at the highest level) aiming at correct pronunciation, proper idiom and development of vocabulary, particularly of contemporary life. Our aim is to foster conversational ability and fluency, with up to 35 language contact hours per course. Recreational activities such as dancing, poetry, or guest lectures take place each evening, after which participants are free to practise their Irish with people from all other levels while enjoying the craic in the local pubs.

The social format of the courses ensures that people attending on their own quickly feel comfortable and at ease within the group.

It has been the experience of the Directors that beginners who complete a two-week programme succeed in achieving a marked improvement in fluency.

Cúrsaí seachtaine / Week-long courses

19-26 April

31 May-7 June

7-14 June

14-21 June (Toraigh)

21-28 June

28 June-5 July

5-12 July

12-19 July

19-26 July

26 July-2 August (Gleann Fhinne)

2-9 August (Gleann Fhinne)

9-16 August

16-23 August

23-30 August

€240

Deireadh Seachtaine / Weekend courses

14-17 March

2-5 May

24-27 October

€120

Courses are generally approved by the Department of Education and Skills.



Ardchúrsaí Gaeilge

These courses are directed specifically at fluent Irish speakers who wish to gain a deeper understanding of various aspects of the language.

Saibhreas na Gaeilge (Toraigh)

Dóibh siúd atá líofa sa Ghaeilge ar mhaith leo í a shaihbhiú. Beidh an cúrsa ag díriú ar leaganacha cainte, caithimh aimsire, seanchas Oileán Thoraí agus oidhreacht na litríochta.

21-27 Meitheamh

€240

Béaloideas Thír Chonaill

Seanchas, scéalaíocht agus béaloideas Thír Chonaill is ábhar don chúrsa seo. Ar na hábhair a phléifear beidh: scéalaithe agus scéalta traidisiúnta; saol na ndaoine, ceirdeanna agus nósanna; bailitheoirí béaloidis; logainmneacha; toibreacha beannaithe agus naomhsheanchas.

28 Meitheamh-5 Iúil

€240

Cruinneas sa Ghaeilge

Tá na cúrsaí seo dírithe ar dhaoine a bhfuil caighdeán maith Gaeilge acu ar mian leo cur lena gcruinneas scríofa agus labhartha agus a stór focal a shaihbhiú chomh maith.

5-12 Iúil 16-23 Lúnasa

€240

Dúchas na Gaeilge

Dóibh siúd ar mian leo barr feabhais agus dul na Gaeilge a chur ar a gcuid cainte agus scríbhneoireachta. Déanfar mionscrúdú ar théacsanna ó chainteoirí dúchais iomráiteacha agus ón litríocht i dtréimhsí éagsúla.

16-23 Lúnasa

€240

Ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge Gearrchúrsa Aistriúcháin

Tá an cúrsa seo dírtithe ar dhaoine le sárscileanna Gaeilge, atá i mbun aistriúcháin cheana féin nó ar mian leo tabhairt faoi.

(This course is suitable for highly skilled Irish speakers who are already translating or who want to become translators).

12-19 Iúil

€240

Tá bileog ar leith ar fáil do na cúrsaí seo ach í a iarraidh.

Language & Culture Summer School

Scoil Samhraidh Teanga & Cultúir

This special flagship course focuses attention on language learning each morning, with tutorial sessions in Irish at several levels, while the afternoon period provides workshops in such diverse activities as tin whistle, set dancing, sean-nós singing, hill walking and study groups which focus on specific elements of Irish culture. Each of these workshops is under the direction of an expert in that field. The evening events include lectures in Irish folklore, poetry readings and concerts of traditional music & song.

25 Iúil – 2 Lúnasa

€260

Cultural Activity Courses

Cúrsaí Cultúrtha

Cultural activity courses are organised in a bilingual form, making them accessible to people with little or no Irish. All courses offer participants an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy an activity holiday within a rich cultural setting. All participants in the cultural courses are encouraged to take part in the evening schedule of dancing, song, poetry and concerts.



Hillwalking Siúl

The Sliabh Liag Peninsula offers some of the most breathtaking settings in Ireland for walking. Our experienced and well-informed guides lead a programme which is physically and culturally rewarding for novice and experienced walker alike.

19-26 April

5-12 July

12-19 July

19-26 July

9-16 August

16-23 August

€210

Deireadh Seachtaine / Weekend course

2-5 May

€120

Language and Landscape

Teanga & Timpeallacht

There is a wealth of language, archaeology, history, folklore, nature and music in Gleann Cholm Cille. This course, which moves between the classroom and the outdoors, will give you the opportunity to sample all of these aspects of our unique heritage while also practising your spoken Irish.

14-21 June

€240



Interpreting the Environment **An Timpeallacht**

Understand the environment and how it functions. At the end of the week, you will be able to interpret the landscape and ecology of Southwest Donegal. You will learn how humans impacted this landscape and will be able to formulate a view about how climate change will impact the environment in the future.

28 June-5 July

€210



Archaeology **Seandálaíocht**

'5,000 years in Stone' is the theme of this programme. Field trips are organised to the numerous pre- and early Christian monuments of the region as well as evening lectures by scholars in early Irish literature, history, art, archaeology & folklore.

2-9 August

€210



Our Heritage in Rock – Geology **Ar nOidhreacht i gCloch**

The varied landscapes of the Sliabh Liag peninsula tell us much about Ireland's geological history. This programme will introduce participants to the basic principles of geology with an emphasis on practical field work.

12-19 July

€210



Tapestry Weaving **Fíodóireacht**

Donegal is renowned for its craft of hand-weaving. Local weavers offer tuition in the skills of natural dyeing, carding, spinning & weaving. Directed and tutored by professional Irish weavers.

28 June-5 July

€210



Irish Harp **An Chláirseach**

Instruction is by an expert harper with particular focus on beginners and improvers. The course content includes classes on the history of the Irish harp, workshops on playing techniques, the learning of new melodies and performing in the company of others.

28 June–5 July

€210



Flute & Whistle Playing **An Fheadóg**

A leading traditional musician presents an “Exploration of Irish Music” through the flute & whistle, with tuition for beginners & improvers. Workshops will also explain the development & progress of Irish music up to modern times.

14–17 March

€120

19–26 July

€210

24–27 October

€120



Painting & Sketching **Péintéireacht**

The dramatic coastal landscape of the Sliabh Liag Peninsula is the setting for these courses which cater for both beginners and improvers. Directed and tutored by professional Irish artists. www.michaeldohertyart.com | www.artbyconal.com www.anastromberg.com.

5–12 July

9–16 August

€210



Irish Language Song **Amhránaíocht**

The course will cover a selection of Irish-language songs, including several relating to Co. Donegal and Ulster. The songs will be explained and their background and meaning will be discussed.

14–17 March

€120



Our Heritage in Bloom

Ar nOidhreacht faoi Bhláth

This course focuses on the relationship between Ireland's natural heritage and traditional culture. Through illustrated talks and hands-on field trips participants study Ireland's flora and fauna and how they appear in folklore, superstition, natural cures and traditional remedies.

12-19 July

€210



The Road to Glenlough

An Bealach go Gleann Lach

Local folklore holds that Bonnie Prince Charlie, pretender to the British crown, sheltered north at Gleann Lach (Glenlough) in 1746. More certain is that famed American painter Rockwell Kent and Welsh poet Dylan Thomas lived for a time in this remote area. This course mixes history, art, poetry and social history with illustrated lectures and guided walks to tell the story of a truly unique place.

2-5 May

€120

23-30 August

€240

NÓTA / PLEASE NOTE: Arrival for week-long courses is Saturday evening & departure Saturday morning (except Saibhreas na Gaeilge).
Arrival for weekend courses: is on Friday evening with departure Monday 1pm



Literature Summer School Scoil Litríochta

Imagining Donegal in Language, Literature, Art and Theatre:

Peadar O'Donnell, AE (George Russell) & Brian Friel

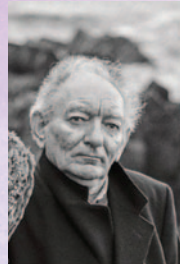
Oideas Gael hosts a brand-new bilingual summer school this year that will explore the rich and wonderful variety of representations of Donegal across the arts through the 20th century.

Stiúrthóirí: **Dr Patrick O'Donnell** - Normandale Community College & Celtic Junction Arts Center, MN, USA

Réamonn Ó Ciaráin - Gael Linn

7-14 June 2025

Eolas: www.oideasgael.ie



Specialised Courses

Cúrsaí Speisialta

COURSES FOR TEACHERS

Múinteoirí Bunscoile

Tugtar aitheantas, de ghnáth, do chúrsaí Oideas Gael faoi Riall 58 mar chúrsaí inseirbhíse a thuilleann saoire bhreise phearsanta.

Courses are usually recognised by ‘An Roinn Oideachais’ under rule 58 for in-service training and extra personal leave.

SPECIAL GROUP COURSES

Irish courses are organised during the year by special request.

Oideas Gael also offers group study or semester programmes for universities, companies, social clubs and other organisations requiring specialist courses on the Irish language, culture, traditional music, archaeology, environment, folklore, weaving or other disciplines.

Combination and online courses are also organised by special arrangement. Accommodation and travel can be arranged to suit particular requirements. These courses are offered outside of our regular summer schedule thus giving students an excellent opportunity to interact with local people and to participate in the everyday life of the community.

Recent external programmes offered at Oideas Gael include:

- 4-week language & cultural programme for Evergreen State College, Washington.
- 3-week Irish language immersion program for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- Irish Society and Culture, a study abroad program offered by Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY.
- 3-day Gaeltacht immersion program for Ionad Uíbh Eachach, Irish language community centre, Belfast.

An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge (SCG/OCG)

Oideas Gael Irish language courses are appropriate for teachers wishing to learn and improve their spoken Irish for ‘An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge’ (SCG/OCG) and other qualifications. (See www.oideasgael.ie for dates)

Said Margaret O'Donnell Noodin, Professor, American Indian and Irish Studies Programs, Associate Dean of Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

‘The programmes offered are challenging yet extremely rewarding culturally and intellectually. Students are welcomed into the Gaeltacht where they become a part of active revitalization efforts. Everyone who attends courses at Oideas Gael works together to preserve traditions and move Irish language, arts and culture into the future. I recommend these programs highly’.

Says: Dr Sean Williams, Professor of Ethnomusicology, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA.

“My students learned about irregular verbs and prepositions, counting people and things, and having a normal conversation in Irish rather than just hammering out grammatical points. They explored several archaeological wonders, toured the Glen Folk Village, learned songs in Irish, and deepened their understanding of Donegal music, folklore, history, politics, and daily living. All of it was delivered with both a sense of humor and depth of integrity. I cannot adequately express my profound gratitude to the people connected with Oideas Gael; they took a seemingly impossible situation and made it not only possible, but joyful. We will never forget this spring term, and we will never cease to be both amazed and grateful.”

Course Locations

Ceantair

Gleann Cholm Cille

This Gaeltacht area of southwest Donegal, named after St. Colm Cille, is located in the scenically splendid Sliabh Liag peninsula.

The region is renowned for its wealth of tradition, culture, music and prehistoric settlements, as well as the excellent amenities specially created here, such as the famous Folk Village, founded by Fr. McDyer as a result of notable community effort, to which the work of Oideas Gael continues to contribute. An tOireachtas, the major celebration of Irish language and culture, took place here in October 1989.

Gleann Fhinne & Toraigh

An Coimín, Gleann Fhinne, is located on the fringe of the impressive Cruacha Gorma (Blue Stack Mountains) in the heart of the Donegal Highlands. **Toraigh** is a thriving island community, a 45-minute ferry trip from Cé Mhachaire Rabhartaigh. Both areas are well known for their riches of oral tradition, as well as the excellence of their native singers and dancers. Our courses in these lively Irish-speaking communities offer participants with an unequalled opportunity for social and cultural interaction with vibrant communities of diverse ages and talents.

All Courses are held in our main centre in Gleann Cholm Cille

EXCEPT our courses on Toraigh, 14-21 Meitheamh (Cúrsa Gaeilge) & 21-27 Meitheamh (Saibhreas na Gaeilge) and our two language courses in An Coimín, Gleann Fhinne, 26 July-2 August & 2-9 August

Travel

Taisteal

Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the participants. **Details of public transport and direct bus services will be furnished on booking.**

FROM DONEGAL TOWN:

Local Link – www.localinkdsl.ie

Route 293 (Donegal – Gleann Cholm Cille)

FROM DUBLIN:

Bus Éireann 01 836 6111

www.buseireann.ie

FROM GALWAY:

Feda O'Donnell 074 95 48 114

www.fedaodonnell.com

FROM BELFAST:

Ulsterbus 028 90666630

www.translink.co.uk

Driving time from Dublin is 4 hours,
Galway 4 hours & Belfast 3 hours

AIRPORTS:

Dún na nGall / Donegal Airport (70km)

074-95 48 232 www.donegalairport.ie

Doire/Derry (100km), An Cnoc/Knock (120km)



Accommodation

Lóistín i nGleann Cholm Cille

The following are the options that may be reserved for you by Oideas Gael. Please ✓ choice on the application form.

BED & BREAKFAST

If you choose this option, you will be staying with a Gaeltacht family, in specially-selected homes, with breakfast provided. (A number of restaurants in the area offer lunch and evening meals.) You will pay your host family directly during your stay. Payment by credit card is not possible with this option.

	Twin or double (Shared)	Single room
Week (7 nights)	€315 pp	€420
Weekend (3 nights)	€135 pp	€180

SELF-CATERING

(A) Budget House or Cottage Sharing

Course participants share a house or cottage. These are normally 3-bedroomed houses with a kitchen, common area and a shared bathroom. It is not usually possible to pay by credit card.

	Twin or double (Shared)	Single room
Week (7 nights)	€170 pp	€230

(B) House or Cottage Sharing

You will share a house with other course participants. This includes a kitchen, a dining and sitting room, and shared bathrooms. Housing comes with all facilities including central heating, laundry machine, etc. In some cases, the accommodation fee may be paid by credit card.

	Twin or double (Shared)	Single room
Week (7 nights)	€210 pp	€280
Weekend (3 nights)	€90 pp	€120

(C) House sharing with ensuite room

You will have an en suite double or twin room in a modern house shared with other course participants. This includes a dedicated kitchen, dining and sitting rooms. Housing comes with all facilities including central heating, laundry machine, television, etc. In most cases, accommodation fee may be paid by credit card.

	Twin or double (Shared)	Single room
Week (7 nights)	€250 pp	€320
Weekend (3 nights)	€120 pp	€150

Contact Oideas Gael for information regarding other local accommodation providers.

Some participants also make use of AirBnB and similar online reservation services to source their own preferred accommodation.

John Eoin's Bar & Accommodation

(within 500m of Oideas Gael, no self-catering facilities) www.johneoinins.ie

Sliabh Liag Camping

(with facilities for campervans and motorhomes) 085 279 5953 sliabhliagcamping.ie

Carrick Gate

(luxury accommodation, 10km from Oideas Gael) www.carrickgate.com

Fáilte Éireann

(Regional Tourism Office in Donegal Town) 074 97 21148 www.failteireland.ie

A number of restaurants offer lunch and evening meals in the area.

In An Coimín

sa Choimín, Gleann Fhinne

20-27 July & 27 July-3 August

BED & BREAKFAST, LIGHT LUNCH & DINNER

Shared - €365

Singil - €450

SELF-CATERING OPTION IN GLEANN Fhinne

€210 - Shared

€280 - Singil

On Tory Island

Ar Oileán Thoraí

Déan plé, le do thoil, ar na roghanna lóistín éagsúla go díreach le Oideas Gael.

Fón: +353 (0)74 97 30 248 oifig@oideasgael.ie

Booking Procedure

Clárú

Táillí / Fees

Course fees cover classes, lectures, recreational and evening cultural activities. Some evening concerts and other activities organised by other groups may involve an admission fee. Book online via www.oideasgael.ie or complete application form overleaf. To ensure a place on the course of your choice, it is advisable to book as early as possible in advance of that course. **If booking more than one course, balance of fees is payable at least 4 weeks in advance of courses selected.**

Íocaíocht / Payment

VISA/MASTERCARD/VISA DEBIT payments are welcome. Please supply details on booking form or use our secure reservation form at www.oideasgael.ie

International bank transfer payment (IBAN) is also possible (contact us for details). Be wary as extra bank charges are occasionally incurred by some payment methods.

Clárú / Registration

Registration is on Saturday evening for week-long courses & Friday evening for weekend courses. You may register on appointed day at anytime from 4pm onwards.

Polasaí Cealaithe

/ Cancellation Policy

If you have to cancel your course –

Up to 4 weeks prior to commencement of course you can avail of either a transfer of fees to other dates or a refund less €20 handling charge.

Up to 2 weeks prior to commencement of course you can avail of a 75% transfer of course fees to other dates (if spaces are available) or a refund of half the course fee(s) paid.

If booking accommodation through Oideas Gael and you cancel within the week prior to the commencement of the course you may incur an accommodation cancellation fee or be charged the full accommodation amount on cancellation.



Oideas Gael

Gleann Cholm Cille, Co. Dhún na nGall, Éire

Fón: +353 (0)74 97 30 248

Email: oifig@oideasgael.ie

www.oideasgael.ie

Language Support

Seirbhísí Tacaíochta

Online Courses

Ranganna ar Líne

Bring the Gaeltacht to you with Oideas Gael's live online courses in Irish language and culture for adults.

www.oideasgael.ie

WWW.BEO.IE

Altanna ar fáil sa chartlann as an iris **beo.ie**

Articles and interviews from **Beo.ie!** archive.

HEART

www.eduheart.eu

Modhanna úra a chabhróidh le múinteoirí ealaíne agus ceoil oideachas oidhreacht a chur chun cinn.

A toolkit for arts and music educators



who wish to bring Intangible Cultural Heritage into the classroom. Developed by Oideas Gael and four European partners.

IRISH LANGUAGE COURSES WORLDWIDE

Tugann Oideas Gael tacaíocht do mhórán cúrsaí Gaeilge ar fud an domhain. Is féidir leat teagmháil a dhéanamh linn agus eolas a fháil ar cheann acu sin in aice leat féin.

Oideas Gael has a close association with many excellent Irish language courses offered worldwide. You may contact us by phone, email or mail to find out if there is a course available near you.



An Siopa Gaeilge

Tá réimse leathan ábhar ar fáil sa Siopa Gaeilge, idir leabhair, cheol, chúrsaí Gaeilge agus gach áis eile don mhúinteoir agus don fhoghlaimoir Gaeilge.

Our bookshop carries an extensive selection of books, music CDs, bilingual greeting cards, posters and other items of use to the language learner, improver and teacher.

We offer a same day mail-order service for purchases made online, or by phone +353 (0)74 973 0500.



www.siopagaeilge.ie

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