



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

## **Bachelor of Arts Community and Family Studies**



**BA in Community  
& Family Studies**

# Bachelor of Arts: Community and Family Studies

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## General Introduction:

This distance learning programme is a 4-year, part-time programme in Community and Family Studies. Students are awarded an NUI Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies upon successful completion of the first 2 years of the programme and a Bachelor of Arts: Community and Family Studies on completion of the 4-year cycle. This programme is designed to enable participants to further develop and enhance their understanding, knowledge and skills relevant to Family and Community work practice and policy in Ireland or abroad. The main focus of the degree programme will be on Community and Family studies but will broadly incorporate community development, family support, adolescence, childcare, health, political and general socio-economic studies.

## Intended for:

This programme was developed in response to the continuing education needs of personnel working in community/voluntary and state sectors actively supporting Community and Family life in a rapidly changing society. It is an interdisciplinary programme drawing upon selected components of Sociology, Politics, Community Development, Family Studies and Law. It is a broad educational programme which places specific emphasis on knowledge and skills for personnel working within a range of sectors which seek to support and enable families and communities to function effectively within society.

## Distance Learning

This new NUI Diploma/ BA programme is designed specifically to create accessible, student centred learning opportunities within the Social Sciences. Core open learning materials, developed by NUI, Galway practitioners and experts in the field of Community and Family support, will be provided to students at the start of the programme. The cost of learning materials and the tuition is included in the programme fee. Each programme consists of a combination of learning materials, workshops and assignments. The workshops will be held at a number of geographic locations throughout Ireland.

Please see application form for further details.

## Programme content

The BA programme is devised on a modular, credit basis. Each module carries a specific number of credits. The maximum number of credits that a student can attain each year is 45 credits. A Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies is awarded on attaining 90 credits and a Bachelor of Arts in Community and Family Studies degree on attaining 180 credits.

## YEAR ONE

Introduction to Sociology	5
Social Research Skills	5
Elective Module*	5
Understanding Communities	10
Family and Society	10
Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 1	10

## YEAR TWO

Elective Module*	5
Politics and Policy Making	10
Issues in Contemporary Family Life	10
Group work and Community Leadership	10
Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 2	10

## YEAR THREE

Elective Module*	5
Research Methodology in the Social Sciences	10
Community Consultation and Decision-making	10
Family and Societal Interactions	10
Community and Family Studies: Independent Research Project 3	10

## YEAR FOUR

Life Long Learning: Policy and Practice	10
Community and Family: Project Planning, Development and Evaluation	10
Equality and Diversity	10
Research Project	15



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### Elective Modules (Sample)

#### Diploma Cycle

- Childhood and Adolescence
- Community Enterprise, Business and Legal Issues
- Community Health
- Development and Change
- Micro Finance
- Racism and Interculturalism
- Understanding Conflict
- Youth and Society
- Youth Work

#### Degree Cycle

- Critical Thinking
- Community Management
- Comparative Themes in Society, Politics and Culture
- Social Exclusion, Citizenship and the Modern State
- Information Technology: Family and Community
- Adulthood and Ageing
- Families and the Law
- Community and the Environment

*Note: Other elective modules may be offered in addition to, or in substitution of, the modules listed above. Not all of the elective modules may be offered every academic year.*



## Entry requirements

Applicants for the programme should meet the University's requirements for mature students. Formal academic qualifications are not required to commence the BA in Community and Family Studies.

## Recognition of Accredited Prior Learning

Students who have previously undertaken approved courses may be granted credit for their qualifications. Such credit, where granted, will be at first year University level only and will be limited to a maximum exemption of 30 credits in the first two years of a part-time degree. Candidates wishing to apply for exemptions must complete the exemption form available from the Programme Administrator. Exemption applications (and supporting documentation) must accompany the completed application form.

## Application procedure

Application forms are available from and should be returned to the Programme Administrator, Community Education Centre, Hygeia Office Block, Nuns Island, NUI, Galway.

Application forms may also be downloaded from:

**<http://www.nuigalway.ie/communityeducation>**

*(Please note that the number of places available is limited to 30 per venue)*

## Duration/attendance requirements

The modular structure of the programme allows students to proceed at their own pace. A series of 1 to 2 day workshops are scheduled throughout the academic year (September to May) which students must attend – this equates to approximately one workshop per month. These are held on Fridays and Saturdays.

## Assessment

Students must attend workshops and submit an assignment for each module. Students must also submit a project at the end of each year of study. Project work should complement, where possible, voluntary/ work-based learning. A proportion of marks are also based on written examinations.

## Where to from here?

Within NUI, Galway there are a number of Masters Programmes which may be of interest to students on successful completion of the BA in Community and Family Studies; for example, M.A. in Community Development, M.A in Family Support Studies, M.A. in Social Work. A number of places (3-4) will be guaranteed within these Masters Programmes to students who successfully complete the BA in Community and Family Studies.

## Award

NUI Diploma in Arts: Community and Family Studies (2 years)

NUI Bachelor of Arts: Community and Family Studies (4 years)



## Annual fee

The fee for this programme is €2,900 per year. A deposit of €300 must accompany the application form. Unsuccessful applicants will be refunded this fee. The remaining course fees may then be paid over three installments:

- (i) The first installment, €990, must be paid on registration
- (ii) The second installment, €990, must be submitted in early February\*
- (iii) The third installment, €620, must be submitted in early May.

*\* As previously outlined students who have undertaken approved courses may be granted credit for their qualifications. Such credit, where granted, will lead to a reduction in overall programme fees and will be deducted from the second installment of fees.*

In the event that course fees are being sponsored on behalf of a student (e.g. by employer) appropriate payment arrangements will be agreed with the student involved. Under existing legislation, students in employment may be eligible for income tax relief at the standard tax rate. For specific details on this scheme, students are encouraged to contact their local tax office.

## Enquiries

Programme Administrator,  
Community Education Centre,  
Hygeia Office Block,

Nuns Island,  
NUI, Galway  
091- 495472

Email: [community.ed@nuigalway.ie](mailto:community.ed@nuigalway.ie)

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/communityeducation>

