

We have a new online enrolment system
which we hope you will find
even easier to use.



Either type in www.qub.ac.uk/ol
or scan the
QR code above.



Be inspired and find your perfect course



Questions we are often asked

Who comes to the Open Learning Programme?

Anyone over the age of 18 – there is no upper age limit.

Students who want to learn something new – from local history to creative writing, languages to literature. We offer a great range and breadth of courses.

Students who want to learn a subject to enhance their current employment.

I am retired/unemployed/working/busy during the week. What can you offer me?

We have a time to suit everyone. We offer a range of courses during the day, evening and at weekends.

I am nervous about re-entering education. Are the classes very formal or academic and do I need qualifications to take them?

Don't be nervous – our courses are delivered in an informal and relaxed manner.

Students do not need to have previous experience or qualifications.

With the many coffee shops in the surrounding area, you can get to know other people over a coffee, a cup of tea or lunch.

I am an International Student, new to Belfast. Are there courses for me?

Yes, come along to meet new people and learn something fun. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming.



School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work

Open Learning

Spring 2026 Programme

Important

Queen's University Belfast has made all reasonable efforts to ensure that this programme is accurate and up-to-date when compiled but can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The University reserves the right to cancel classes and to substitute tutors teaching certain classes if necessary. Students are responsible for ensuring that the fees for their course are met. Entry to courses will be restricted by number of entrants.

This programme is available in PDF form from our website and in printed form on request.

All enquiries to:

Open Learning
School of Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Queen's University Belfast
20 College Green
Belfast BT7 1LN
Northern Ireland

Tel: **(028) 9097 3323**

Email: openlearning.education@qub.ac.uk

Web: www.qub.ac.uk/ol

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Welcome to Open Learning Spring 2026

If 2025 was the 180th Anniversary of Queen's University, 2026 marks the 175th anniversary of Queen's provision of extra-mural courses (i.e. provision 'outside the walls' of the university). In their history of Queen's 1845-1949, Moody and Beckett (1959:159) describe the 'efforts made by the college to extend its educational advantages to sections of the local community for whom the ordinary academic courses were inappropriate or out of reach'. As early as 1851, members of Faculty were offering courses of lectures outside working hours.

The first such courses were in chemistry, anatomy and botany; by 1856, the range had spread to such topics as 'the history of French literature', 'great English writers' and 'Irish topography, history and philology' (the study of language). One of the most enthusiastic lecturers was Professor James McCosh, who had been appointed chair of Logic and Metaphysics at Queen's in 1850. A few years after his appointment, he proposed a series of evening lectures incorporating 'a judicious mixture of science and literature' and which was to be 'thoroughly academic without being too technical'.

Thus, the foundations were laid for what was to be an enduring and noble tradition of extramural provision in Queen's. And the spirit of Open Learning today may be said to very much reflect that of McCosh and his fellow tutors 175 years ago. As you can see from this brochure for our Spring programme, the curriculum remains as diverse too! As well as established favourites, we are excited to offer a range of new courses this term and to welcome several new tutors to Open Learning. Some of these we actively sought out in response to the consultation process

that we enacted in the Spring of 2025, and through which we received requests for more courses on climate change, contemporary social issues, and new research. Also in response to the consultation, we are delighted to be offering more courses in hybrid and online format this term.

We hope you enjoy browsing through this brochure and sharing it with friends. We trust you will find courses that, as McCosh wished for those attending evening courses in the mid-nineteenth century, 'would relieve (your) minds in the midst of pressure'.

Professor Katy Hayward
Dr Cathal McManus
Course Directors, Open Learning



Contacting Us

If you want to contact us in writing our postal address is:

Open Learning
School of Social Sciences,
Education and Social Work
Queen's University Belfast
20 College Green
Belfast BT7 1LN

Our telephone number is: **(028) 9097 3323**

Our email and web addresses are
openlearning.education@qub.ac.uk
www.qub.ac.uk/ol

Follow us on facebook
[Facebook.com/QUBOpenLearning](https://www.facebook.com/QUBOpenLearning)

If you have any questions about our classes and courses, staff can be contacted directly during normal office hours:
Monday – Friday 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

The Open Learning Course Directors can be contacted, initially in writing, at the above address.

Staff

Course Directors, Open Learning Programme
Professor Katy Hayward
Dr Cathal McManus

Administrative Officers

Mrs Martina Carey
Mr Chris McWatters

Term Dates

Spring 2026 Programme:

Tuesday 5 May to Tuesday 9 June 2026



tions.

Amadan: an ungainly, foolish sort of person, usually male; characteristically clumsy behaviour induces a mixture of scorn. [Irish 'amadan' = a fool.]

American wake: traditionally a social gathering at the house of someone leaving for America the next day. There would be a mixture of jollification and sadness at the realisation that it might not be a long time before the departing friend or neighbour ever again set foot in Ireland.

Angersome: troublesome; tending to anger. Said of an annoying person or their behaviour.

Angleberry: a wart or welt affecting cattle.

Angry: swollen or painful-looking. Said of a boil or other infection swelling prior to suppuration; *That's an angry lump you have on your nose.*

Ant: unbeknownst; without knowledge of; *He left the house without telling me.*

Ant: to suit (a purpose or condition); *I'll go if it answers, if it's convenient.*

Ant: to hear, usually on the face.

Ant: a point; place; point of the compass; *What art of the compass? Often used in conjunction with parts, *parts and parts.* [Irish and Scottish]*

Ant: and or cheeky child; *He's a cheeky little fellow, but he'll extend to cover any of his business.*

Ant: to hear, usually on the face.

Ant: a point; place; point of the compass; *What art of the compass? Often used in conjunction with parts, *parts and parts.* [Irish and Scottish]*

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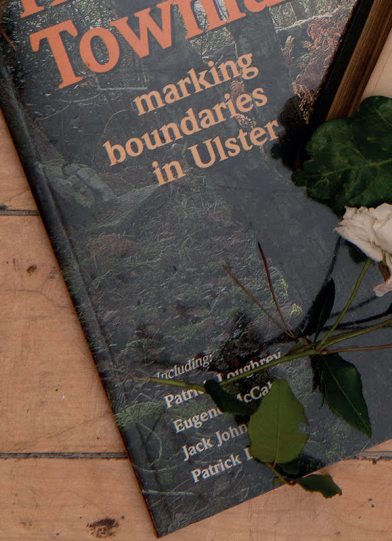
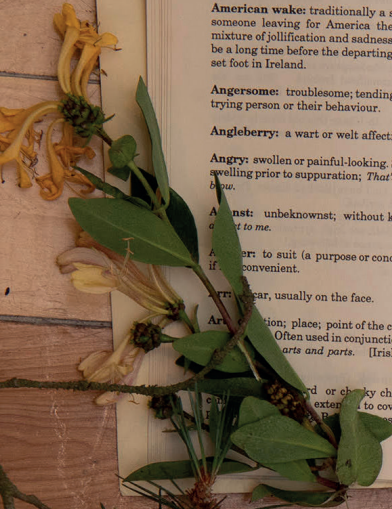
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Enrolling



Two ways to access the
Open Learning website.
Either type in www.qub.ac.uk/ol
or scan the
QR code above.

Online and postal enrolments only

You can enrol online for all courses by visiting our website www.qub.ac.uk/ol or scan the QR code above.

Payment can be made through Flywire via our website.

If you are unable to enrol online, it is still possible to enrol by post using the form in this brochure along with a cheque made payable to 'Queen's University Belfast'.

Confirmation of Enrolment

When you enrol for a course, you will receive a Confirmation of Enrolment. This Confirmation of Enrolment is your only acknowledgement of enrolment. Please check it for accuracy when it comes through.

If you have enrolled online this will be sent to your email address; if you have enrolled by post you will receive this through post or email. Please keep an eye on your email junk/spam folder.

If you have not received your Confirmation of Enrolment within ten days of enrolment, please let us know.

Over-subscribed and cancelled courses

Places on courses are limited, and applications are dealt with in the order we receive them. Early enrolment helps us provide better service and avoid disappointment.

All our courses are offered subject to a certain minimum enrolment (usually 10 students). We usually make a decision on whether a course has sufficient enrolments 1-2 weeks in advance of the start date – hence the importance of early enrolment. Where a course is under-subscribed and we need to cancel it, those affected will be informed as soon as that decision is made and their enrolment fee refunded.

Fees and concessions

The information about each course gives details of the relevant course fee. For most courses, a concessionary rate is also available. Those eligible for the reduced fee are those who are in receipt of State Benefits (including pension), or are full-time students, part- or full-time Queen's students, or are members of University staff holding a valid staff card.

Please note that concessions cannot be claimed retrospectively.

Refunds

In order for us to be able to offer a wide-ranging programme, we need to be able to be sure of enrolments, fees and tutor contracts in good time. We regret that fees cannot be



refunded except when a course does not run or if the course you applied for is already full.

In exceptional circumstances, for those who have to formally withdraw from the course **within the first two weeks of its commencement**, we may offer a partial refund (i.e. minus an administration fee). Please contact the Open Learning office.

Venues for courses

Except where otherwise stated, classroom-based courses campus are held in venues across the University. Notice of the class venue will be posted on our website (www.qub.ac.uk/ol) the afternoon before the classes are due to start.

Online/hybrid courses will be on either Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Joining instructions will be sent out a week before the class is due to start. All are easy platforms to use.

Health and Safety

At the first class your tutors will advise you of the Health and Safety protocol which includes guidance on what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation or accident.

Car parking

We regret that there is no parking within the University precinct for students attending day-time classes. For evening classes, parking is available from 4.00 pm on the main site.

Facilities and Support for disabled students

We welcome applications from people with disabilities and we will do our best to ensure that your individual requirements are met so you can get the most from your course. **In order to comply with the University's Health and Safety Regulations, all students who may require assistance will need to enrol 3 weeks**

before the class is due to start and complete a Disability Support form. The form can be downloaded from <https://www.qub.ac.uk/ol/GeneralInformation/> or can be sent out by post or email if you contact the office at openlearning.education@qub.ac.uk tel: **028 9097 3323**.

The completion of this form will determine also if you require a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) which will be carried out with the Fire Officer, in liaison with the Open Learning Disability Officer, Dr Cathal McManus. Any students who would like further information are very welcome to contact Dr McManus on c.p.mcmanus@qub.ac.uk

Exclusions

There is no upper age limit, however, the minimum age for students attending these adult learning programmes is 18, unless otherwise stated. We reserve the right to refuse the participation of any individual who:

- (1) is abusive or threatening to other course participants or University staff and/or
- (2) disrupts the learning of other participants and/or
- (3) damages or misuses University equipment or property.

Future programme

The Autumn/New Year 2026-27 Programme will be available from mid August 2026. This programme can be viewed online at www.qub.ac.uk/ol or available in booklet format from mid-August.

If you would like to consider offering a course or to suggest a topic for a course, please look at our website or contact the Open Learning office.



Art Journaling for Personal Reflection, Exploration and Expression

OLE3489

Emily Byers-Ferrian, BA, MA

Joanne Boal, BA, MA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm, starting 6 May

Art journaling is a creative practice incorporating colour, images and words with the purpose of deepening personal reflection, exploration and expression. It is not about creating a piece of art per se but about what is experienced in the process of combining imagery and language. Some people use art journaling for short, daily reflections; others use it to support processing more complex thoughts and emotions. During this course, participants will begin or further their art journaling practice by engaging with various writing prompts while experimenting with different materials and techniques, including colour washing and collage. Whether you've been writing or painting for years or never touched a pen or brush, this class is for you.

This class will take place on QUB campus.

How to Write a Personal Monologue

OLE3611

Luciana De Mello, BA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 6 May

An introductory course in which we will explore both writing and reading monologues.

The course will focus on writing personal monologues and practicing some performative exercises. Each student will write a monologue inspired by a personal experience and refine it to develop their individual artistic skills.

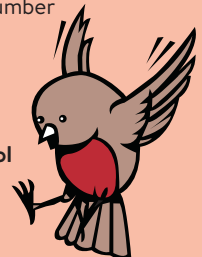
This class will take place on QUB campus

Early Bird . . .

We make the decision on whether or not to run a course seven days before the course start date, based on whether we have reached the minimum number of enrolments.

So please help us to help you!

Be an early bird and enrol well in advance!



How to Write for Profit and Pleasure**OLE3629****Alf McCreary, BA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**One-day workshop on Saturday 6 June, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm**

Under the guidance of the award-winning journalist and author Alf McCreary, this course looks at how to turn your ideas into print, and to learn about the ways to have your writing published. This course will provide guidance on the essential aspects and skills of writing for personal profit and pleasure, and also outline the essential steps required to contact publishers and other outlets where your work may be available to a wider readership. The course is designed for people at all levels, ranging from those people who have not written anything, to those with work already written and who require help in seeking ways to have it published. The course is also designed to help people to enjoy participation and to learn more about their own skills and those of others in the group. This course has been held for nearly two decades and has helped people to aim realistically to have their work published.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Poetry of Resistance and Resilience**OLE3488****Wendy Sinnamon, BA, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Fridays 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm, starting 8 May**

Through guided readings, discussions and prompts this course will provide opportunities for participants to explore poetry that examines the themes of resistance and resilience and how the two are connected. We will look at techniques that contribute to developing these themes. We will look at how different poetic forms can inform or define poetic intent. We will look at the history of resistance in poetry and what that can look like, ranging from political resistance to personal, subjective resistance. We will examine how reading and writing poetry can be an act of resistance and how it can aid our own personal resilience. This course will be for adults of all abilities.

This class will take place on QUB campus.



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Starting to Write

OLE3471

Louise McIvor, BA, FHEA

Fee £25.00 (no concession)

Half-day workshop on Friday 8 May, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

If you have ever wanted to write fiction but are not sure where to start, this half-day course has been designed for you. We will explore the elements of a story, how to create believable characters and maximise your powers of observation. Come along and have fun with some stimulating writing exercises.

This class will take place on QUB campus

The Wound That Speaks: Writing Memoir

OLE3453

Gary Hunter, PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 10.00 am to 11.30 am, starting 6 May

Dr Gary Hunter is a writer and memoirist with a PhD in Creative Writing from QUB. On this course, participants will be guided through an in-depth exploration of memory, of techniques for sharpening prose styles and converting lived experience into readable and lively narrative non-fiction. Students will be encouraged and supported to write about their own lives in a relaxed, confidential and supportive environment. They can expect to gain confidence and skill in storytelling, creative thinking, communication and in editing their written work.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Writing Through Movement

OLE3612

Luciana De Mello, BA

Fee £75.00 (concession rate £60.00)

5 half-day sessions on Saturdays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 9 May

Writing Through Movement explores the intersection between creative writing and movement — using movement, soundscapes, spatial awareness, and embodied practice to unlock new narrative approaches. We will explore the word from multiple perspectives: as meaning, as sound, as music, as dance and as poetry. Each word will be traversed by an available body, open to experience and interpretation, or, alternatively, the body will be traversed by the word, generating a dynamic and constant interaction. The workshop is open to all levels and helps participants write from a more sensory, intuitive place rather than beginning solely from the intellect.

This class will take place on QUB campus

See also:

'French through Creative Writing' by Alice Hagopian (Page 31)



How do we Live Together in a World of Difference?

OLE3470

Robin Wilson, BA, PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm, starting 6 May

The movement of people in today's world, whether as migrants or refugees, throws diverse individuals together. While populists have sought to turn back this tide by re-erecting national walls, the Council of Europe—the organisation, of 46 member states, set up after the war to say 'never again' to the Holocaust—has led the way in developing a new European model to manage diversity positively. This 'intercultural' approach can be encapsulated as the inclusion of the other within the self. It has been successfully trialled on the ground through the organisation's 160+ member Intercultural Cities programme. The course will present this new way of managing diversity and stimulate discussion of what it offers a world in turmoil.

This class will be offered in hybrid form, i.e. you can attend on QUB campus or online

Early Bird . . .

We make the decision on whether or not to run a course seven days before the course start date, based on whether we have reached the minimum number of enrolments.

So please help us to help you!

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Opening up the Map: Exploring Townlands, Place-Names & Landscapes as Cultural Heritage

OLE3616

Frances Kane, BA, MSc, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

One-day workshop on Friday 22 May, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

'Opening up the Map' is a one-day CPD event showcasing the new digital tools, resources and insights emerging from the OS200, Maps and Memories, and Mapping Monuments projects. Designed for practitioners across heritage, culture, planning, landscape, museums, archives and the wider public sector, the course offers a practical introduction to historic Ordnance Survey maps, OS Name Books, place-name sources and linked collections. Incorporating hands-on sessions, reflective discussion and opportunities for networking, the course supports skills development, shared learning and engagement with digital map-based heritage.

This class will take place on QUB campus

See also:
'The Arts and Crafts of the Serenissima' by Federica Ferrieri
(Page 34)



Springtime Photo Shoots

OLE3479

Nick Smith, City and Guilds (Photography),
MEd, MFA Photography

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

**5 weekly sessions on Saturdays 12.00 noon
to 2.00 pm, starting 9 May**

A series of Spring photography classes for those keen to experience city and park walking workshops, interior and exterior lighting techniques, gallery visits and generally extending camera and photography experience. A guest will be invited for a portrait session, and we will look at how to use both natural and artificial light to our best advantage. These classes are suitable for digital camera users with manual options (film cameras too) and the sessions offer a way to further increase your understanding of techniques in a relaxed and supportive group environment.

This class will take place on QUB campus

An Introduction to Critical Thinking

OLE3482

Michael Kelly, BA, MA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

**5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 6.00 pm to
8.00 pm, starting 5 May**

Critical Thinking can be defined as "the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments." It is increasingly felt that such skills are important in everyday life, a basic competency, which like reading and writing can be taught. This course endeavours to introduce the student to these techniques and examines them through the study of certain key topics. These include: identifying reasons and conclusions; understanding reasoning; the clarification and interpretation of ideas; assessing the validity of sources and; decision making. So, if you are serious about improving your critical thinking skills or simply want to find out more about the subject, then this is the course for you.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'Nick is very knowledgeable about his subject and kept the course very interesting throughout.'

*Springtime Photo Shoots
Nick Smith*



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QR code above.



How to Write a Literature Review**OLE3490****Michael Kelly, BA, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Mondays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 11 May**

A literature review is a comprehensive survey, embodying a critical evaluation of works previously published on a given topic. The intention is to demonstrate a clear awareness and command of the available material, and to pinpoint, trends, debates and possible gaps in the research. This course is designed to enable an individual to develop these essential skills. We will examine the different types of literature review: how to handle sources; analyse ideas; organise and plan; as well as write and edit the finished article. It should appeal particularly to those engaged in writing dissertations, reports and/or research papers.

This class will take place on QUB campus

For further reading: *How to Write Your Literature Review*, Bryan Greetham, (Bloomsbury Publishing)

2tonnes: Your Choices, Our Future - A 2050 Carbon Footprint Challenge**OLE3608****Natalie Le Seelleur, CELTA, PGCE, PGDip, MSc****Fee** £25.00 (no concession)**Half-day workshop on Friday 8 May, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm**

2tonnes is an internationally recognised climate action workshop where participants work together to explore practical ways of reducing emissions. The session uses a simple digital simulation to show how personal, local and national decisions influence long term climate outcomes. Participants test different actions, see the results in real time and discuss which choices are most effective. The workshop provides clear explanations, visual tools and evidence-based information. By the end, participants will understand how their own decisions connect to wider systems and will have identified realistic actions that support a low carbon future. The tutor is certified by the United Nations to teach Principles of Sustainability and SDGs.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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or scan the
QR code above.



Easy Summer Bird Watching for Beginners, Group 1

OLE3458

Dot Blakely

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 7 May, (7 May and 21 May are classroom based and the remaining 3 weeks are field trips and run between 10.00 am to 12.00 noon) A timetable will be distributed on the first evening.

Easy enjoyable bird watching for beginners. This short spring course will open your eyes and ears to some of our wonderful birdy sights and sounds. All field trips will be in local parks and woodlands at this time of year. Own transport essential, walking boots/shoes, waterproofs just in case.

Easy Summer Bird Watching for Beginners, Group 2

OLE3459

Dot Blakely

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Fridays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 8 May, (8 May and 22 May are classroom based and the remaining 3 weeks are field trips and run between 10.00 am to 12.00 noon) A timetable will be distributed on the first evening.

Easy enjoyable bird watching for beginners. This short spring course will open your eyes and ears to some of our wonderful birdy sights and sounds. All field trips will be in local parks and woodlands at this time of year. Own transport essential, walking boots/shoes, waterproofs just in case.

Examining Climate Change Through the Lens of Literature

OLE3481

Matthew Munro, BA, MA, MSc, PGCE

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 7 May

Climate change is a politically charged topic and climate change literature (cli-fi) offers another means of exploring the issue and society's response to it. This course will consider the underlying science and how different cli-fi authors have sought to illuminate issues and entertain readers. The sessions will cover climate change in prehistory, in our time, in the future, as well as issues of culpability for climate change and action to address climate change. Each two-hour session will start by considering an aspect of climate science and will then look at extracts from two works of cli-fi focusing on that aspect. The course will involve discussions and developing participants' own responses to key climate change talking points.

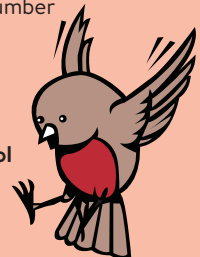
This class will take place on QUB campus

Early Bird . . .

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So please help us to help you!

Be an early bird and enrol well in advance!



How Plants Work

OLE3618

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

**5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 2.00 pm
4.00 pm, starting 7 May**

This course will help you understand how plants function and their role in ecosystems. As primary producers, plants form the foundation of life, interacting with animals and fungi in a complex web. Through photosynthesis, plants capture energy from the sun, driving their growth and diversity. You'll explore mechanisms like nutrient absorption, leaf structures, and growth patterns. By studying these processes, you'll gain insight into plant survival, their relationships with other organisms, and how they adapt to their environment, such as measuring time, optimizing sunlight exposure, and changing colours with the seasons.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Native Trees: Identifying Their Role and Importance in Society

OLE3621

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £30.00 (concession rate £24.00)

**3 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 3.00 pm
to 5.00 pm, starting 6 May**

Ireland's native trees are vital to our lives, supporting biodiversity, enriching landscapes, and connecting us to nature. This course explores the evolution of Ireland's tree cover, focusing on species like oak, ash, yew, birch, and willow. We will uncover the history of these trees, their influence on Irish society, and their role in myths and legends. You will learn about the importance of trees in woodland ecosystems, supporting plants, birds, and wildlife. The course also covers practical strategies for creating, protecting, and enhancing woodlands, ensuring these vital environments thrive for future generations.

This course will take place in Cookstown Library

***'Very enjoyable course,
enjoyed every minute of it.'***

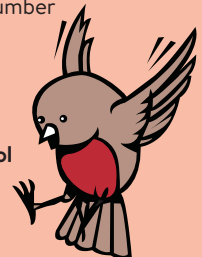
*Native Trees: Their Identification
and Place in Society*
Roy Nelson

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Our Climate and Ecological Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Solutions

OLE3464

John Barry, PhD

Fee £75.00 (concession rate £60.00)

**5 weekly sessions on Saturdays 10.00 am
1.00 pm, starting 9 May**

This course will examine:

1. The root causes of the crisis: looking at the ethical, political, economic and cultural dimensions the causes
2. Consequences: which countries, regions and populations are most vulnerable and at risk from the climate crisis?
3. Solutions: are there technological fixes?

This interdisciplinary course will range from asking 'why is it easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism', to asking what is politically and culturally possible if we flip our thinking and ask not what we can do for the planetary crisis, but rather what it can do for us in terms of opening new opportunities for remaking societies and views of the good life in the 21st century?

This course will be offered online

Rewilding: Breathing New Life into Conservation

OLE3619

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £25.00 (no concession)

**Half-day workshop on Saturday 9 May,
1.00 pm to 4.00 pm**

The natural environment is under severe pressure, with many species struggling to survive. In Northern Ireland, animals like the corncrake and curlew are disappearing, and red squirrels' long-term survival is uncertain. Plants linked to wildlife meadows are also vanishing. Previous efforts such as creating parks and woodlands have not stopped the decline of wildlife. Rewilding, however, offers a progressive solution by restoring ecosystems and promoting biodiversity. Combining scientific research with practical innovation, it creates balance between the plant and animal communities. This approach can be applied in gardens, farmland, and woodlands worldwide.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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The Impact of Climate Change on the Migration and Distribution of Flora and Fauna

OLE3620

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £25.00 (no concession)

Half-day workshop on Saturday 23 May,
1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

As climate change intensifies, many plant and animal species are naturally relocating to new areas to survive. These relocations are occurring in both terrestrial and marine environments. This class will examine examples of these changes on multiple scales; global, national, and local, and explore how they are affecting the ecosystems undergoing these transformations. Through this, you will better understand the complex impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem stability, highlighting both the challenges and adaptations that arise in response to these environmental shifts.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'I thoroughly enjoyed this class and look forward to attending more of Roy's classes.'

*Woodland: A Hidden Wealth of Wildlife
Roy Nelson*

Woodland: A Hidden Wealth of Wildlife

OLE3617

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 2.00 pm
4.00 pm, starting 5 May

Woodlands support a vast variety of plants and animals, forming a complex web of life. Surveys show distinct layers within woodlands, each with its own community of organisms. These layers include the subsoil, ground layer, shrub layer, and upper tree canopy, with some species living in one layer and others moving between levels. This course examines the unique habitats at each level, showcasing examples of the biodiversity in woodlands of all ages. It also provides practical guidance on fostering and maintaining biodiversity, whether in urban gardens or larger woodland areas.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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Practical First Aid

OLE0355

Red Cross Tutor

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 6 May

This 5-week first aid course will focus on adult casualties including: unresponsive casualties – CPR and recovery position; monitoring a casualty; choking; shock; bleeding and bandaging – cuts to limbs, object in a wound and minor bleeding – splinters, minor cuts, nosebleeds; burns; seizures; fainting; broken bones, dislocations, strains and sprains; heart attack; diabetic emergency; poisoning; head injuries. Students must attend all sessions to attain a Red Cross Certificate.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Alexander the Great: His World, Empire and Legacy

OLE3609

Aikaterini (Katerina) Kolotourou, BA, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Fridays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, starting 8 May

The short but extraordinary reign of Alexander the Great (336–323 BCE) reshaped the ancient world. In just over a decade, he forged an empire stretching from Greece to India, spreading Greek culture far beyond its original borders. His methods of conquest and administration influenced generations of rulers, and his extraordinary achievements elevated him to near-mythic status. Through the lens of historical texts, inscriptions, artwork and other material remains, we will consider Alexander's personality and achievements, his approach to empire, the characteristics of the world that he created, and his posthumous reputation and elevation to an enduring cultural symbol across the Mediterranean and the Near East.

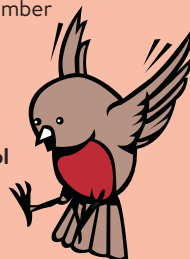
This class will take place on QUB campus

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Even More Horrible Histories for Grown Ups**OLE3494****Robyn Atcheson, BA, MA, PhD****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm starting 7 May**

This brand-new course brings even more history you didn't learn in school. Each week's class will be on a different theme, showcasing a broad range of topics from true crime cases in Victorian society to looking at supernatural beliefs in modern British and Irish history. We will also explore some of history's most disgusting and scandalous occupations and what previous generations loved and loathed to consume. Using real contemporary sources, we will unpick what life was really like - warts and all.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'A most interesting course which I thoroughly enjoyed. The tutor was knowledgeable, well prepared and an excellent communicator.'

Horrible Histories for Grown Ups
Robyn Atcheson

Five Walks Through Belfast's History**OLE3457****Tom Thorpe, BA, MA, PhD, AITG MCIPR****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 6 May**

Join five evening guided walks exploring Belfast's rich and complex history through its buildings and public art. Each tour focuses on a different theme: (1) the people and places of the Linen and Cathedral Quarters; (2) Belfast's maritime past; (3) its medical heritage; (4) the Queen's Quarter's architecture, gardens and public art; and (5) the city's links to slavery and anti-slavery.

These walks offer a general introduction to Belfast's history as seen in its urban environment and are ideal for curious residents with an interest in the city's past.

Led by a local historian with a PhD and a Belfast Green Badge Tour Guide qualification.

For further reading: *Ulster Architectural Heritage Society [UAHS], Central Belfast: A Historical Gazetteer (Belfast: UAHS, 1993)*



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or scan the
QR code above.



Inside Stalin's Mindset - The Multidimensional Facets of Stalin's Life

OLE3477

Angela Hunt, BA, MA, MIR, MCIL

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 6 May

The course will explore the Stalin paradox: a man of steel who, as leader of the Soviet Union from 1929 to 1953, engineered rapid industrialization and led the Soviet Union to victory in World War II, but was also responsible for the deaths of millions through terror, famine and purges. In this way, his undeniable achievements of state power are inextricably linked to almost unprecedented human suffering and a total disregard for individual life and freedom. Finally, the course will also look at Stalin's private life and analyse his relationship with his wife and children.

Investigating an Ancient Greek Sanctuary: Delphi and Divination

OLE3610

Aikaterini (Katerina) Kolotourou, BA, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, starting 5 May

Focusing on the Oracle of Delphi and the Pythia, the course examines the historical, cultural, and spiritual significance of one of history's most influential centres of divination. We will study myths, sacred rituals, and the interpretation of oracular messages, while comparing Delphi's practices with other divination traditions worldwide. We will think about the motivations behind people's oracular consultations, considering psychological and anthropological aspects of the oracular process.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'I think the Open Learning programme is excellent. Any courses that I have undertaken have been well-organised and delivered with enthusiasm, the lecturers being well qualified in their subject area.'

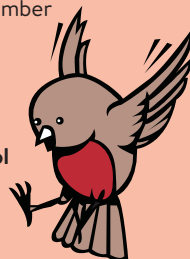
Open Learning student

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Mussolini: The Great Pretender

OLE3463

Samuel Thompson, BA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 5 May

He invented Fascism and sought to create a new Roman Empire but ended up being shot with his corpse put on a macabre display in the centre of Milan. The course looks at how Mussolini came to power, his influence on history and why his dream of Italy becoming a great power failed so miserably.

This class will be offered in hybrid form, i.e. you can attend on QUB campus or online

'I've always enjoyed, and benefited both culturally and in my career, from the adult learning classes I've taken in Queens. It's a great resource to have in the community.'

Open Learning student



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Northern Ireland after Brexit: A Guide for the Perplexed

OLE3622

Katy Hayward, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm, starting 5 May

A decade on from the referendum to leave the EU, the impact of Brexit remains particularly complex for Northern Ireland. This course draws on QUB's leading expertise in European integration, international trade, and border management to explain the causes and effects of these impacts. In particular, it will bring participants up to date in the evolution, implications and implementation of the Windsor Framework (Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland). It will also cover the latest developments in the UK-EU Common Understanding as negotiations continue.

This class will be offered in hybrid form, i.e. you can attend on QUB campus or online

'The complexities and consequences were spelt out clearly; it was such a relief to be presented with corroborated, factual data rather than simplistic slogans and propaganda. I would thoroughly recommend this course.'

Northern Ireland After Brexit, Katy Hayward



Representing Disability from Ancient to Contemporary Culture

OLE3491

Jonathan Paul Mitchell, BA, MA, PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 5 May

This course explores how disability has been represented in different times and places. Today, disability is mostly thought of in scientific and medical terms: something wrong with someone's body or mind, that should be fixed or minimised. It was not always framed this way. This course shows how disability has been portrayed, and how disabled people were treated, in a range of contexts: Ancient Greek drama, Middle Ages superstition, Renaissance painting; freak shows and eugenic propaganda; cinematic portrayals; disability rights and arts movements. It surveys the social contexts to unearth ideas about morality and human value. It also shows how many negative understandings still echo in the present and suggests how to get beyond these.

This class will be offered in hybrid form, i.e. you can attend on QUB campus or online

'I have done many courses in Open Learning and have enjoyed all of them. There are a great variety of subjects from which to choose and the teachers are always very approachable and encourage lively discussion.'

Open Learning student

Something Old, Something New - A Social History of Weddings and Marriage

OLE3495

Robyn Atcheson, BA, MA, PhD

Fee £25.00 (no concession)

Half-day session on Saturday 9 May, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Where do wedding traditions come from? How important are royal weddings when it comes to trend setting? Where did brides get something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue? This workshop takes you through a brief history of weddings and marriage from the Tudors right through to today. It will look at wedding traditions through the centuries and give examples of famous marriages in British and Irish history - the good, the bad and the shocking. Using contemporary sources from all walks of life, this class will lift the veil on how modern weddings and marriages came to be.

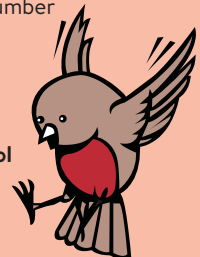
This class will take place on QUB campus

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Suez 1956 - the Canal, the Crisis, the War**OLE3480****Ronnie Hanna, BA, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, starting 5 May**

On 26 July 1956, the Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, thereby sparking the Suez Crisis. At least that is the conventional view. Arguably, Egypt had been on a collision course with the West, especially Great Britain, since the Egyptian Revolution of 1952. And while Egypt and Britain were at the heart of the power struggle that emerged, important roles were also played by France, Israel and the United States (in the case of the latter, especially in bringing the conflict to an end). Seventy years on, Suez continues to fascinate and confound, a milestone in Britain's imperial decline and in terms of the emergence of Arab nationalism.

This class will take place on QUB campus

The Bayeux Tapestry**OLE3466****Steve Flanders, BA, MA, PhD****Fee** £20.00 (no concession)**2 weekly sessions on Fridays 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, starting 8 May**

The Bayeux Tapestry is a beautiful graphic description of Duke William's invasion of Anglo-Saxon England culminating at the battle of Hastings in 1066. And yet it remains an enigma. At over 210 feet long and just 22 inches wide it is unique amongst the surviving artifacts of the 11th century. How was it made, how was it displayed, and what was its purpose? In September 2026 the Bayeux Tapestry goes on display at the British Museum in London providing a great opportunity to view this remarkable survivor. This two-part course aims to introduce you to this wonderful work and to suggest a new interpretation of its role in winning hearts and minds in England in the years immediately after the Norman Conquest.

This is a live online course

'As ever the course from Steve Flanders is was excellent. Steve was approachable, knowledgeable and presents the course with enthusiasm and good humour.'

The Norman Invasion of Ireland
Steve Flanders



Two ways to access the
Open Learning website.
Either type in www.qub.ac.uk/ol
or scan the
QR code above.



The Belfast Workhouse in the Nineteenth Century

OLE3492

Robyn Atcheson, BA, MA, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 5 May

This course covers the history of one of Belfast's most important institutions and the most feared destination for the working classes - the workhouse. We will track the introduction of the workhouse and its story over the nineteenth century, looking at the people who lived and worked there as well as scandals from within the walls. The role of the workhouse in providing healthcare will be studied, bringing its history into the twentieth century and its transfer to the new National Health Service. We will also look at why the history of the workhouse is experiencing a revival and what new developments are unfolding.

This class will take place on QUB campus

The Language of Resistance: Discovering Minority and Indigenous Voices

OLE3454

Cecilia Gialdini, PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 2.00 pm, 3.30 pm, starting 12 May

Through a series of case studies, the course explores the language and cultural activism of various linguistic minorities and indigenous groups, i.e. the Quechua people in Peru, the South Tyroleans in Italy, the Basque peoples in Spain, the Māori in New Zealand. In each class, the instructor will present one or more cultural artefacts from these communities (a song, a passage from a novel, a poem, a movie clip) showing how people use their languages to preserve and celebrate their identities. From there, the class will examine each community's historical background and the current status of their language and cultural rights in the country. By listening to their voices, students will have also engage with broader socio-political debates.

These classes will take place on QUB campus

'Open Learning courses is vital for my mental well-being, keeping me challenged, alert and outward-looking as well as offering congenial social contact.'

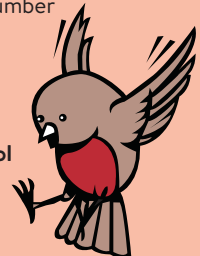
Open Learning student

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Ukrainian - Russian War in Context**OLE3476****Angela Hunt, BA, MA, MIR, MCIL****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 7 May**

Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022 has sparked the largest military conflict in Europe since the Second World War. Ten of thousands of People have lost their lives and millions have been forced to flee their home. Understanding the context, causes and consequences of Russia's attack is central to this course: Why did Russia launch a large-scale invasion of Ukraine? What are Moscow's objectives and motivations? How has Russia's invasion affected the willingness of Ukrainians to resist and fight? What are the war's implications for the wider European security order?

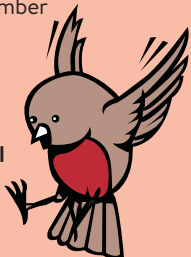
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**Ulster's Victorian Railways****OLE3467****Steve Flanders, BA, MA, PhD****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, starting 6 May**

Ten years after the opening of the first passenger railway in the world between Stockton and Darlington in the north-east of England in 1825, plans for opening Ulster's first railway were established leading to the first trains between Belfast and Lisburn just four years later. This course follows the development of railways across Ulster in the 19th century, the public experience of train travel and the revolution in commercial and social relations it brought about. We'll look at all the key railway companies and the ways in which they changed so many aspects of daily life in the first century of this revolutionary technology.

This is a live online course

See also:

'How do we Live Together in a World of Difference?' by Robin Wilson (Page 14)

'Our Climate and Ecological Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Solutions' by John Barry (Page 19)

Opening up the Map: Exploring Townlands, Place-Names & Landscapes as Cultural Heritage by Frances Kane (Page 14)





Full fat extremely soft cheese
developing a mild brie like taste

PAVE D'AFFINOIS
PASTEURISED
COW'S MILK

PRODUCT OF THE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES REGION, FRANCE

PRODUCT OF THE AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES REGION, FRANCE

PAVE D'AFFINOIS
PASTEURISED
COW'S MILK

STRENGTH NO3 PROFILE

Full fat extremely soft
cheese, developing a
mild brie like taste

FROM THE PILAT REGIONAL NATURE PARK

EXPERTLY SOURCED
MARKS & SPACES

MEZEKIST
TAHINI

with Tahini
from the
Middle East

UNPASTEURISED

Decorative bowl containing tomatoes and leafy greens.

French: Lower Intermediate/Intermediate**OLE3600****Julie Juret, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Mondays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 11 May**

This course is designed for students who have good basic understanding of the language OR for those who attended the Open Learning Lower Intermediate course and wish to reach the Intermediate level. Conducted by a native French speaker and teacher in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, this course will cover all language skills with an emphasis on oral language.

This class will take place on QUB campus

French Conversation Club, Intermediate**OLE3597****Hélène Guillet, MA, Maîtrise de Français Langue Étrangère****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 6 May**

This course of five classes will focus on oral skills and help students develop their vocabulary and their confidence when speaking French. After the first class, each session will focus on a theme chosen by the students and will consist of activities tailored to improve communication in a relaxed atmosphere. Suitable for those with an intermediate level of French.

This class will take place on QUB campus

French: False Beginners/Upper Beginners'**OLE3602****Julie Juret, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 7 May**

This course is designed for students who attended the Open Learning False Beginners' 20-week course but also for those who would like to refresh previous basic knowledge of the language. This course will give the students a sound knowledge of the basics of the language so that they will be able to communicate simply and effectively in everyday situations, and in particular, for travel and holidays. All language skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary) will be practised, with an emphasis on oral language.

This class will take place on QUB campus

French: Intermediate to Advanced**OLE3601****Julie Juret, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 7 May**

This course is designed for students who have a good command of spoken and written language. The emphasis in class will be on the conversation, based on topic discussion, current affairs, arts and culture, French society. There will be plenty of opportunities and activities to cover other aspects of the language, such as reading, grammar, vocabulary building, listening.

This class will take place on QUB campus



French through Creative Writing**OLE3628****Alice Hagopian, BA, MLit****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm, starting 6 May**

Unlock the beauty of the French language through creative writing! This course combines language learning with creative expression, helping students improve their French in an enjoyable and meaningful way. Participants will enrich their vocabulary, refine their grammar, enhance their language skills, and build their confidence. We will practice storytelling, translation, argumentation, poetry, writing from images or memories, and other creative exercises. Learners of all levels are welcome, from post-beginners to advanced speakers, with plenty of opportunities for everyone to develop their language skills in a supportive and collaborative environment.

This class will take place on QUB campus

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Be an early bird and enrol well in advance

Holiday German**OLE3606****Eva Dalton, BA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm starting 5 May**

Planning to travel to a German-speaking country and want to learn a few phrases and words? Or would you just love to learn a bit of German in a friendly and relaxed language class setting? Maybe you have connections to German-speaking family and friends? Holiday German is offering an introduction into German and offers some useful insights and tips regarding the variety of cultural experiences for a trip to continental Europe.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Let's Speak German**OLE3607****Eva Dalton, BA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 6 May**

This course is suitable for students who attended German: Beginners' (20 weeks) or Lower Intermediate classes and who would like to develop their speaking and listening skills in order to improve fluency and confidence.

This class will take place on QUB campus



German Language Club**OLE3626****Mechthild Baxter, BA, PGCE**

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, starting 5 May

This course is designed for students who have completed the Autumn/New Year Language Club and for students who have a good knowledge of German. We will talk about and discuss topical material (supplied) in a relaxed and stimulating environment. This course covers Intermediate and Advanced level. New students are very welcome.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Holiday Italian

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions**Group 1** **OLE3624****Federica Ferrieri, BA, PhD****Fridays 10.00 to 12.00 noon, starting 8 May****Group 2** **OLE3455****Daniela Morroi, BA, MA, PGCE****Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 5 May**

Whether you are travelling to Italy for pleasure or business, this is the right class for you! You will be learning basic sentences for different contexts, from directions to food and drinks, means of transport and greetings. You will also learn something about Italian culture and customs.

These classes will take place on QUB campus

Italian Beginners, Continuation

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions**Group 1** **OLE3603****Giada Mangiardi, BA, MA****Thursday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, starting 7 May****Group 2** **OLE3456****Daniela Morroi, BA, MA, PGCE****Thursdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 7 May**

This course is designed for students who have completed the 20-week Italian Beginners programme and wish to continue their learning journey. The aim is to build confidence and improve communication skills through practical, real-life Italian. Lessons include a variety of interactive activities, short dialogues, listening practice and opportunities to speak in a supportive environment. You will also enjoy cultural insights that make the language come alive and deepen your connection with Italy.

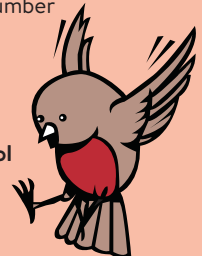
These classes will take place on QUB campus

Early Bird . . .

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So please help us to help you!

Be an early bird and enrol well in advance!



Italian: Let's Speak More Italian**OLE0384****Maura Favretto**, Laurea in Lingue, PGCE**Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, starting 5 May**

This course is suitable for students who have a good basic knowledge of the language. The aim of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop conversational skills. Priority will be given to oral, reading and comprehension activities.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Italian: Lower Intermediate, Continuation**OLE3604****Giada Mangiardi**, BA, MA**Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm, starting 7 May**

This course is intended for students who have completed the 20-week Beginners programme and wish to continue developing their Italian. You will reinforce the structures you already know and build greater confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course focuses on practical communication for everyday situations, expanding vocabulary and improving accuracy in the present and past tenses. Interactive activities, pair and group work, and guided conversation will help you speak more naturally and understand Italian with more ease. You will also explore aspects of Italian culture to make the learning experience richer and more enjoyable.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Italian: Intermediate Continuation**OLE3605****Giada Mangiardi**, BA, MA**Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm, starting 6 May**

This course is designed for students who have already completed an Intermediate module and wish to continue developing their Italian skills with greater confidence. The focus is on strengthening communication in everyday interactions, expanding vocabulary, and refining the use of key language structures already encountered in previous levels. Students will practise speaking, listening, reading, and writing through real-life tasks, short texts, guided conversation, and cultural activities. We will revise and consolidate essential grammar and gradually introduce more complex patterns to improve accuracy and fluency. The course encourages active participation, collaboration, and regular practice in a supportive environment.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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Either type in www.qub.ac.uk/ol
or scan the QR code above.



Italian Intermediate Vocabulary Accelerator Part 2

OLE3468

Stefania Faraone, BA, PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions on Mondays 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, starting 11 May

Designed for pre-intermediate to intermediate students, "Vocabulary Accelerator Part 2" is your gateway to expanding your Italian vocabulary and boosting confidence in everyday communication. This dynamic and fun-packed course is a continuation of Part 1 and focuses on enriching your vocabulary through interactive methods, pronunciation and listening exercises and thematic vocabulary lessons covering travel, dining, daily life and much more.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Italian: Upper Intermediate and Beyond

OLE3474

Maura Favretto, Laurea in Lingue, PGCE

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 5 May

This course is suitable for students who have a very good command of the written and spoken language. The emphasis in class will be reading and oral work. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussions and activities to revise the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing at this level.

This class will take place on QUB campus

The Arts and Crafts of the Serenissima

Federica Ferrieri, BA PhD

Fee £37.50 (concession rate £30.00)

5 weekly sessions

Lower Intermediate **OLE3451**

Wednesdays 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, starting 6 May

Intermediate and Upper Intermediate **OLE3452**

Wednesdays 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 6 May

Step into 18th-century Venice like never before in this interactive Italian course. Through riddles, quizzes, and roleplay, we'll explore historical engravings that reveal the city's lesser-known trades – from humble yet creative crafts to the everyday lives of Venetian artisans. Immerse yourself in the Venice of the 1700s, from food and dialect to festivals and much more, while learning Italian in a fun, hands-on way.

Please, note that the contents of the two classes are the same, but some activities and the language used in class are graded based on the level.

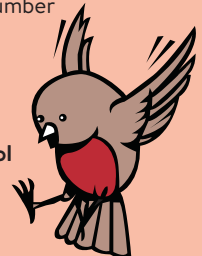
These classes will take place on QUB campus

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Holiday Spanish**OLE3460****Carolina Montané Franco, BA, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 5 May**

A five week intensive course to quickly acquire a basic knowledge of the Spanish language. Boost your confidence abroad when introducing and talking about yourself, eating out, shopping, and asking for directions. An appetiser as well for those considering taking a more substantial course in the future.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Spanish: Lower Intermediate Continuation**OLE3599****Silvia Lamela, BA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm, starting 6 May**

This course is for those students who attended the 20-week Spanish lower intermediate this year or in the past and they want to continue to improve their communication skills in Spanish.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Spanish: Beginner's Continuation**OLE3598****Silvia Lamela, BA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 6 May**

This course is suitable for students who attended Spanish Beginners 20-week course or have a basic knowledge of the language and would like to improve fluency and confidence in speaking and listening.

This class will take place on QUB campus

A Taste of Spain, Intermediate**OLE3461****Carolina Montané Franco, BA, MA****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 6 May**

A 5-week intermediate Spanish course designed to explore Hispanic culture through its cities, traditions, food, music, and fun curiosities. We will practice real, natural conversation, expand useful travel vocabulary, and learn everyday expressions. Perfect for learners who want to continue improving their Spanish while discovering the Spanish-speaking world in a practical, engaging, and enjoyable way.

This class will take place on QUB campus



Spanish: Dust off your Spanish - Lower Intermediate

OLE3462

Carolina Montané Franco, BA, MA

Fee £40.00 (concession rate £32.00)

4 weekly sessions on Mondays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 11 May

A friendly and practical Spanish review course for post-beginner learners who want to refresh what they already know and feel more confident speaking. Across four sessions of 2 hours each, we will revisit essential grammar points, useful travel vocabulary, and common everyday expressions. Through guided conversation, mini-dialogues, and interactive activities, you'll strengthen your ability to communicate in real-life situations—whether you're preparing for travel, returning to Spanish after a break, or simply wanting to feel more comfortable and confident using the language again.

Ideal for learners who have studied Spanish before and want a clear, enjoyable refresher to reactivate their skills!

This class will take place on QUB campus

'I have been taught by excellent teachers - they have thoroughly prepared their lessons, shared insights into their native region, inspired the students and shown patience. I have also met wonderful fellow learners.'

Italian language student

Spanish: Grammar Clinic

OLE3614

Sol Martin, BA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm, starting 7 May

A 5-week course, to tackle the usual suspects: Por or para, ser or estar, indicativo or subjuntivo, pasado simple or imperfecto? Whether you are at a basic level, or you have been learning Spanish for a long time and want to brush up on these often-confusing topics, come along and join us. We'll work together for an intense analysis of their differences and the opportunity to put these tricky pairs into practice. Lessons will take place in a relaxed atmosphere that will encourage conversation through communicative activities as well as in-depth grammar work. Required basic level: Pre-Intermediate/A2

This class will take place on QUB campus



Two ways to access the
Open Learning website.
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QR code above.



Spanish: Upper Intermediate Continuation**OLE3613****Sol Martin, BA**

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 6 May

A weekly get together for students to practise oral skills in a relaxed and fun setting. The emphasis will be on communication, but there will also be plenty of opportunities to examine and revise grammatical queries.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Advanced Intermediate Spanish Continuation**OLE3627****Ann Buxade Del Tronco, BA, PGCE**

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Mondays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 11 May

Using a variety of Spanish and Latin American themes, we will continue to develop and perfect the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will be able to build confidence using your grammar and vocabulary more fluently, enjoying your Spanish in the process.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Reading and Commenting: Spanish Short Stories (Upper Intermediate/Advanced)**OLE3615****Sol Martin, BA**

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Saturdays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 9 May

Join us for five mornings of enjoying Short Stories in Spanish. During the five weeks of this course, you will be assigned a set of five texts by different authors from Latin America and Spain. At each morning meeting we will share our impressions and interpretations of the stories, we'll look in detail to their historical, cultural and geographical background and get an opportunity to brush up on a variety of oral skills: commenting, arguing, narrating and analysing.

Bring your coffee/tea mug!

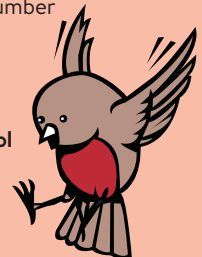
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Contracting and Expanding: The Rise of the Consumer

OLE3486

Laura Hill, LLB (Hons); Post Grad Diploma; Certificate Professional Legal Studies

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Mondays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 11 May

This relaxed course will look at the historical, social, economic and legal issues that have given us the status of "consumer". How did our ancestors buy the things they needed then the things they wanted? We will consider the effects of industrialisation, mass-production, changing culture and increased regulation. We will look briefly at what the law says about contracts, misrepresentation, negligence, advertising and our rights in the 21st century.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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QR code above.

Golf for Beginners/Improvers**Wesley Ramsay, Qualified Instructor**

Fee £85.00 (no concession)

5 weekly sessions starting Tuesday 5 May

Venue: Aberdelghy Golf Course
(1 Bells Ln, Lambeg Rd, Lambeg,
Lisburn BT27 4QH)

Golf for Beginners, Course A OLE0457**Tuesdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am, starting 5 May****Golf for Beginners, Group B** OLE0458**Tuesdays 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm, starting 5 May****Golf for Improvers** OLE0461**Tuesdays 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm, starting 5 May**

This competitively priced course is designed for all standards of golfers – male and female, beginner and low handicap player. It will take place one day per week over a 5-week period and will cover all aspects of the game from the very basics to the interpretation of all the rules. You learn under the supervision of an accredited PGA gold coach with over 20 years' experience who will provide you with an individual programme that is designed to maximize your golf potential (There will be a small additional charge at venue for use of golf balls).



Sampling New Irish Poetry

OLE3625

Maureen Boyle, MA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 7 May

In this course we will read poems from 5 newly published or soon-to-be-published Irish poetry collections. In each case we'll look at the context of the poet -as in previous work if already published and background if a debut poet. I will give the names of the poets/ collections to be looked at just before we start, in order to be right up to date, in case people want to buy the books but photocopies of individual poems will be provided. An interest in contemporary poetry is all that is required and we will hopefully be able to attend some readings/launches of the studied work together during the course!

This class will take place on QUB campus

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The Blackbird Bookclub

OLE3465

Tess Maginess, BA, MA, PhD, PFHEA, and panel

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Mondays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 11 May

The Blackbird Bookclub continues to celebrate classical and contemporary literature. New students very welcome.

11 May	David Park, <i>Ghost Wedding</i>	David Park
18 May	Seamus Heaney Collected Poems (2025)	Tess Maginess
25 May	Margaret Drabble, 'Hassan's Tower' in <i>A Day in the Life of a Smiling Woman</i> (short stories)	Louise McIvor
1 June	Benjamin Labatut, <i>When We Cease to Understand the World</i>	Eamonn Hughes
8 June	Wendy Erskine, <i>The Benefactors</i>	Wendy Erskine (TBC)

Dates and speakers correct at time of going to press

This class will take place on QUB campus



World Literature: Global Voices, Continuation

OLE3483

Tess Maginess, BA, MA, PhD, PFHEA, and panel

Fee £30.00 (concession rate £24.00)

4 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm, starting 6 May

6 May	Edith Wharton, <i>The Age of Innocence</i>	Linda McKeown
13 May	Selections from The Poems of Seamus Heaney (2025)	Tess Maginess
20 May	William Maxwell, <i>So Long, See you Tomorrow</i>	Eamonn Hughes
27 May	Kiran Desai, <i>The Loneliness of Sonia and Sonny</i>	Tess Maginess

Dates and speakers correct at time of going to press

This class will take place on QUB campus

Writing Women: A Journey through Contemporary Women’s Fiction Part 3

OLE3472

Louise McIvor, BA, FHEA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 5 May

This course will discuss and explore the work of popular contemporary women writers. The texts we are hoping to cover will include:

1. Elizabeth Bowen: ‘*The Demon Lover*’ (short story) (in *The Long Gaze Back* ed Sinéad Gleeson)
2. Eve Chase: *The Midnight Hour*
3. Megan Hunter: *Days of Light*
4. Éilís Ní Dhuibhne: ‘*The Coast of Wales*’ (in *The Long Gaze Back* ed Sinéad Gleeson)

This class will take place on QUB campus

See also:

‘Examining Climate Change Through the Lens of Literature’ by Matthew Munro (Page 17)



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‘In almost 50 years of attending courses I have only been disappointed once - and that was 10 years ago!’

Open Learning [long-standing and well-educated!] student



Playing Shakespeare**OLE3473****Rosie Pelan, BA, MA, PGCE****Fee** £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)**5 weekly sessions on Mondays 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, starting 11 May**

New and returning students are very welcome to this accessible, relaxed course. During the course you will develop the script analysis skills necessary to understanding and performing a range of Shakespearean texts, supplied by the tutor. You will enhance your understanding of prose and verse forms and gain confidence in approaching Shakespeare from the actor's perspective. Rosie is a classically trained actor and taught on the QUB Drama degree for ten years. Come, perform, enjoy!

Textbook: *Shakespeare's Sonnets*, (Any Edition).

This class will take place on QUB campus

Antonin Dvorak, A Czech Master**OLE3469****Alec Macdonald, BMus****Fee** £25.00 (concession rate £20.00)**5 weekly sessions on Fridays 11.00 am to 12.00 noon, starting 8 May**

Dvorak composed one of the best-loved symphonies from the second half of the nineteenth century ('From The New World'); a number of his other works would also be familiar to many listeners. But much of his large output - including nine symphonies, three concertos and a number of other orchestral works (among them a series of fascinating symphonic poems), fourteen string quartets and other chamber works, piano pieces, choral music and songs, and no fewer than eleven operas, is little-known (in this country, at least). In this short course we will be exploring both familiar and unfamiliar (but always tuneful!) works by this Czech master.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'My participation in Rosie Pelan's Open Learning Practical Drama led directly to my ongoing role plays ... & other acting opportunities too.... QUB Open Learning most unexpectedly opened a very pleasurable ongoing door for me!'

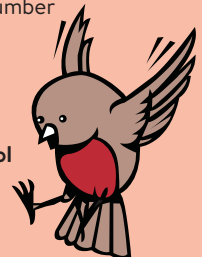
Open Learning student

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Discovering Your Colour and Style

OLE3623

Maureen Hurdall, BA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

**One-day workshop on Saturday 16 May,
10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Colour Me Beautiful started the Colour Analysis Revolution back in the eighties. It has undergone many iterations since then. Basically, people are divided into colour types, according to their hair, eye and skin and are given recommended colours to wear. Similarly, everyone tends towards their own personal style. Together in the course, we will identify this, as well as your correct colours. The course is for both men and women and will not cover make-up.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Living and Working Well Together with Differences

OLE3493

Emily Byers-Ferrian, BA, MA

Shannon Keeny, BA, MA

Fee £100.00 (concession rate £80.00)

**A 2-day workshop on Friday 22 May and
Saturday 23 May, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Two heads are better than one. Many hands make light work. A problem shared is a problem halved. These phrases show our collective understanding that strength is found in collaboration with others. However, living and working well together when we encounter differences is not easy. This workshop is for anyone who has ever thought there must be a better way to relate and create with others amidst differences – whether those be at home, at work or within the community. Participants will co-create community while engaging with reflection prompts, exploring tools and practicing skills for responding well to differences of any kind. They will leave with fresh ideas for constructively responding to a difference currently faced in their lives.

This class will take place on QUB campus

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‘Since I retired I have found the Open Learning courses a life line through winter and to keep me mentally alert. It’s an essential service.’

Open Learning student



Making Sense of Healthy Eating: A New Paradigm

OLE3475

Janice McConnell, PhD

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

One-day workshop on Saturday 30 May, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

In the current climate where there is so much confusion around the concept of healthy eating, this workshop cuts through the complexity to bring a clear understanding of healthy eating in practice, and the evidence supporting it. Content includes: Why healthy eating is important, current dietary trends, health and healthy eating, diet timeline, world's healthiest diets, evidence for new paradigm, and healthy eating in practice.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

OLE3484

Frank Liddy, CSCT Adv Dip Counselling

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Thursdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 7 May

This is a 5-week educational course to teach participants Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction. The course has been developed using the model of Jon Kabat-Zinn, PhD, of the University of Massachusetts. It has been known for centuries in the meditative tradition that the sustained practice of mindfulness meditation can have profoundly healing and transformative effects in one's life. Mindfulness is an awareness that arises as one pays attention on purpose in a particular way to on-going inner and outer, present-moment experience.

This class will take place on QUB campus

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (one-day workshop)

OLE3485

Frank Liddy, CSCT Adv Dip Counselling

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

One-day workshop on Saturday 9 May, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

This one-day workshop is dedicated to deepening, refining and renewing your mindfulness practice in the serene surroundings of Queen's University. It offers the student to reconnect with the principles of MBSR, explore new techniques and enjoy the shared energy and insight of fellow practitioners. In this supportive environment, guided by the experienced mindfulness teacher, Frank Liddy, we will explore practices that cultivate presence, resilience, and well-being. Whether you are looking to deepen your practice or simply reconnect, this day provides a unique opportunity to expand your mindfulness journey with like-minded individuals. This course is aimed primarily at students who have attended a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course and those who already have an established mindfulness practice.

This class will take place on QUB campus



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Reimagining Life Compassionately

OLE3487

Lisa Warmington, BA

Fee £75.00 (concession rate £60.00)

5 weekly sessions on Friday 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, starting 8 May

This course provides an opportunity for individuals to explore themselves with fresh perspectives and compassion enquiry. We will discover how we "create our worlds". We will explore deep listening to ourselves and others. We will become aware of our past and see when it may get in the way of our present and future. We will see how to take agency for ourselves when we feel triggered. We will explore our authenticity. We will learn how to connect to and feel safe experiencing our emotions. We will explore exercises to help regulate our automatic nervous system. We will see how to integrate and heal.

This class will take place on QUB campus

See also:

'How do we Live Together in a World of Difference', by Robin Wilson (Page 14)

'I found this course very rewarding in terms of moving forward in a very positive way in my life. It's been one of the best courses I have ever attended.'

*Reimagining Life Compassionately
Lisa Warmington*

The Mini Habit Mindset

OLE3496

David Tierney, BA, MA

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

One-day workshop on Saturday 23 May, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

"All big things come from small beginnings. The seed of every habit is a single, tiny decision."
(James Clear, *Atomic Habits*).

This course introduces the mini habit mindset - an incredible blueprint to achieve both big and small goals using extremely practical and easy methods and steps. With examples from the best-selling books by Charles Duhigg, James Clear, BJ Fogg, and Stephen Guise it discusses how small, insignificant shifts in behaviour can lead to lasting and impactful change. This can help make your goals feel less risky, require less commitment and consume less will power. The course introduces proven techniques and strategies from neuroscience which you can use to take consistent action towards your goals.

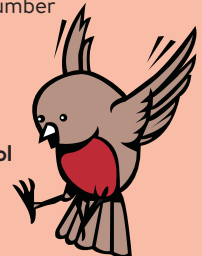
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Star Gazing: The Night Sky

OLE3478

Colin Johnston, BSc

Fee £50.00 (concession rate £40.00)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, starting 6 May

This short course is aimed at complete beginners who want to know more about the wonders of the night sky. No prior knowledge or equipment is required. The course takes a season by season look at the stars in their constellations and the stories and myths behind them. We will look at how to spot satellites and planets too. If you want to discover the amazing objects we can all, see at night, this is the course for you.

This class will take place on QUB campus

'Very interesting and painlessly educational!'

Open Learning student

Cookstown

Native Trees: Identifying Their Role and Importance in Society

OLE3621

Roy Nelson, PhD

Fee £30.00 (concession rate £24.00)

3 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm, starting 6 May in Cookstown Library, 13 Burn Road, Cookstown, Tyrone, BT80 8DJ

Ireland's native trees are vital to our lives, supporting biodiversity, enriching landscapes, and connecting us to nature. This course explores the evolution of Ireland's tree cover, focusing on species like oak, ash, yew, birch, and willow. We will uncover the history of these trees, their influence on Irish society, and their role in myths and legends. You will learn about the importance of trees in woodland ecosystems, supporting plants, birds, and wildlife. The course also covers practical strategies for creating, protecting, and enhancing woodlands, ensuring these vital environments thrive for future generations.



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One-Day courses and Half-Day courses

Friday 8 May

Starting to Write

For further details, see page 13

Friday 8 May

2tonnes: Your Choices, Our Future – A 2050
Carbon Footprint Challenge

For further details, see page 16

Saturday 9 May

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (one-day
workshop)

For further details, see page 43

Saturday 9 May

Rewilding: Breathing New Life into
Conservation

For further details, see page 19

Saturday 9 May

Something Old, Something New – A Social
History of Weddings and Marriage

For further details, see page 25

Saturday 16 May

Discovering Your Colour and Style

For further details, see page 42

Friday 22 May

Opening up the Map: Exploring Townlands,
Place-Names & Landscapes as Cultural
Heritage

For further details, see page 14

Saturday 23 May

The Mini Habit Mindset

For further details, see page 44

Saturday 23 May

The Impact of Climate Change on the
Migration and Distribution of Flora and Fauna

For further details, see page 20

Saturday 30 May

Making Sense of Healthy Eating: A New
Paradigm

For further details, see page 43

Saturday 6 June

How to Write for Profit and Pleasure

For further details, see page 12



Courses outside Belfast

Native Trees: Identifying Their Role and Importance in Society (Cookstown Library)

Wednesday 3-5 pm, starting 6 May

[For further details, see page 18](#)

Courses available online

The Bayeux Tapestry

2 weekly sessions on Fridays 10-12 noon,
starting 8 May

[For further details, see page 26](#)

How do we live together in a World of Difference (Hybrid)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7-8.30 pm,
starting 6 May

[For further details, see page 14](#)

Mussolini, The Great Pretender (Hybrid)

5 weekly sessions on Tuesdays 7-9 pm,
starting 5 May

[For further details, see page 24](#)

Northern Ireland after Brexit: A Guide for the Perplexed (Hybrid)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 12-2 pm,
starting 6 May

[For further details, see page 24](#)

Our Climate and Ecological Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Solutions

5 weekly sessions on Saturdays 10.00 am,
1.00 pm, starting 9 May

[For further details, see page 19](#)

Representing Disability from Ancient to Contemporary Culture (Hybrid)

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 7-8.30 pm,
starting 6 May

[For further details, see page 25](#)

Ulster's Victorian Railways

5 weekly sessions on Wednesdays 10-12 noon,
starting 6 May

[For further details, see page 28](#)



