



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMH
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

1BA Law *Student Guide*

2023 - 2024



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1. Contact Us

Law specific queries: Please contact your Class Advisor and 1st BA Law co-ordinator, Ursula Connolly at the School of Law at Ursula.connolly@universityofgalway.ie or the School of Law office at law@universityofgalway.ie

BA Queries: Please contact your first year BA Co-ordinator Catherine McCurry at the College of Arts at collegearts@universityofgalway.ie

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2. Law in the BA

Welcome to Law in the BA. We are delighted that you have decided to join us. This guide will talk you through what your subject will look like in first year, what modules you will study and with who, how you will be assessed, and some other useful information such as how you pass 1st BA, how you qualify for 2nd BA Law, and who you contact if you need advice or more information.

This guide is intended for 1BA Joint-Honours students, 1st BA Denominated (three subjects), 1st BA Connect and BA Government students.

3. What can I expect?

You've made it – well done! You will no doubt find it all quite daunting and confusing in the beginning. Don't panic, that is completely normal. In fact, most students spend at least 6 weeks in a state of confusion as to what they should be doing, and trying to figure out what third level education is all about. We are here to help you, so get in touch anytime if it all feels a bit overwhelming. You will hear a lot of this: “here is the reading”, “see what you find interesting”, “make your own notes” and much less of “here is what you have to learn”. It is a world away from secondary school education and takes some time to get used to. We have put in place a number of resources to help, in particular CÉIM (see section 9). These sessions will start in Week 3 and will help you to navigate third level. Information on CÉIM is available at [Your Space](#). You should also check Canvas regularly, most of the information you need to study your modules will be here. You should also check your University email regularly. They all work with your same login details but you will have to register first.

4. What do I Study in First Year Law?

Please see below under your specific programme for details as to the modules you will study.

- **Law for BA (JOINT HONOURS) or Denominated (with 3 subjects) and BA Government**

If you choose the subject Law you are automatically registered for **three modules**: Irish Legal System (5 ECTS), Tort Law (10 ECTS), and Legal Skills (5 ECTS). Once you register for Law you will see these modules appear when you log into your Canvas account. Your year is broken up into two semesters and will look like this:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Irish Legal System	Legal Skills
Tort Law	Tort Law
+	+
Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings	Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings

- **Law for BA CONNECT students**

If you chose to register for the subject Law, you are automatically registered for **two modules**: Irish Legal Systems (5 ECTS) and Tort Law (10 ECTS). You will see these appear when you log into your Canvas account. Your year will look like this:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Irish Legal System Tort Law	Tort Law
+	+
Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings	Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings

What's an ECTS? ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) refers to the weighting of an individual module and represents the amount of effort it takes. 1 ECTS equates to about 20 hours of work or effort. So, a 5 ECTS module takes about 100 hours effort. You'll see more about this on your module course outlines. The total number of ECTS in any year is 60 divided equally between your subjects.

5. How are the lectures delivered?

You attend two hours of lectures per week for each of your modules. They will take place in lecture theatres on campus. You can see the timetable below for semester 1. Please note that the times and days change slightly in semester 2. You can access your timetable [here](#). If you cannot attend lectures for any reason please get in touch with the relevant lecturer (see details below).

(Please note that there was a change to the timetable in Week 3 which is now reflected in the timetable below)

Time	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
9.00 – 10.00		LW103.I Irish Legal Systems Sem 1 (AMB 1021 O'hEocha Th)	
3.00 – 4.00		LW103.i Irish Legal System Sem 1 (AMB 1021 O'hEocha Th)	
4.00 – 5.00	LW3109 Tort Law Sem 1 (IT250)	Sem 1 CÉIM sessions (from Week 3) See YourSpace for your group and room.	LW3109 Tort Sem 1 (AMB - 1022 Fottrell Theatre)

6. Law Modules in 1BA Law

This section provides an overview of the modules taken in first BA Law. Full details, including module outlines, will be available on Canvas.

Module name: Irish Legal System Semester 1 | Credits: 5

Programmes: BA (Joint Honours) in Law, BA Government, and BA Connect

Module overview:

This module introduces students to the fundamentals of the Irish legal system and provides a foundation for the subsequent study of substantive law module. The module explains how the Irish legal system works as a common law system, the distinction between criminal and civil law, the role of judges, solicitors and barristers, the sources of law in Ireland, how laws are made, how laws are affected by political and societal influences, and the status and application of European Union Law and International Law.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module:

1. Students should be well versed in the sources of Irish law.
2. Students should be familiar with basic legal terminology.
3. Students should be familiar with the Irish court structure.
4. Students should be aware of the impact that international law and EU law have on the Irish legal system.
5. Capable of developing their abilities in the effective use of the primary sources of law.

Module delivery

Delivery will take the form of 2 hours of lectures per week every week for ten weeks. There won't be any tutorials in this module.

Irish Legal System Assessment:

What?	What is it worth?	When it is take place?
Two-hour written exam	100%	Examination period: Mon 4th Dec – Fri 15th Dec. The exams timetable is generally available from early November.

Communication with the Irish Legal System lecturer



The lecturer for this module is Dr Charles O'Mahony.

You can arrange to meet Charles by booking an appointment. He can be contacted by email at: charles.omahony@universityofgalway.ie

Further details will be available on the Canvas Irish Legal System module.

Tort Law Semester 1 and Semester 2 | Credits: 10

BA (Joint Honours) in Law, BA Denominated (3 subjects) and BA Connect

Module Overview:

This module provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the statutory and judge-made principles which permit recovery for recognised Torts (civil wrongs). The module focuses on the most common torts and requires students to become proficient in the key principles and their application, develop an understanding of the legal and societal context in which the torts are litigated, and adopt a critical approach to the application of the principles. The primary focus is on the law of torts in Ireland, however frequent reference will be made to other common law jurisdictions where many of the legal principles governing this area have

been developed.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate a firm understanding of the fundamental principles governing Irish Tort Law.
2. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of a number of selected torts.
3. Apply the principles of Tort Law to factual situations.
4. Understand the legal and societal context in which tort litigation arises.
5. Think critically in relation to the material covered.

Module delivery

Delivery includes lectures and tutorials.

Lectures: two one-hour lectures weekly.

Tutorials: from Week 5 (the week of October 16th) students are expected to attend one, hour-long tutorial, once every two weeks. Tutorials are small group sessions where students are divided into groups of 20 or so and work with a tutor on some aspect of the module. In Tort Law, tutorials are used to teach students the skills required to apply the law to factual situations. Further details and details on how to register will be provided in class and on Canvas from Week 2.

Assessments: further details will be available on the Tort Law Canvas module

What?	What is it worth?	When it is due?
Two-hour written exam	85%	End of semester 2 (examination period runs from 15 th April to the 1 st May. Specific examination dates will be released in advance)
Multiple-Choice Test	15%	3pm Wed November 15th during lecture time.

Communication with the lecturers



There are two lecturers for this module:

1. **Semester 1:** Ursula Connolly, who is also the Class Advisor and Subject Coordinator for 1st BA Law, will deliver the module in semester 1. She can be contacted by email at: Ursula.connolly@nuigalway.ie



2. **Semester 2:** Colleen Brownlee will deliver the module. She can be contacted at colleen.brownlee@universityofgalway.ie

The lecturers will hold online office hours and will have a Discussion Board here students can post questions or comments. Further details will be available on Canvas.

Legal Skills Semester 2 | Credits: 5

BA (Joint Honours) in Law Module

(Please note that BA Connect students **do not** take this module)

Module Overview

The purpose of this module is to introduce you to some of the practical research and writing skills that you will need to successfully complete your degree in law. These skills will also be essential in pursuing a career in legal practice, legal research or other employment requiring a graduate with a law degree.

Learning Outcomes

1. Be able to read and analyse primary and secondary legal sources of law.
2. Learn how to provide a legal citation for cases.
3. Be able to cite and correct reference legal sources.
4. Develop writing skills.
5. Develop oratory skills and improve your ability to express yourself orally.
6. Have an enhanced capacity for reflective thought.

Assessments: further details will be available on the Legal Skills module Canvas page

What?	What is it worth?	When it is due?
Elements provisional and subject to change		Dates provisional and subject to change
Research and Citation Assignment	30%	TBA (to be announced)
Legal Submissions on a case	70%	TBA

Communication with the lecturer



The lecturer for this module is Larry Donnelly. He can be contacted in semester 2 by email at: larry.donnelly@universityofgalway.ie

Larry will also hold online office hours and will have a Discussion Board for Legal Skills where students can post questions or comments. Further details will be available on the Canvas Legal Skills module in semester 2.

7. Are Places on the BA Law Limited?

7.1 BA Law students other than BA Government students:

There is no limit on places in 1st BA Law but progression to subsequent years is restricted to the top performing 100 students.

Places in 2 BA Law are offered to students based on their results in the subject Law. Students **must also pass their year overall**. Places are offered on this basis **in order of merit** as follows:

- A. Students who pass Law on the first attempt and pass 1st BA overall in the current academic year.
- B. Students who have deferred examinations to the second sitting will be regarded as eligible for a place on the same basis as students under A.
- C. Any remaining places will be offered to students who pass Law at the first sitting and pass the year overall on the second sitting in the current academic year.
- D. Any remaining places will be offered to students who fail the subject Law in the first sitting but who pass Law at the second sitting and pass the year overall in the current academic year.
- E: Any remaining places will be offered to students who passed 1st BA including Law, in a preceding academic year.
- G: Any remaining places will be offered to students who are repeating first year BA, including repeating modules in Law in the current academic year.

Once you are admitted to 2 BA Law you then continue with Law and your second chosen BA subject for the remainder of your degree.

BA Government Students

Students on the BA Government automatically have a right to continue with Law provided they pass first year. They may opt to continue with Law either as a Major or a Minor option. Further information is available [here](#).

8. Passing 1ST BA Law

8.1 BA Law students other than BA Government students:

How do I pass Law in first BA?

To pass Law in first BA you need to achieve a mark of **40% on average** across all Law modules.

What if I fail a module?

If **you fail one or more modules** it does not mean you fail Law overall. Whether you pass or not depends on your average result across all Law modules and not on the result of any one individual module. Failing an individual module does not mean that you repeat that module either. The only situation in which you repeat a module is if you fail the subject overall.

How is my subject result calculated?

Your result is calculated by adding together all of your law results based on their ECTS weighting and dividing that number by the total number of ECTS in Law (20 for the Joint-Honours programme with 3 subjects and 15 for the BA Connect programmes). If the result is 40% or above, then you have passed Law outright.

Examples:

BA (Joint Honours) or Denominated with 3 subjects: In these programmes Tort Law has 10 ECTS, Irish Legal Systems has 5 ECTS and Legal Skills has 5 ECTS. So, for example if you score 60% in Tort Law, but 30% in Irish Legal System and 30% in Legal Skills your average will be:

$$((60 \times 10) + (30 \times 5) + (30 \times 5)) / 20 = 45\%$$

BA Connect with 4 Subjects: In the BA Connect where students take four subjects Tort Law has 10 ECTS and Irish Legal System has 5 ECTS. So, if you score 50% in Tort Law, but 30% in Irish Legal System your average will be:

$$((50 \times 10) + (30 \times 5)) / 15 = 43\%$$

What happens if my average is not 40% in Law?

If your average is not 40% or more in Law, you are given the opportunity to resit the failed modules in the second sitting examinations, which typically take place in the first two weeks of August. If you achieve an average of 40% or more after the second sitting examinations, you have passed Law. However, whether you are then permitted to progress to 2nd BA Law depends on whether there are any places remaining in Law for second year (see 7.1 above).

If I pass a subject but fail a module can I repeat the modules failed?

No, if you pass the subject Law you cannot repeat any of the modules failed.

9. About CÉIM at the University of Galway

CÉIM is an academic peer support scheme for 1st year students at NUI Galway. 'CÉIM' is the Irish for step. Students will be automatically assigned to groups who will meet weekly from **week 3** throughout the academic year with trained 2nd/3rd and final year BA Law student leaders. CÉIM sessions are student led and are about working in small groups to help students adjust to University, develop independent learning skills, gain a greater understanding of coursework, develop new skills, and meet people studying the same course. Sessions focus on collaborative learning, and the format is generally quite different to lectures and tutorials. Students often comment on how CÉIM sessions are informal and friendly, yet focused. CÉIM supports student transition to higher education, health and wellbeing, academic success, and progression, and is part of the ecosystem of academic and pastoral supports at NUI Galway. Students will be kept informed of sign-up details/timetabling for CÉIM sessions via email, through their Your Space accounts, and in classes.

Why attend CÉIM sessions?

We strongly recommend that you attend CÉIM sessions, particularly if you wish to pursue Law into second year and beyond. Not only is CÉIM an opportunity for you to improve your academic performance, it's also a chance for you to chat with other students more informally. Since the sessions are also delivered by undergraduate students taking second and final year Law, it is a rare and valuable chance to benefit from their insight and personal experiences.

More information is available [here](https://ceim.su.universityofgalway.ie/): <https://ceim.su.universityofgalway.ie/>

10. Overview of Year 2023-2024- Important Semester Dates

The semester is **broken into 10 weeks** and you will often hear of things happening in a particular week. This year the 10 weeks take places from **Monday 18th September to Friday 24th November**.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024	
Orientation 1 st years	Tuesday to Thursday 12-14 th September: online Friday and Saturday 15-16 th September: on campus
Start of semester 1 teaching and registration for 1 st year subjects	Monday 18th September 2023
Tort Law MCT (worth 15% of Tort Law)	3pm Wednesday 15 ^h November
End of semester 1 teaching	Friday 24 th November 2023
Irish Legal System Exam	TBA – see here for exams timetable from early November
Semester 2 teaching	Monday 8 th January – Thursday 28 th March
Reading Week	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February
Semester 2 Exams	Monday 15 th April – Wednesday 1 st May
Autumn Second Sitting Exams	Tuesday 6 th August – Friday 16 th August

Holidays (no classes):

- Bank Holiday Monday 30th October 2023
- St Brigid's Day: Monday 5th February 2024
- Bank Holiday Monday 18th March 2024

11. School of Law Office

The School of Law is located on the second floor of Tower 2, on the Arts Concourse Building. Tower 2 is the tower closest to the Bank of Ireland in the Arts Concourse building. The office can be reached by taking the lift to the second floor or by taking the stairs. It is advisable to get in touch with the School of Law in the first instance by email at: law@universityofgalway.ie.

12. Law Society

We are delighted to have a student-run Law Society on campus. It is in fact one of the largest academic and social societies at NUI Galway and celebrated 100 years in 2020. All law students at the University of Galway are strongly encouraged to engage with the Society's activities – it's a great way to meet Law students from your own programme and other Law programmes, to hear talks from eminent speakers, and to get involved in competitions and mooted activities. Further details on the Law Society and its activities can be found [here](https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/societies/): <https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/societies/>

13. University Supports

There will be times when you will face challenges that you could use support with. We have a wide range of such supports available to you including financial, health (both physical and mental), housing, and academic. Please see below some useful links for these supports and always feel free to discuss any difficulties with your Class Advisor Ursula Connolly (Ursula.connolly@universityofgalway.ie) who can advise you.

- **Students' Union:** <https://su.universityofgalway.ie/>
- **Dean of Students:** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/officeofthedeanofstudents/>
- **Financial support:** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/financialaidfund/>
- **Accommodation:** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/>
- **Counselling (free):** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>
- **Medical (generally free):** https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/



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