



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

1BA Law *Student Guide*

2026 - 2027



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1. Contact Us

Law specific queries: Please contact 1st BA Law co-ordinator and Programme Director, Dr. 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 undergradarts@universityofgalway.ie

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with what is happening in the School of Law.



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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 students, 1st BA (with Children's Studies) and BA Government students. BA Government students also have their own separate guide for their programme overall.

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. We are here to help you, so get in touch anytime if it all feels a bit overwhelming. 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 supports to help, in particular CÉIM (see section 9). CÉIM sessions will start in Week 3 and will help you to navigate the adjustment to third level education. Information on CÉIM is available [here](#). You should also check Canvas (your online Learning Platform) regularly, most of the information you need to study your modules will be found there. You should also check your University email regularly. They all work with your same login details but you will have to register for Law 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**: Introduction to Law (5 ECTS), Tort Law (10 ECTS), and Legal Skills (5 ECTS) and they will appear when you log into your Canvas account. Introduction to Law is for semester 1 only, Tort Law is year-long, and Legal Skills is for semester 2 only. We don't have any mid-term breaks.

It will look like this:

Semester 1 (Sept 7 th – Nov 27 th)	Semester 2 (Jan 11 th – April 2 nd)
Introduction to Law Tort Law	Legal Skills Tort Law
+	+
Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings or for BA Government, your two other subjects.	Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings or for BA Government, your two other subjects.

- **Law for BA (with Children's Studies) students**

If you chose to register for the subject Law, you are automatically registered for **two modules**: Introduction to Law (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
Introduction to Law Tort Law	Tort Law
+	+
Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings	Two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings

What is 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. Modules are either 5 or 10 ECTS. 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 law modules so this means **four hours per week of law lectures** in total. Each lecture covers new material (they are not repeats) so you need to attend them all. They will take place in-person, in lecture theatres on campus. You can see the timetable below and [here](#) for semester 1 and semester 2. Please note that the times and days of lectures change slightly in semester 2. This timetable is just for Law. You will need to access your timetable for your other subjects separately. You are strongly encouraged to create a timetable with all of your modules and subjects for yourself to keep track of your schedule. If you cannot attend lectures for any reason, please get in touch with the relevant lecturer (see details below). You will also have a 1-hour weekly CÉIM session from Wednesday September 23rd (Week 3). Section 10 below gives you dates for the academic year, including semester dates and assessment dates.

Time	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
9.00 – 10.00		S1: LW3160 Introduction to Law (AMB 1021 O'hEocha Theatre) S2: LW3109 Tort Law (AMB 1021 O'hEocha Theatre)	
3.00 – 4.00		S1: LW3160 Introduction to Law (AMB 1021 O'hEocha Theatre) S2: LW3109 Tort (AMB 1022 Fottrell Theatre)	
4.00 – 5.00	S1: LW3109 Tort Law (CSB-1006 (IT250)) S2: LW126 Legal Skills (AC002 Anderson Theatre)	S1: CÉIM sessions (from Week 3) See YourSpace for your group and room. S2: CÉIM sessions (from Week 3) See YourSpace for your group and room.	S1: LW3109 Tort (AMB - 1022 Fottrell Theatre) S2: LW126 Legal Skills (AMB - 1022 Fottrell Theatre)

6. Law Modules in 1BA Law

This section provides an overview of the modules taken in first BA Law, including the learning outcomes, assessment details and information on your lecturers. Full details, including module outlines (which contains a reading list and topics) will be available on Canvas.

6.1 Introduction to Law (LW3160)

This is a 5 ECTS module delivered in semester 1. It is assessed entirely by way of a two-hour multiple-choice-test exam during the examination period in December (exact date available later in the semester).

Module overview

In order to grasp fully the effect of substantive legal rules, it is essential to understand the context in which those rules occur – namely, the legal system. The objective of this module is to provide students with an effective understanding of the sources of Irish law, and how the legal system works in Ireland. This module will provide you the knowledge and skills you need to successfully undertake substantive law modules as part of your degree. This course offers a general introduction to the Irish legal system, rather than a detailed examination of areas of substantive law.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the importance of the rule of law;
2. Differentiate between and understand the different sources of Irish law;
3. Understand and use legal terminology appropriately;
4. Effectively apply the primary sources of law;
5. Develop the skills to read case law and appreciate the importance of case law within the Irish legal system;
6. Comprehend and critically evaluate the processes of law making in Ireland, including the processes of law reform;
7. Appreciate and describe the Irish court structure and how it operates;
8. Understand the impact that international law and EU law on the Irish legal system;

9. Appreciate and critically evaluate the relationship between law and society in different contexts;
10. Demonstrate your knowledge of the legal professions and understand recent reforms to the regulation of legal services in Ireland.

Module delivery

Delivery will take the form of 2 hours of lectures per week every week for 12 weeks. There are no tutorials in this module.

Introduction to Law Assessment:

What?	What is it worth?	When?
Two-hour MCQ exam (Multiple Choice Questions)	100%	Examination period: Mon 7th Dec – Fri 18th Dec. The exams timetable is generally available from early November.

Communication with the Introduction to Law 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 Introduction to Law module.

6.2 Tort Law LW3109

Tort Law is a 10 ECTS year-long module. It is assessed by way of a continuous assessment worth 20% and an end-of-academic-year (April 2027) two-hour written exam worth 80%.

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.

(a) Lectures: two one-hour lectures weekly.

(b) Tutorials: from Week 6 (week of October 12th) 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. Students will have to register for these themselves through a link that will be available on Canvas from Week 2 (week of September 14th).

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

What?	What is it worth?	When it is due?
MCT	20%	The date for the MCT will be on your Tort Law module outline on Canvas.
Two-hour written exam	80%	End of semester 2 (examination period runs from 19 th April to the 6 th May. Specific examination dates will be released in advance)

Communication with the lecturer:



The lecturer for this module is Dr Ursula Connolly.

You can arrange to meet Ursula by booking an appointment arranged by email or through Canvas.

Ursula can be contacted by email at:

ursula.connolly@universityofgalway.ie

Further details will be available on the Canvas.

6.3 Legal Skills LW126

This is a 5 ECTS module delivered in semester 2. It is assessed entirely by way of continuous assessment.

Module outline

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.

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 (except for BA Government students):

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

Places in 2nd 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.
- F.** 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

How do I pass Law in first BA?

To pass Law in first BA you need to achieve a mark of **40% on average** in the subject Law (but not necessarily in each of your law modules).

What if I fail a module?

If **you fail one or more modules** it does not mean you fail the subject 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. If you fail the subject Law overall, then you must repeat any failed module (i.e. a law module in which you receive less than 40%).

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 programmes¹). 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, Introduction to Law has 5 ECTS and Legal Skills has 5 ECTS. So, for example if you score 60% in Tort Law, but 30% in Introduction to Law 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 Introduction to Law has 5 ECTS. So, if you score 50% in Tort Law, but 30% in Introduction to Law your average will be:

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

¹ BA with Children's Studies; BA with Creative Writing; BA with Film Studies; **BA with Irish Studies**; BA with Theatre and Performance; and BA with Women's Studies

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 the University of 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 the University of 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 2026-2027 - Important Semester Dates

The first semester is **broken into 12 weeks** and you will often hear of things happening in a particular week. This year the 12 weeks take places from **Monday 7th September to Friday 27th November**.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027	
Orientation 1 st years	Thursday 3rd September
Start of semester 1 teaching and registration for 1 st year subjects	Monday 7th September 2026
End of semester 1 teaching	Friday 27 th November 2026
Semester 1 Exams	Monday 7 th December – Friday 18 th December 2026
Introduction to Law Exam	TBA – see here for exams timetable from early November
Semester 2 teaching	Monday 11 th January – Friday 2nd April 2026
Semester 2 Exams	Monday 19 th April – Thursday 6 th May
Autumn Second Sitting Exams	Tuesday 3 rd August – Friday 13 th August

Holidays (no classes):

- Bank Holiday Monday 26th October 2026
- St Brigid's Day: Monday 2nd February 2027
- Public Holiday: Wednesday 17th March 2027

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. Established in 1920, it is one of the largest academic and social societies at the University of Galway. All law students at the University of Galway are strongly encouraged to engage with the Society's activities. It is 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 subject with your Subject Co-ordinator Nicola Murphy (nicola.murphy@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/

The Student Support Officer for the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, Dr. Rosemary Crosse, also provides dedicated support to BA students. The role of the Student Support Officer is to provide confidential, non-judgmental support and an empathetic space for students to share their concerns. In addition, a Student Support Officer can offer personal support and advice on topics such as study planning, time management and any personal challenges that may compromise their ability to study.

Please find further details on how to engage in the service and support provided by Rosemary here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/artsstudentsupport>



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